

Consultations (translated)

**For the Scaling up the implementation of the Lao PDR Emission
Reductions Programme through improved governance and
sustainable forest land management (Project 2)**

prepared by

GIZ

for the Submission to the

Green Climate Fund

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1. Consultations in Sayabury Province

1.1 Consultations in Thongmixay District

A. District level: Thongmixay

- **220314D1 - Thongmixay-1**

Interview district level in Thongmixay District on 14/03/2022.

Interviewed a representative officer of administration office

Interviewed by Phao

Interview ID: 220314D1 - Thongmixay-1

GoL interviews – Project 1

Office: Thongmixay District Agriculture and Forestry

District: Thongmixay

Province: Sayaboury

Changing environmental and climatic conditions

1. Have you noticed changes in the weather (temperature, rain levels, natural disasters)?

We notice that the weather has changed with the seasons, but there are some unusual years. For example, last year, with strong winds and heavy rain, a flash flood occurred, and some roads were underwater for several hours before drying, while the weather was also heating up compared to the previous.

1.1 How has (changed or bad weather) this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems?

These changes have affected people's livelihoods, such as residents who have faced difficulty traveling, sometimes wasting their time due to waiting for water levels to dry, sometimes rainfall for many days or heavy rain, causing barriers for people unable to travel through the flood sites, and they are required to wait until the water is dry. Meanwhile, the number of terrestrial and aquatic animals has decreased, and people's natural livelihoods are increasingly experiencing problems.

1.2 Are some groups and households in your district more vulnerable to natural disasters, floods, and/or drought?

Some households in the district are more vulnerable to natural disasters that may occur at any time, as mentioned above, such as landslides over houses, as well as roads and agricultural production lands. In addition to landslides, there are also droughts and floods.

1.3 Who is particularly vulnerable and why?

All people are particularly vulnerable, but the worst affected may be farmers who are engaged in agriculture production because the agriculture production of people in the district depends on natural water resources. Therefore, if the weather conditions are not favorable for some years or there is a severe drought, farmers will not be able to receive their products.

2. Have you noticed changes in forest area in your district, and how does this affect local livelihoods?

In general, forests have changed a lot compared to before. The interviewer pointed out some examples: In the past, the district had abundant forest resources and many precious plants in it. But now the forests have been destroyed and degradation and may be due to the increasing population each year, which led to the expansion of agricultural production. This led to more deforestation for production and trade. In addition, forests were also maintained through the collaboration between local villages to protect and manage forests. The changes in forest areas also affect local livelihoods. For example, shortage of huge wood for use, forest resources are decreased and people are forced to leave their homes too far away to find forest products to consume and sell.

3. Have you noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards (e.g. floods, drought, landslides)? If yes, please describe.

I think deforestation is part of climate change. For example, in the past, forests were rich in biodiversity; there were huge trees and a variety of wildlife. But nowadays, there are almost no trees or wildlife, while the temperature is also heating up, rain does not fall seasonally, strong winds occur, forests have degraded, creeks and rivers are eroded each year.

3.1 Have these trends changed in the last 5, 15 or 30 years? Please describe how.

I've been working in the district for over ten years, and I've noticed that similar natural disasters occur every year, such as heavy rain in some years, landslides along the roadside and along stream banks in others, and droughts and hot temperatures in some years. For example, if I remember correctly, 4-5 years ago, there was a lot of rain, causing flooding and landslides along the roads.

4. Do you consider climate change in your current planning for land use planning, agricultural management or forest management? If yes, please describe how.

For this task and activity, I think the district's relevant offices may have planned or have already considered climate change adaptation. (I can't explain this because I didn't participate in this activity.)

Role in Forest Management and Climate Change Adaptation activities

5. What is your (office's/department's) role in forest management? (in Project 1 districts ask if there is a difference between before and now, or within the context of the project)

The District Governor's Office plays a role in forest management by discussing and assigning tasks to relevant offices and sectors to jointly implement the project according to the laws and regulations, both vertical and horizontal, at the district level and implemented by the District Agriculture and Forestry.

6. What is your office's role in climate change adaptation?

The role of climate change adaptation is to implement existing plans, as well as land allocation, forest protection, forest restoration, and improve people's livelihoods, which are now being implemented at the village level.

7. Does your office have the capacity to fulfil these roles? If no, what is needed?

Our office has qualified personnel to implement these tasks, but what we really need is funding to develop and continue our activity implementation.

- Previously, the project would have focused on forest protection and management. We want the project to inspire individuals to grow fruit trees for sale in marketplaces in order to develop their sustainable livelihoods.

- We would like the project to support the government's technical employees to receive training on knowledge exchange with other sectors to enhance their capabilities.

- Currently, some poor and disadvantaged people are encroaching into forests in order to make a living via agriculture.

8. Do you think forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters? And if yes, why?

I think yes, and I think forest management is an important aspect of decreasing natural disasters, such as:

- Forests help absorb water and soil well.

- Prevents the wind direction from affecting the produce and young plants.

- Helps release oxygen.

9. Are there other projects or initiatives (ongoing or planned) related to land rights/ registration/ tenure in the district?

The GIZ project is conducting a traditional land survey to issue a permanent title deed, but the project was temporarily suspended because it covers the protected areas, as well as conservation forests and production forests. The Nam Pouy Protected Forest covers 80% of the area.

Role of men and women in land use and agriculture

10. What are the roles of i) women and ii) men in forest and land use? (Please differentiate by, ethnicity, and vulnerable (= poor, disabled) groups where suitable.)

The roles of women and men in forest and land use are equal:

10.1 In forest protection?

- For Women: They are involved in the implementation, as well as forest use decisions and forest surveys, in which women have equally participated as males. Women knew forests better than men, but they were less involved and did not monitor as closely as men, due to a variety of factors, including lack of social and cultural understanding, limited education, and other duties in their families.

- There is only one ethnic group, such as the Lao Lum in Thongmixay District, but there are also a few mini ethnic groups who live with and marry local people.

- For vulnerable groups or poor households, there is also the right to make decisions.

10.2 In agricultural production?

- Women have the same decision-making rights as men and are the main labor force in agricultural production. Both women and men appear to have a desire to quit shifting cultivation for agricultural production because it is hard work and difficult.

- *Vulnerable groups and poor families also have the right to make decisions, but they may face some shortages or insufficient factors in agricultural production.*

10.3 In agri-business?

- *In this district, women have primary decision-making rights in agri-business or other businesses where women are the most likely to be working as managers.*

- *Vulnerable groups and poor households also have the right to make decisions, but poor families are quiet about expressing their decisions.*

11. How can women become more involved?

According to officials at the District Governor's Office, women frequently go to the forest in search of forest products for consumption and sale in marketplaces, and they are well knowledgeable about the condition of various resources. Furthermore, women have also demonstrated a wide range of interest in forest preservation.

12. How can ethnic minority groups become more involved?

There are no major ethnic groups in the district due to there being only one ethnic group, such as Lao Loum.

13. Do you feel that women have the same access to benefits from forest resources as men?

Women have the same access to benefits from forest resources as men.

13.1 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over forest resources?

Women and men have equal participation in decision-making and management over forest resources, but important decisions about land use or forest resource management are often made by men and village authorities.

13.2 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision-making and management over agricultural activities?

Women and men have equal participation in decision-making and management over agricultural activities.

14. Does the new forest law protect the rights of all community members equally?

Women and men have equal rights on protection under the new forest law.

14.1 Do you understand well the new Forest Law?

I notice that everyone understands the new forest law well.

14.2 Is there understanding of the new Forest Law at the village level?

We notice that most people understand the new forest law because authorities have published it at the village level every three months, and the awareness campaign on forest law and regulation is also aimed

at women. Many people understand this well, but it is inevitable because most people rely on forests for their livelihood.

15. Who is responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the district level? At village level?

The District Agriculture and Forestry Office will be responsible for enforcing forestry law and allocating tasks to each sector, while the Village Agriculture and Forestry Office will be in charge of the village level.

15.1 Are women specifically involved? (village)

Women are specifically involved in enforcing forestry law.

15.2 What about members of ethnic communities? (village)

Despite there not being many ethnic groups, some members of ethnic communities are involved in enforcing forestry law because there is no discrimination against all ethnic groups and every Lao citizen has equal rights.

15.3 How is coordination and cooperation between villages and DOFI/ POFI? (district)

Previously, coordination between villages and DOFI/POFI, as well as providing information, monitoring deforestation, and patrolling, were done over the phone, and sometimes forest inspectors would drive straight to the office.

15.4 What are any risks or challenges they face related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

Some people do not understand forest law enforcement or the need of forest protection, and illegal deforestation is a problem. Employees must be responsive to education in order to better comprehend the law and follow the procedures and processes of the rules in order to address the difficulties. There have been cases in the past where a large number of individuals chop down trees in the forest, prompting the district officials to issue a warning, thus there is some dispute.

16. What are the current challenges for Land Use Planning (LUP) as relates to:

The following are the current challenges for land use planning (LUP):

16.1 Women

There are no challenges to land use planning (LUP) as relates to women.

16.2 Ethnic people

There are no issues and challenges to land use planning (LUP) as relates to ethnic people.

16.3 The poorest members of communities

The poorest members of communities have faced difficulty with LUP since some households still lack land for sustainable agricultural production, while some people have grown their produce in the production forests or some of their land lots are located in the conservation forests areas.

16.4 Land use conflicts?

Some groups of people have had disagreements over land usage in local communities in the past, and some sites have been walled off to keep others from crossing, and some areas have been conflicted over for production, and the district authorities have had to handle the matter in some cases.

16.5 Issues with land allocation and titling?

Land allocation and titling issues, as well as forest zoning. In the past, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and related sectors have issued land title deeds to people without first studying a map to see the Forestry Office's boundaries, which has resulted in errors and conflicts between forest areas that the District Agriculture and Forestry Office already has, particularly among farmers and other local land users.

16.6 Others?

There are no others challenges to land use planning (LUP).

17. There is ongoing work on a Provincial Deforestation Monitoring Systems, with systems in place in Houaphan, Sayabouri and Luang Prabang.

Our offices do not have a thorough knowing whether or not the relevant sectors have undertaken this task. However, we expect relevant authorities like agriculture and forestry will provide you with useful information.

17.1 How is this being implemented (if interviewing within these 3 provinces)?

I think this work may not be considered yet, and I am unable to provide information.

Note: (There is no 17.2 in the Lao version)

17.3 What are i) opportunities and ii) challenges/ barriers of the PDMS?

The PDMS system's opportunities and challenges are new and little understood in this task.

18. Access to markets is important for supporting deforestation free agriculture. What challenges in accessing markets do villagers have?

Access to markets is important for avoiding deforestation because some producers are now being exploited by middlemen. This is because the markets are uncertain about agricultural product availability and there is no price guarantee. And in the end, the producers have no negotiable rights.

18.1 Where possible differentiate between the challenges faced by:

18.1.1 Women and women-owned or -led businesses.

Women have faced challenges as well.

18.1.2 Different ethnic groups.

There is only one ethnic group.

18.1.3 Other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, among others).

Poor households are seen as being more exploited in ways such as taking advantage of the cost, taking advantage of trust, and taking advantage of society.

Overall perspectives on the project:

19. What is your opinion of the ongoing I-GFLL project, do you think it is helping to reduce deforestation in the target provinces/ districts?

The I-GFLL project was considered very useful because, after it began to be implemented, people have increased their knowledge and understanding, both in terms of forest scope and access to project funding in some families. The project also strengthens forest management operations at the local level, especially for women who have a better understanding of gender roles.

19.2 What other benefits has the project generated?

Other benefits have been the project's ability to generate the well-being of the people, while the districts and provinces also had a positive effect, both directly and indirectly, as well as the forests in the districts and provinces, which were more orderly.

19.3 Have you seen any barriers to participation in the project?

The barriers to participation in the project include:

- *The barrier is that the equipment is insufficient to meet the needs and it may not be enough in full use.*
- *The new work still lacks understanding since the implementation period is limited because it requires people to be trained, and it takes a long time to understand.*
- *They have been strengthened and monitored in order to support them at the district and provincial levels.*

19.3.1 What are the challenges (and ideas on how they can be overcome) for:

The challenges and ideas for overcoming them.

- *There is no challenge for the communities in remote areas*
- *There is no challenge for female-headed households.*
- *The most vulnerable members of communities have been faced with a shortage of funds and labor. While the authorities have allocated land for joint production, there are still conflicts sometimes, and they are focusing on addressing the support fund for the main poor families.*

20. Does your department/office feel that it currently has the technical capacity to support the project:

If not, please specify what areas specific capacity support is needed (e.g. adaptation planning and mainstreaming, monitoring, etc.)

We don't have many, so we want the project to support technical skills and the usage of other tools that are appropriate to the task, and we want the project to organize more training courses for employees to improve their skills and gain benefits and expectations.

21. Do you feel that Gender equality is being practiced for project activities?

Gender equality is being practiced for project activities.

22. Do you feel that social inclusion of men and women from diverse ethnic groups and vulnerable groups is taking place?

I think both men and women from diverse ethnic groups and vulnerable groups are taking part in social inclusion.

23. The project is being adapted for Phase 2, including a renewed focus on climate change. Are you aware of these changes?

I suppose I am aware of these changes.

24. As the project prepares to expand into new areas, what can be done to make the project more successful?

I would like the project to increase opportunities for technical staff in relevant fields to participate in training or to participate in activities. In the past, we noticed that the project limited the number of training or activity participants on a small scale. Meanwhile, we want all employees to be aware of the objectives and understand the project activities. It also wanted to be more concise and detailed for the grant given to poor families.

25. Any other remarks:

25.1 On the project?

I want the project to allow technical staff to participate in the project activity and training every time.

25.2 On challenges to women's participation?

There is no challenge to women's participation.

25.3 On ethnic participation?

There is no challenge to ethnic participation.

25.4 On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

Poor households or vulnerable people have the right to participate in the project implementation, and we give them a chance as first priority.

26. Do you have any final comments or questions?

- If possible, the project should increase the budget for the technical staff.

- There should be an increase in the implementation period.

- There should be funds provided to help with the planting of trees to replace the ones that have been lost and fruit trees for communities.

- I would like the district leaders to attend the training in order to get to know and understand the project better.

- **220314D1 - Thongmixay-2**

Interview district level in Thongmixay District on 14/03/2022.

Interviewed officers of administration office

Interviewed by Thammanoon and Danai

Interview ID: 220314D1 - Thongmixay-2

GoL interviews – Project 1

Office: Thongmixay District Agriculture and Forestry

District: Thongmixay

Province: Sayaboury

Changing environmental and climatic conditions

1. Have you noticed changes in the weather (temperature, rain levels, natural disasters)?

Yes, we have noticed changes in the weather.

1.1 How has (changed or bad weather) this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems?

It's worth noting that it doesn't rain seasonally; some years are dry, but others are heavy rain, resulting in landslides; The temperature is higher than in previous years, and the issues have never occurred compared to the past 10 years; the river was shallower than in previous dry seasons; it can be seen that there was enough water in some periods, but there is none now; and finally, there will be an increase in pests that affect people's lives and impact ecosystems as well.

1.2 Are some groups and households in your district more vulnerable to natural disasters, floods, and/or drought?

Only a small percentage covers less than 1% of the area due to the district's distinctive point being located high in the mountain and rain is likely to produce waterlogging mainly in the lower area and it takes 3 to 4 days for it to dry out if it has been flooded. However, in the previous 1-2 years, there has been a drought and a shortage of water for use and water supply as well.

1.3 Who is particularly vulnerable and why?

The villagers, as well as the persons who operate the businesses, are particularly vulnerable.

2. Have you noticed changes in forest areas in your district, and how does this affect local livelihoods?

Yes, we have noticed changes in forest areas in our district, but they did not affect many residents, but there may be a few families because most of the local livelihoods depend on finding food in the forest. Compared to before, it can be seen that making a living is harder and going to the forest takes longer due to the forest having been changed.

3. Have you noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards (e.g. floods, drought, landslides)? If yes, please describe.

Yes, we have noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards.

3.1 Have these trends changed in the last 5, 15 or 30 years? Please describe how.

When compared to 5 to 10 years ago, there may have been some years of heavy rain that resulted in landslides and floods. Farmers' crops are sometimes damaged by landslides and floods. However, this problem is seen in the villages of Dan, Na Puey, and Na Mor, where the percentage is around 5% to 10%.

4. Do you consider climate change in your current planning for land use planning, agricultural management or forest management? If yes, please describe how.

Of course, we consider it because before taking implementation, the planning team did the pre-interview forms to consider environmental protection.

Role in Forest Management and Climate Change Adaptation activities

5. What is your (office's/department's) role in forest management? (in Project 1 districts ask if there is a difference between before and now, or within the context of the project)

Our office and department have determined the scope of responsibility of the protected forest areas as well as conservation forests and replanting to restore some lost trees, while the forest law is enforced on those who violate it.

6. What is your office's role in climate change adaptation?

Continue to develop according to the original role in climate change adaptation and coordinate the project to increase the forest area.

7. Does your office have the capacity to fulfil these roles? If no, what is needed?

There is insufficient capacity to fulfil these roles and require for the project to assist with the budget as well as technical personnel to encourage people's lives so that they can reduce deforestation if they have a good life.

8. Do you think forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters? And if yes, why?

Of course, it is important if we can manage the forest so that it absorbs water when it rains, the temperature is not too hot, and seasonal rainy, woods provide oxygen, and when a storm strikes the forest, it does not disrupt people's productivity.

9. Are there other projects or initiatives (ongoing or planned) related to land rights/ registration/ tenure in the district?

There is a GIZ project in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment to survey traditional land and issue land titles, which has just begun to survey in Namon village.

Role of men and women in land use and agriculture

10. What are the roles of i) women and ii) men in forest and land use? (Please differentiate by, ethnicity, and vulnerable (= poor, disabled) groups where suitable.)

10.1 In forest protection?

- For women: It is critical that women participate in the implementation and decision-making processes related to forest usage. Meanwhile, when it came to surveying the forest, women took part in the same process as males.

- There is only one ethnic group in the district, such as Lao, however certain ethnic groups may exist, but they make up less than 5% of the population.

- For vulnerable groups or poor families, there is also the right to make decisions.

10.2 In agricultural production?

- Women have the same right to make decisions as men and are also the major laborers in agricultural production.

- Vulnerable groups or poor families have the freedom to make decisions as well, however agricultural production may be limited due to shortages or insufficient factors.

10.3 In agri-business?

- It can be seen that women are an important part of the decision-making in the agri-business.

- Vulnerable groups or poor families have the freedom to make decisions as well.

11. How can women become more involved?

Women are involved equally with men.

12. How can ethnic minority groups become more involved?

There is only one ethnic group in the district, such as Lao

13. Do you feel that women have the same access to benefits from forest resources as men?

Women and men have equal access to the benefits of forest resources.

13.1 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over forest resources?

Of course, women and men have equal participation in decision making and management of forest resources.

13.2 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over agricultural activities?

Of course, women and men have equal participation in decision-making and management of agricultural activities.

14. Does the new forest law protect the rights of all community members equally?

Yes, the new forest law protects the rights of all community members equally.

14.1 Do you understand well the new Forest Law?

It can be seen that everyone understands the new forest law well because it has to be published to the public.

14.2 Is there understanding of the new Forest Law at the village level?

The new Forest Law is well understood by most people at the village level, although some do not. Meanwhile, it is unavoidable because the majority of villagers rely on forests for their livelihood.

15. Who is responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the district level? At village level?

The District Agriculture and Forestry Office is the main responsible party and, furthermore, will be divided according to each sector and the village level will be assigned to the village agriculture and forestry.

15.1 Are women specifically involved? (village)

Women are specifically involved.

15.2 What about members of ethnic communities? (village)

Members of ethnic communities are specifically involved as well because they are non-discriminatory.

15.3 How is coordination and cooperation between villages and DOFI/ POFI? (district)

In the previous, the village level was responsible for providing information, as well as monitoring and preventing deforestation. They coordinated with the DOFI/POFI through cell phone and occasionally met face to face.

15.4 What are any risks or challenges they face related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

Some people remain to deforest illegally because they do not understand forest law enforcement. As a result, it's critical to use caution while interpreting the law and to stick to the steps. There have been instances where people have chopped down trees and the district authorities have issued a warning, sparking arguments sometimes.

16. What are the current challenges for Land Use Planning (LUP) as relates to:

The current challenges for Land Use Planning (LUP) as relates to:

16.1 Women?

There are no challenges for LUP that relate to women.

16.2 Ethnic people

There are no challenges for LUP that relate to ethnic people.

16.3 The poorest members of communities

There are challenges for LUP that relate to some families of the poorest members of communities because their lands are located in protected forest areas.

16.4 Land use conflicts?

Some villagers in the past have fenced around the state's land and scrambled for land from each other, and sometimes the authorities of the district are required to address the conflicts.

16.5 Issues with land allocation and titling?

Problems with land title deeds in the past caused disputes between the DAFO and residents since the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment issued land ownership to individuals without looking at the map created by the DAFO.

16.6 Others?

There are no other challenges.

17. There is ongoing work on a Provincial Deforestation Monitoring Systems, with systems in place in Houaphan, Sayabouri and Luang Prabang.

Training just finished for the second week of March.

17.1 How is this being implemented (if interviewing within these 3 provinces)?

There has not been considered or implemented since the program is still being tested.

17.2 Who is involved? Please discuss the involvement of women, ethnic people, disabled persons, poor households, among others.

No answer.

17.3 What are i) opportunities and ii) challenges/ barriers of the PDMS?

The opportunities and challenges of the PDMF system are new knowledge and clearer. The system, however, is far from complete, and it may need to be upgraded at some point.

18. Access to markets is important for supporting deforestation free agriculture. What challenges in accessing markets do villagers have?

Access to markets is important for avoiding deforestation because some producers are now being exploited by middlemen. This is because the markets are uncertain about agricultural product availability and there is no price guarantee. And in the end, the producers have no negotiable rights.

18.1 Where possible differentiate between the challenges faced by i) women (and women-owned or -led businesses), ii) different ethnic groups and iii) other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, among others).

- Women have faced challenges as well.

- There is only one ethnic group.

- Poor households are seen as being more exploited.

Overall perspectives on the project:

19. What is your opinion of the ongoing I-GFLL project, do you think it is helping to reduce deforestation in the target provinces/ districts?

The I-GFLL project was considered very useful because, after it began to be implemented, people have increased their knowledge and understanding, both in terms of forest scope and access to project funding in some families.

19.2 What other benefits has the project generated?

Other benefits have been the project's ability to generate the well-being of the people, while the districts and provinces also had a positive effect, both directly and indirectly, as well as the forests in the districts and provinces, which were more orderly.

19.3 Have you seen any barriers to participation in the project?

The barriers to participation in the project include:

- *The barrier is that the GPS signal is insufficient to meet the needs and it may not be enough in full use.*
- *The printers that were provided by the project did not respond to the needs because they required color printers, but the project only provided black and white printers.*
- *The new work still lacks understanding since the implementation period is limited because it requires people to be trained, and it takes a long time to understand.*
- *They have been strengthened and monitored in order to support them at the district and provincial levels.*

19.3.1 What are the challenges (and ideas on how they can be overcome) for:

The challenges and ideas for overcoming them.

- *There is no challenge for the communities in remote areas*

- *There is no challenge for female-headed households.*

- *For the most vulnerable members of communities have faced with a shortage of funds and labor. While the authorities have allocated land for joint production, there are still conflicts sometimes. Meanwhile, they are focusing on addressing the support fund by the FCPF for the main poor families.*

20. Does your department/office feel that it currently has the technical capacity to support the project:

If not, please specify what areas specific capacity support is needed (e.g. adaptation planning and mainstreaming, monitoring, etc.) We don't have many, so we want the project to support technical skills and the usage of IT tools, as well as train for improved benefits and expectations.

21. Do you feel that Gender equality is being practiced for project activities?

Gender equality is being practiced for project activities.

22. Do you feel that Social inclusion of men and women from diverse ethnic groups and vulnerable groups is taking place?

Certainly, men and women from diverse ethnic groups and vulnerable groups are taking part in social inclusion.

23. The project is being adapted for Phase 2, including a renewed focus on climate change. Are you aware of these changes?

Yes, we are aware of these changes.

24. As the project prepares to expand into new areas, what can be done to make the project more successful?

There should be more emphasis on conciseness and detail for funds given to poor families.

25. Any other remarks:

25.1 On the project?

- *We want to have sufficient academic staff and equipment on the project.*
- *We want all of the paperwork to be complete before implementing, especially the EPF money claim, so that there isn't a lot of updating.*

25.2 On challenges to women's participation?

There is no challenge to women's participation.

25.3 On ethnic participation?

There is no challenge to ethnic participation.

25.4 On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

There is no challenge on the participation of other vulnerable people/households because poor households get the first priority.

26. Do you have any final comments or questions? (NOTE: We likely cannot answer questions, but can pass them on to wider project team)

- *We want sufficient vehicles.*
- *If possible, they should increase the budget for the forestry team.*
- *There should be an increase in the implementation period.*
- *There should be funds provided to help with the planting of trees to replace the ones that have been lost.*
- *We would like the district leaders to attend the training in order to get to know and understand the project better.*

- **220314D1 - Thongmixay-3**

Interview district level in Thongmixay District on 14/03/2022.

Interviewed a representative officer of Lao Front, LWU and DoNRE

Interviewed by Sing

Interview ID: 220314D1 - Thongmixay-3

GoL interviews – Project 1

Office: Thongmixay District Agriculture and Forestry

District: Thongmixay

Province: Sayaboury

Changing environmental and climatic conditions

1. Have you noticed changes in the weather (temperature, rain levels, natural disasters)?

We have noticed changes in the weather.

1.1 How has (changed or bad weather) this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems?

Changes in the weather cause floods, landslides, and higher temperatures; the weather has become hotter; it no longer rains seasonally, and there is sometimes less rainfall, causing drought; the water levels in the rivers have also dried quickly, causing agricultural production to fall short of expectations; and livestock have become thin due to a lack of grasses and water; and in some years, too much rain causes flooding, causing damage to people's crops.

1.2 Are some groups and households in your district more vulnerable to natural disasters, floods, and/or drought?

Some groups and households in the district are more vulnerable to natural disasters, floods, and/or drought particularly in the case of flash floods, even though the water rapidly flooded and dried out, the issue is the flooding effect on people's producing areas, which has caused damage and agricultural production to fall short of expectations.

1.3 Who is particularly vulnerable and why?

Poor residents involved in agriculture, particularly rice cultivation, are particularly vulnerable owing to floods and the passage of waste from the woods, such as branches and agricultural wastes, to cover the rice plant.

2. Have you noticed changes in forest areas in your district, and how does this affect local livelihoods?

There has been a change in forest areas in the district, such as forest fires, people's usage of wood, and life events impacting local livelihoods, such as droughts, floods, landslides, and unusually high or low temperatures.

3. Have you noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards (e.g. floods, drought, landslides)? If yes, please describe.

Climate change resulting from deforestation causes floods, droughts, and landslides because there aren't enough trees to absorb or store water, and there aren't enough roots to support the soil during the rainy season, resulting in floods, droughts, and landslides.

3.1 Have these trends changed in the last 5, 15 or 30 years? Please describe how.

These trends changed from year to year; some years had hotter weather, while others had colder weather; some years had droughts, while others had flooded.

4. Do you consider climate change in your current planning for land use planning, agricultural management or forest management? If yes, please describe how.

The major challenge of climate change is presently being considered in agricultural land-use planning, as well as agricultural management and forest management. As a result of prior studies and surveys on land allocation for various land uses.

Role in Forest Management and Climate Change Adaptation activities

5. What is your (office's/department's) role in forest management? *(in Project 1 districts ask if there is a difference between before and now, or within the context of the project)*

- The District Natural Resources and Environment Office's role in forest management are to publish laws and regulations so that residents in each village in the district are aware of the government's rules. The Natural Resources and Environment Office is also in charge of land that has been allocated to the people.

- The Lao Women's Union Office's role is to distribute information about laws and regulations to the public, in collaboration with the Natural Resources and Environment Office, on forest usage, conservation, and gender roles.

- *The Lao Front for National Development Office's role is to collaborate with the District Agriculture and Forestry Office and other organizations to distribute information about forest preservation laws and generate public solidarity.*

6. What is your office's role in climate change adaptation?

Our office contributes to climate change adaptation by raising disaster awareness and readiness, as well as providing public meteorological information.

7. Does your office have the capacity to fulfil these roles? If no, what is needed?

Our office has the capability to fulfil these roles, especially issuing the notice on awareness of disasters and surveillance. However, because there is no meteorological centre in this district, so we would like to construct one to offer timely information.

8. Do you think forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters? And if yes, why?

Forest management is an important aspect of decreasing natural disasters as well as helping the climate to be plentiful, with access to adequate clean water throughout the year, assistance from fresh air without pollution, and convenience for people's livelihoods and agricultural production.

9. Are there other projects or initiatives (ongoing or planned) related to land rights/ registration/ tenure in the district?

There are no other projects or initiatives related to land rights and land title deeds in Thongmixay District.

Role of men and women in land use and agriculture

10. What are the roles of i) women and ii) men in forest and land use? (Please differentiate by, ethnicity, and vulnerable (= poor, disabled) groups where suitable.)

A: Roles of women and men in the forest and land use are the same, with no discrimination on the basis of race or ethnicity, because we publish about gender roles, particularly the Lao Women's Union, which is published once a year in every village related to the I-GFLL project.

10.1 In forest protection?

In forest protection:

Males and Females have equal rights in forest protection.

10.2 In agricultural production?

In agricultural production:

Males and Females have equal rights in agricultural production.

10.3 In agri-business?

In agri-business:

Males and Females have equal rights in agri-business.

11. How can women become more involved in forest and land use?

Women are more likely to be involved in forest and land use than men, accounting for about 2/3 of the population in each village.

12. How can ethnic minority groups become more involved in forest and land use?

There is only one ethnic group in the Thongmixay district and no others.

13. Do you feel that women have the same access to benefits from forest resources as men?

We feel that women and men have equal access to the benefits of forest resources.

13.1 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over forest resources?

We think that men and women have equal participation in the decision-making and management of forest resources because they have discussed and made decisions together, as well as express comments equally and share responsibilities for tasks with each other.

13.2 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over agricultural activities?

We think that men and women have equal participation in the decision-making and management over agricultural activities because they have discussed and made decisions together, as well as express comments equally and share responsibilities for tasks with each other.

14. Does the new forest law protect the rights of all community members equally?

The new forest law protects the rights of all communities equally.

14.1 Do you understand well the new Forest Law?

We have a good understanding of the new forest law, but there are other sections that we are unfamiliar with.

14.2 Is there understanding of the new Forest Law at the village level?

We believe they will be able to understand the new Forest Law, but not all of the articles. There may be some who are known and those who are unaware.

15. Who is responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the district level? At village level?

- The District Agriculture and Forestry Office is responsible for enforcing forestry law and providing forestry protection at the district level.

- The village agriculture and forestry sectors are responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the village level.

15.1 Are women specifically involved? (village)

Women are specifically involved in enforcing forest law at the village level. There is also the village women's council that is assigned as the Land and Forest Management Committee.

15.2 What about members of ethnic communities? (village)

The members of ethnic communities are not specifically involved due to the fact that there is only one Lao ethnic group in the district.

15.3 How is coordination and cooperation between villages and DOFI/ POFI? (district)

For coordination and cooperation between the villages and DOFI/POFI, they have issued the notice from the province to the district, and if there is urgent work, they will call to inform them directly.

15.4 What are any risks or challenges they face related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

The risks and challenges they face are related to forest law enforcement and forest protection because, nowadays, the livelihoods of most residents are mainly based on forests for commercial agriculture and animal husbandry. Therefore, it is a challenge to enforce forest law.

16. What are the current challenges for Land Use Planning (LUP) as relates to:

16.1 Women?

There are no challenges for LUP that relate to women.

16.2 Ethnic people?

There are no challenges for LUP that relate to ethnic people.

16.3 The poorest members of communities?

There are no challenges for LUP that relate to the poorest members of communities.

16.4 Land use conflicts?

There are no challenges for LUP that relate to land use conflicts.

16.5 Issues with land allocation and titling?

There are no challenges for LUP that relate to issues with land allocation and titling.

16.6 Others?

There are no other challenges for LUP.

17. There is ongoing work on a Provincial Deforestation Monitoring Systems, with systems in place in Houaphan, Sayabouri and Luang Prabang.

17.1 How is this being implemented (if interviewing within these 3 provinces)?

There is implementation, such as if illegal deforestation has been reported, the relevant sectors will conduct monitoring and arrest the offenders to educate and issue a warning.

17.2 Who is involved? Please discuss the involvement of women, ethnic people, disabled persons, poor households, among others.

People who are involved in this system include the District Agriculture and Forestry Office, the Agriculture and Forestry sector at the village level, and village authorities.

17.3 What are i) opportunities and ii) challenges/ barriers of the PDMS?

Unknown

18. Access to markets is important for supporting deforestation free agriculture. What challenges in accessing markets do villagers have?

The challenge for the villagers to access the market is being pressured on price by the middleman. This is due to the roads in the district being blocked and not having roads connecting to other districts. Residents also don't have vehicles to transport goods for sale in the markets, so the middleman needs to travel to meet people in the villages to purchase their products at a low price, generating a high profit for themselves.

18.1 Where possible differentiate between the challenges faced by:

1, Women and women-owned or -led businesses.

Only at some point, as the majority of women engaged in animal husbandry, such as growing pigs for sale, but the difficulty is that the cost of food for raising pigs is quite expensive, and it may occasionally result in a loss of profit when they are sold out.

2, Different ethnic groups.

There is no challenge because there is only one ethnic group, Lao Loum.

3, Other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, among others).

The challenge of market access is putting downward pressure on the pricing of products or goods from middlemen due to a shortage of vehicles to transport products to market.

Overall perspectives on the project:

19. What is your opinion of the ongoing I-GFLL project, do you think it is helping to reduce deforestation in the target provinces/ districts?

We think the ongoing I-GFLL project is helping quite a lot to reduce deforestation in the target provinces and districts.

19.1 Why or why not?

This is because the I-GFLL project has conducted on re-check on the forest types and created the regulations on forest protection at the village level and provided direct funding to the poor who are directly involved in deforestation for agriculture, and livestock production in their areas, such as clearing the land and

planting grasses for livestock to avoid invading the forest-protected areas for agriculture production and animal husbandry.

19.2 What other benefits has the project generated?

The project has generated a number of benefits, such as providing deforestation financing to provide people with sustainable livelihoods in agriculture and livestock. The project also provides financing for poor and female-headed households in poor families.

19.3 Have you seen any barriers to participation in the project?

The barriers to participating in this project are the sharing of the grant, but many people desired it, causing conflict to occur. While the team also faces barriers, particularly the shortage of some printers and projectors, it would be good if the team had them for work to display people's knowledge of other information.

19.3.1 What are the challenges and ideas on how they can be overcome?

The challenge and idea of dealing with these is dissatisfaction with funding, and the brainstorming for villagers on the goals of the project is the way to overcome the issue.

- Communities in remote areas?

No have

- Ethnic communities?

No have

- Women, and female headed households?

No have

- Landless households

In the district, there is a family without land on which to build a house and cultivate crops. This family resides in Thongmixay District's Dan Village. As a result, we would like to urge that the project collaborate with the village in order to visit or consider assisting this family. The family members today make a livelihood by being employed and cultivating rice, but they also cultivate on the other land and divide half of the produce with the land's owner.

-The most vulnerable members of communities.

No have

20. Does your department/office feel that it currently has the technical capacity to support the project?

We feel that our offices now have the same technical capabilities to support this project as ever.

20.1 If not, please specify what areas specific capacity support is needed e.g. adaptation planning and mainstreaming, monitoring, etc.

No answer.

21. Do you feel that Gender equality is being practiced for project activities?

Gender equality has always been practiced for project activities.

22. Do you feel that Social inclusion of men and women from diverse ethnic groups and vulnerable groups is taking place?

This project is taking place to include men and women from vulnerable groups in the district, except for diverse ethnic groups, because there is only one ethnic group, Lao loum.

23. The I-GFLL project is being adapted for Phase 2, including a renewed focus on climate change. Are you aware of these changes?

These changes are not yet known.

24. As the project prepares to expand into new areas, what can be done to make the project more successful?

While the project is preparing to expand into new areas, we would like to invite villages, districts, and provinces to receive the project and require it to publish information about the benefits of forests and understand the advantages and disadvantages of the project.

25. Any other remarks:

25.1 On the project?

We want the project to provide some tools for distributing information, such as printers, projectors, or posters, for employees to publish information and want to ask for an adequate budget for the poor villagers.

25.2 On challenges to women's participation?

No answer.

25.3 On ethnic participation?

No answer.

25.4 On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

We want these people to participate and we want them to get funding to improve their lives.

26. Do you have any final comments or questions?

If this project is completed, we would like to see a new project to assist villagers, as well as some projects to support and further training on the role of genders.

B. Village level: Kan

- 220315V1 - Kan-1

Village name: Ban Kan
District: Thongmixay District
Province: Xayabouly Province
Interview: Interview group of Village authorities.
Interview by: Khamphao, 15/03/2022
Interview ID: Kan (1)

Village demographic & forest/land governance questions (For village leadership group only)

1. What is the village population?

Kan Village has a population of 887 people.

2. Number of Women?

There are 431 females and 194 households.

3. Different ethnic groups present in the village? (And numbers)

According to the statistics of the village, there is only one ethnic group like Lao Loum in the village.

4. What kind of forest resources does the village have?

According to the village authorities as well as the head of the village, there are three types of forest resources in the village, including the village's forest, protection forest, and the national conservation forest. Authorities who are in charge of the village's agriculture and forestry said that the Kan village is located in the Nam Pouy National Protected Area and the Nam Pouy covers three districts, namely Thongmixay, Phiang, and Paklay.

5. How long has it been in place?

As I may remember, the Nam Pouy National Protected Area was formed in 1993, while the village's forest and protection forest have been in place for a long time (unable to remember). Later, different types of forests were allotted to be managed in each period.

6. How is forest resource management coordinated between the district and the village?

Coordination and cooperation have occurred on a regular basis between the village and the district, particularly in the section of agriculture and forestry, and the relevant authorities in disseminating various policies regarding land use in accordance with the law. The district authorities have allocated both land and forest areas and have assigned each kind of forest boundary to residents' acknowledgment. They sometimes publish the regulations as well as the forest law or provide information on fire forest prevention methods each year. While the district authorities have worked with

the village about 2 or 3 times per year and spent time for a month. The district also assigned the village to take charge of protecting forests because the village is located in the National Protected Area, so it pays special attention to protection. For example, during high-risk wildfire seasons, which may affect productivity, the district has commissioned villages to build fire blocks to prevent forest fires from entering the forest and agricultural production areas.

7. What are the challenges related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

There are no challenges related to forest law enforcement because everyone is responsible for complying with the law enforcement as required by high-level authorities. Whenever there is a meeting, the village authorities have disseminated the content of the meeting resolution issued by the high-level to acknowledge villagers and implement it effectively. The head of the village and the agriculture and forestry sector sometimes broadcast forest law enforcement and forest protection to the public using the loudspeakers of the village.

8. How are decisions made about forest and land management?

The people of this village still use the traditional land, especially the land for agriculture and livestock. People's land use cannot expand the area because the village is located within the Nam Pouy National Protected Area.

- People's land use has become a concern as a result of limited agricultural production areas, despite the fact that the population is growing every year while the production area stays constant.

- According to the zoning map, the village is located within the NPA. Where possible, villagers want the high-level authorities to consider moving the protected area further away from the village in order to make the village have more agricultural production areas, and they also want relevant officials to issue the land title deeds to them because the production land now has only temporary licenses.

- The allocation of arable land or construction land in this village is based on the realities of the community, as well as public consent and the law on land allocation and forest management set by the government.

9. Are these decisions made in village meetings, or by village committee?

Any work deemed to be related to the public work of the village or work of a higher level will be made at the village meeting to discuss and research other issues, while the village authorities cannot make their own decisions. For example, if there is a project to develop something within the village, then the village authorities and villagers will meet to discuss and agree together before beginning the implementation.

10. Are women involved in these decisions?

Women have the same rights as men to participate in meetings for discussions, decisions, and express their concerns about work. Despite the fact that women have the same rights as men and mainly use forest areas for living, they are less likely to involve in decision-making or other planning.

11. One of the project goals is to help women and the poorest and most vulnerable villagers to take part in making decisions about forest and land resources. Is this possible?

It is possible that women, as well as the poorest and most vulnerable people, are able to take part in making decisions about planning on natural resource management, forestry, and land allocation.

12. What are the barriers to participation?

The barriers to participating in this project include that the project has taken poor households, where these families have no land for agricultural production. Some families have limited knowledge and are unable to understand the activities to be done, which makes it difficult to implement. The main barrier is that some married people who want to move out of their homes without arable land must find land within the allocated and conserved areas, which will hinder the process of implementing the project.

- According to the head of village, the project has plans to help poor families by financing their rice farming, fencing, and fish raising. They plan to provide €400 per family for participating families. So far, no one has received it, and people are still looking forward to getting the grant.

13. Does the village benefit from commercialization of sustainably managed village forests?

The village will benefit from the commercialization of sustainably managed village forests because the forest has been protected, resulting in an improvement in the climate as well as an increase in a wide variety of small and large animals, more forest products, and biodiversity, all while enjoying good weather and a green forest. People in the village will benefit from finding forest items for sale or for their livelihoods, such as food and plants, when there is an abundance of forest and a big volume of forest products. Furthermore, when forests are managed properly, future generations will benefit as well.

14. How are forest products distributed within the village? Are people satisfied with the forest product distribution system?

Some products that people earn from the forest include seasonal crops, wood, bamboo, firewood, rattans, bamboo shoots, mushrooms, herbs, plants, and small animals such as birds, rats, crabs, and fish.

- People are satisfied with the forest product distribution system.

15. How are complaints about land or forest management systems dealt with?

In the past, there were cases of married people leaving their old houses without land to cultivate, so they submitted requests to the village office and district officials for permission to conduct the agriculture production in the allocated area and the protected forest.

Solution methods: The district authorities have coordinated with the village level to find a solution for those groups. However, there are some challenges in addressing issues due to the village's shortage of land for agriculture production. Even if there is land, it is the land that people have inherited.

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

The main occupation of the villagers is agricultural producing, such as rice cultivating. If the rice is left, it will be sold. Aside from rice, some families have planted other crops for sale in the village, such as corn, sesame, cassava, and chilies. In addition, those who have good economic conditions are able to invest in trading activities such as opening grocery stores and selling forest products like bamboo shoots, rattans, vegetables, and wildlife. Cassava cultivation is very popular in this area because it offers good prices and it is easy to grow and maintain.

- Besides rice farming, men who have skills are able to search for jobs in construction or work as laborers in a village or other places, depending on the condition of each individual.

- There are quite fewer female-headed households in this village, but even then, they do the same agriculture production as everyone else.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

In this village, rice is the main crop for cultivation, followed by corn, chilies, cucumbers, and cassava.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

Villagers have sufficient rice for consumption throughout the year.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

Some crops are commercially cultivated, such as cassavas, corns, millets, and chilies.

2.4 What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.).

Climate change is a major challenge; it may be heavy rain and a lot of rain, but it can also be droughts and strong winds, and there have been floods and landslides that have destroyed crops, resulting in poor product quality and insect problems such as birds, rats, and caterpillars.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

Farmers receive information about crop production from the District Agriculture and Forestry Office, middlemen, as well as the Association Group, which was founded by the district.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

Aside from the threat of pests destroying crops, there is also a transportation challenge due to great distances. When selling cassava, for example, locals must travel it to Paklay District in order to sell it to merchants who can buy it at a good price.

- If it is sold to merchants in the village or in a district that has been designated by the district to purchase items from farmers, the price is considerably lower, and they will only take it at that price, which is a benefit and puts further pressure on pricing.

- A farmer said that the district has founded an association group to purchase agricultural products from farmers before taking these goods to be resold to large investors. Meanwhile, the association group has pushed the prices of produce lower and shown power to prohibit individuals and merchants from buying

directly from farmers. If these people want to buy, they need to get agreed to and allowed by the association group first. As a result, farmers have very few opportunities to truly access the market.

- The second challenge is the reducing price of middlemen, and they claim that this price is based on low-quality farmers' products. Therefore, farmers are still curious and want to ask the district authorities and middlemen what the inspection standard is. Is there no indicator of quality because there is no inspection?

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

The cultivation between women and men in this village, Women form an important component of the main decision-making in farming and other businesses in this village, with the majority of women serving as managers.

- Vulnerable groups or poor families can also engage in agriculture, although poor families will do what they can. If a family had a small piece of land for agriculture, they might seek seasonal work as gardeners and rice farmers.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

There is no shifting cultivation in this village.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals? Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health? Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying? Where do they access these materials?

Farmers avoid using agrochemicals and plant pesticides.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

The agriculture and forestry sectors have provided information and planting methods to adapt to climate change, as well advising and finding for plant varieties for farmers to experiment with cultivating to make sure if they suit the soil conditions.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

The fact is that in our village there is still no agricultural crop cultivation, but there is a family that has trialed planting by providing the plant by the project that the locals call Miang trees (which look like tea leaves for drinking). They have mixed planted in the forest. This activity is being piloted, and if successful, they will offer the project to develop and expand more areas. Meanwhile, this activity is supported by the I-GFLL project.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

They have attended agricultural training that took place in 2022 by the District Agriculture and Forestry, and they have learned how to sow seeds as well as the maintenance methods.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

Villagers and farmers have often shared ideas and knowledge, for example, during the pre-planting period, they discussed what sorts of rice and crops they should plant this year to adjust to the weather conditions and what crops to cultivate for excellent yields.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

There are various forests surrounding the village, such as the village forest, the national protected areas, and the protection forest.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

Each species of the forest is beneficial because it helps to cover the area that is green, and if there is a rich forest, people may utilize it. For example, bamboo can be used in handicrafts, and other biodiversity can be used in traditional herbals.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

It is hard to say, as we know, because today's forests are decreasing every year due to human deforestation, and there is an increasing drought disaster every year that affects the growth of trees and plants. Sometimes there are wildfires. I think everything, whether it is a forest product or a wooden resource, is insufficient for the needs of the people now that the population is increasing. Forest zoning or land allocation is also a limiting factor in the use of forest natural resources.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

Most of the women went to the forest to find bamboo shoots, vegetables, rattan shoots, Boun shoots, cardamoms, and herbs to consume and sell. Women are more likely to go to the forest to find forest products than men.

- Most of the men worked hard, looking for wood to build houses, fences, fish, and hunt some wildlife such as rats, frogs, fishing, and birds.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them? Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

People use wood to build fences and firewood, while some rattan, bamboo, and other vegetables, or all forest products, are useful so that people can use them in households and sell them for a good living. Forest products that used to exist in the past have changed from the original conditions, such as trees have decreased, while some terrestrial and aquatic animals have also been lost.

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are no differences in the use of forest resources between ethnic groups.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

The village has assigned each group to protect the area, especially during the dry season when forest fires occur. The villagers also pay attention to surveillance and help each other to build fire blocks if there is a forest fire, and inform the authorities from the relevant sectors so they can arrange to deal with it.

3.5.1 How are women and men involved in forest protection and management? Are there differences in the roles of men and women? What are challenges they face? Do they have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

- Women and men are involved in protecting and managing forest resources. Women, especially village women's unions, are also under the committees.

- There is no difference in the roles of men and women in this village, due to the village being divided into four patrol groups, each consisting of one woman.

- The challenges faced by locals include 1. the forest fire issues that they are required to take seriously, and building the fire blocks if forest fires occur; 2, illegal deforestation by some people who do not understand and do not appreciate the benefits and values of forests.

- We have informed the village authorities to solve these problems together, as well as educated some disobedient people, issued a warning, and fined them according to forest law.

3.5.2 What about members of ethnic communities?

Members of ethnic communities are involved in protection and management as well.

- There is no difference in the role of ethnic groups.

- They have no problem dealing with it.

- No comments.

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

The poorest families benefit from village forest management by participating in activities in accordance with the project plan, but the project has not yet been implemented, so we are unable to say what kind of benefit they get.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing). If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

We suppose someone might be disadvantaged in a way without agreeing with other individuals. For example, Mr. K has used the traditional land for livestock on his own land that is close to the public land of the village. One day, Mr. K expanded the fence that covers the public land, and then authorities allocated the land for forest management or zoning forests, and that boundary has covered the public land that Mr. K fenced around previously, but Mr. K was unsatisfied that he had lost the benefits of land and forest use. In this case, Mr. K was found guilty of expanding the border. According to village authorities, the project's activities cover 100 households that use the traditional land.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

The community has a long history of land use and forest management.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

We have experienced land-use conflicts within the village, but we have never seen any land-use conflicts with neighboring villages. Most of the conflicts in the village are over agricultural land, Most the conflicts between families and families in the village are regarding agricultural land, and each family has expanded their fence to cover another land because the lands do not have title deeds to mark the correct border, while the majority of agricultural areas along by the locals are the original land, and they use it as traditional. Some land lots simply mark the border by using a large log of wood or large stones to block it.

The solution is to invite the conflicting families to a meeting; if the issue cannot be solved at the village level, two families will break the fence and halt production in the area.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

In the village, men and women have equal access to land use, such as registering title deeds within the family; if the property is jointly owned by the husband and wife, the title deed will include both names. If the land belongs to the woman, the name of the wife must be specified; if the land belongs to the man, the name of the husband must be specified.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

There is no ethnic group in this village, but if there is one, they will have equal access to land use in accordance with the family law.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

Villagers have easy access to the land in the village because they realize that everyone owns the property and has the right to utilize it, with the exception of prohibited areas.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

The weather has changed dramatically. Farmers may have planned to plant rice under normal conditions, such as those we have seen in the rainy season in the past, especially if rain falls in June, but this is no longer the case due to the dry weather conditions during this time. Rain does not fall in a pattern that can be predicted. If there is heavy rain, fields, gardens, and roads will be flooded, and some roads have been corroded by water or have experienced landslides, while others have been swamped for hours before the water has drained. The dry season is higher temperature compared to the preceding season, which has cooler winter temperatures.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

We have noticed changes in weather conditions, such as higher temperatures, rain that does not fall seasonally, heavy rains, droughts resulting in the river getting dry, and landslides into the roads during rain. When it rains, it floods quickly, and it dries up quickly.

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

There have been many changes in the forest. For example, there were bamboo shoots in the forest in the past, but now there are only weeds and no bamboo shoots at all.

- There are some new plants that are similar to the thorn grasses.

- Several wildfires occurred two years ago, but they were stopped after the project began implementation because villagers could control forest fires.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

There has also been a change in agriculture due to what we have noticed from the cultivation of various crops, especially millets. It is beautiful and provides good products in the first year, but productivity drops in the second year and continues dropping in the third year, resulting in a loss of cost because of the change in soil conditions, plus climate change and the rain not being seasonal.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

Our communities are faced with natural disasters such as floods and erosion of both unharvested and harvested crops by locals, as well as landslides into the roads that make it harder for communities to travel to meet each other.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

We have noticed the changes and trends that occur almost every year, but compared to the last 5–10 years, that has only occurred once every 2–3 years.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

This has affected livelihoods and ecosystems, especially making it difficult for people to travel, sometimes floods occur and people have to wait for a long time until the water level reduces. Floods also affect agricultural land, damaging some crops. Access to water resources in this community is easy due to the use of gravity-fed water. The problem does not affect the houses or buildings in the village.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).

According to the head of the village, everyone has been affected by these disasters. There are a total of about 35 households that were severely affected.

- To deal with the disaster, the district authorities have assisted locals with 40 kilograms per family of rice, and they have received equal assistance.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)

There are some activities related to preparing for natural disasters, including village-level surveillance, as well as issuing warnings and advice for high-risk agricultural production areas. The village authorities also announce through the loudspeaker of the village to warn locals to cope with the disasters. The drought has also been cautious when using both indoor and outdoor fires to avoid wildfires.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?

The village operates on its own, in accordance with the recommendations of the district and relevant authorities.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

The main cause is because of the family's economic situation. Families have faced difficulty in living, so they are required to find every possible way for their well-being.

- *Because there is no agricultural land for people who just moved to live in the village and newly married couples.*

- *A number of merchants and capitalists have taken advantage of the purchase of logs and persuaded the villagers to find the wood to sell for them*

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

Deforestation has decreased significantly compared to when the land was not yet allocated and the forest was not yet managed; there has been deforestation for cultivation in the past; several merchants have purchased large quantities of wood because it has not been managed seriously and everyone can do what they want. Nowadays, when there are forest management systems, resulting in a decrease in deforestation for cultivation, if anyone wishes to cut down trees to build a house, they must submit a request for permission from the head of the village as appropriate.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

This affects ecosystems and forests in ways such as higher temperatures causing animal disease, water in the rivers drying up (it also happens in the rivers where they have never dried up), and the number of terrestrial and aquatic animals decreasing.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

It affects local communities, particularly since searching for forest products is becoming more difficult, while locals need to travel further than before to collect firewood. Due to deforestation and population growth, the number of forest products is rapidly decreasing.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

The way to reduce deforestation in our village, we have complied with the rules published by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, while the village authorities also paid attention to monitoring and keeping an eye on inspection, and advised communities to stop shifting cultivation. Families who used to cut down trees for sale or used to do shifting cultivation also received recommended turning to engage in agriculture and animal husbandry in sustainable ways.

- It is now supported by the project and the government to allow some villagers to shift to agriculture and animal husbandry so that individuals who were previously involved in the abandoned land improvement project may engage in cultivation and animal husbandry.

- According to the plan, the project will support activities of 400 euros if any family is able to restore and protect their forest. Then the project will calculate the percentage of forest benefit as EUR 10,800.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe.

What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

Deforestation and forest degradation are frequently contributing to more serious natural disasters, especially seasonal problems such as forest fires and burning forests for cultivating. It is unknown where the fire forest has occurred, but someone said it's probably spread from the neighboring country's border (Thailand). In addition to the fire forest, there is still some haze in the air that covers the area tightly. When an issue like this occurs, it will have an impact on the environment and cause the forest to degrade.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project

7.1 Do you know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village?

We know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village.

7.2 What are some of the I-GFLL activities that have taken place here?

The I-GFLL project's activities include:

- Forest protection*
- Land allocation and forest management, and zoning of land and forest areas.*
- Founded livestock and agriculture groups.*

7.3 Have you been involved in any I-GFLL project activities here? Or someone you know?

All of us on this committee are involved in the I-GFLL project activities.

7.4 What was that experience like?

In general, we think it will not be difficult. For this project that just began in this village in 2022, people who were named in the project are now waiting to see when the project will actually be implemented.

7.5 Was it easy to learn about the activities (to find out about the activities?)

By hearing from the Department of Agriculture and Forestry or the project, they have explained the activities. I think anyone can learn easily.

7.6 The project has tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins?

The project and government sectors have organized the meeting, as well as published information and discussed it with the villagers first.

7.6.1 Have you been part of the consultation process? or someone in your household?

We, as well as all the villagers, attended the consultation meeting at that time.

7.6.2 How could this have been made easier?

The discussion has not faced any difficulty.

7.6.3 What were the things that made participation difficult?

There was not a thing that made participation difficult.

7.7 One of the project aims is to support participatory land-use planning – has that happened here?

The support of participatory land use planning took place in this village.

7.7.1 Can you tell us more about this?

There is no more information.

7.8 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

The village has been promoting sustainable agriculture, but it has not yet been implemented.

7.8.1 Can you tell us more about this?

Sustainable agriculture includes implementing the right practices and people acting on their own to reduce forest encroachment. Families who received grant funds need to continue protecting forests and continue growing rice and raising animals.

7.9 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

This project can help alleviate it.

7.9.1 Why or why not?

Because there is funding to support people to implement and protect the forest.

7.10 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

According to the project plan, there are plans to help villagers with forest management, such as assistance in planning, agreeing with, planting, rehabilitation, monitoring, and including patrols, with these activities are available in the village.

7.11 For the projects that have happened, have all members of the community been able to participate? Have special methods been taken to get women's participation? What about participation of ethnic people?

All members, regardless of gender or race, are playing the role and participating in the implementation. Women join the committee with men and help to spread the laws and patrol the forest like men.

7.11.1 Can you tell us more about this?

Women and ethnic women join the committee with men and help to spread the laws and patrol the forest like men.

Any other remarks:

- On the project? *None*

- On challenges to women's participation? *None*

- On ethnic participation? *None*

- On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)? *None*

- **220315V1 - Kan-2**

Village name: Kan Village
District: Thongmixay District
Province: Sayaboury Province
Interview: Interview group of women in the village
Date: 15/03/2022

Village demographic & forest and land governance questions (For village leadership group only)

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

There is a difference between poor families who have had to deal with land usage for agriculture and those who have land but cannot afford to cultivate it due to the lack of cost. For the poorest households, the majority of their income would come from hiring.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

Rice is cultivated in season in the community, and cassava has just been planted this year.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

Most people do not face rice insufficiency, but only a few families face this issue.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

Yes, we produce cash crops, and we just started to grow some cassava because we have limited land area.

2.4 What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.).

The main challenges people face in terms of agricultural production include:

- Market access is challenge since the villages lack vehicles to carry their products to marketplaces, relying solely on middlemen to buy, and are exploited by middlemen to lower prices.

- The issue of product harvesting is not worth the investment owing to high production expenses, while another issue emerges from pest's infestations, such as rodents, which destroy millets and corns.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

The majority of farmers get market information through middlemen and word-of-mouth. The most of sales are made to merchants who come to meet residents to acquire the items; however, some persons with vehicles are able to sell their products in other areas, such as Paklay District.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets? *The shortage of transportation vehicles is the most significant challenge to market access, and traveling during the rainy season is difficult owing to inconvenient roadways.*

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

There is no difference between different groups in the village because everyone has equal rights.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

We have practiced shifting cultivation in the past, but stopped in the present because the production is not as good as it should be. Some families continue to practice shifting cultivation, but their output is decreasing year after year.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

People use agrochemicals like the Rabbit brand fertilizer for rice farms.

- Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health?

Yes of course, it has been some negative impacts on the environment or people's health.

- Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying? Where do they access these materials?

People are aware of the negative impacts on locals, but it cannot be avoided because, if not used for some time, productivity will be low. Meanwhile, fertilizers come from merchants and companies that sometimes advertise them for sale as the cultivating season approaches.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

People sometimes get information from the district agriculture and forestry offices, but most of them rely on their experience that they have been doing it for generations. They don't have a plan to deal with climate change. Whether it rains or not, they will start to sow seedlings on 28th April each year.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

There is no varied or mixed agricultural production; instead, they grow certain types of crops as they always do.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training? *They have attended agricultural training organized by the DAFO, but they have not*

followed or practiced it because they have always followed it, but there are no markets for support or purchasing the products.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

Farmers share knowledge by word of mouth.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

There are three kinds of forest resources nearby the village, including the national protected area, protection forest, and green forest.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

Of course, different types of forest resources benefit everyone in the village because forests are a source of abundance.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

The forest has now decreased in providing its products for people's needs compared to the past, such as collecting non-timber forest products for consumption and searching for firewood.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

Men and women have equal rights in searching forest products and using forest resources.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them?

The products they get from the forest include bamboo shoots, mushrooms, and wild vegetables, most of which are harvested for consumption.

- Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

The availability of these products has changed over the years because it has decreased.

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are no differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups, because there is only one ethnic group in the village.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

The village forest resources are managed by locals in the village, and they also inspect and patrol regularly.

- How are women and men involved in forest protection and management?

Women and men were equally involved in forest protection and management, especially patrolling and protecting forests.

- Are there differences in the roles of men and women?

There are no differences in the roles of men and women because they both have equal rights.

- What are challenges they face? Do you have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

They do not face any challenges.

3.5.1 What about members of ethnic communities?

Members of ethnic communities do not face any challenges because there is only one ethnic group in the village.

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

The poorest families benefited equally from the village forest management because there was no discrimination.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing).

Many households are more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest.

- If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

Because, in the past, every villager in the village had a large amount of land for agriculture and a suitable yield for farming, but now that the usage of forests is restricted, the production area is limited and practically every household is affected. Meanwhile, help has been provided to 29 families in the community, but it is insufficient for the remaining households.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

The community has a land use plan.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

Some six or seven households have experienced land use conflicts within the village.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land within the village.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

There is only one ethnic group in the village.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

After the land allocation was completed, they discovered that accessing land in the village was difficult because it could not be requested to expand the production areas after the land was allocated.

Note: They would like to request an expansion of the production areas.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

No answer the question.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

- One said that she noticed a change in temperature because it was hotter than it was three years ago.*
- Other one said that certain years have faced droughts, resulting in a lack of water for consumption, while some creeks have never dried up, but are now dry, which has never happened before.*
- Another said that heavy rains happened in some years, causing floods and destroying many local crops.*

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

There have not been any changes in the forests.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

They've noticed changes in agricultural lands, as droughts have damaged rice crops in certain years and excessive rains have drowned unharvested crops in others.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

The community has faced natural disasters such as fires in the forest and flash floods.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

They may have noticed changes about 10 years ago, but now it's almost nonexistent because it's decreasing.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

It has affected the livelihoods of many families, especially some agricultural production, as a result of disasters like flash floods.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).

If compared, the number affected is one third of the village's population.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)

There are some activities related to preparing for natural disasters, such as stopping deforestation and following the weather news by phone.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?

The village authorities as well as locals have implemented these activities.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

The main causes of deforestation in the community are the construction of housing and firewood.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

They have noticed that the deforestation has now greatly reduced after being designated as protected areas.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

They have noticed that excessive deforestation causes a reduction in forest cover and affect ecosystem degradation.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

It has an affect on local people's lives since food is scarce, wildlife is disappearing, and people must travel further than before to collect firewood.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

There is a solution to reduce deforestation. For example, if someone wants to take down trees for home building, they must submit a request to the local authorities without engaging in illegal logging.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe. What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

Of course, deforestation has had an impact on the frequency of natural disasters and their intensity. For example, the temperature increases yearly.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project

7.1 Do you know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village?

They know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village.

7.2 What are some of the I-GFLL activities that have taken place here?

The activities that the I-GFLL project has implemented in this village are the following:

- Agree on FPIC.*
- Land areas management*
- Agriculture*

- Village Forest and Agriculture Grants (VFAG)

7.3 Have you been involved in any I-GFLL project activities here? Or someone you know?

Everyone has been involved in the I-GFLL project activities.

7.4 What was that experience like?

As a result of their experience working on this project, they have noted that the forest is better and that they are well-versed in forest conservation.

7.5 Was it easy to learn about the activities (to find out about the activities?)

It was at the intermediate level that they learned about the activities.

7.6 The project has tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins?

All families are informed and discuss activities before they are implemented.

7.6.1 Have you been part of the consultation process? or someone in your household?

All people replied that they have been part of the consultation process.

7.6.2 How could this have been made easier?

It's easy to have been part of the consultation process. If there is a village meeting, all members also participate.

7.6.3 What were the things that made participation difficult

It was not difficult.

7.7 One of the project aims is to support participatory land-use planning – has that happened here?

That has happened in the village.

7.7.1 Can you tell us more about this?

All the villagers have worked together.

7.8 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

They acknowledge and implement the promotion of sustainable agriculture that has happened in the village.

7.8.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They want the project to provide grant funding for the beginning.

7.9 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

All people said that the project will be able to help.

7.9.1 Why or why not?

Because there are knowledgeable technicians to introduce people.

7.10 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

Villagers' help in forest management includes patrolling and assisting with forest encroachment, planting trees with all village members to replace the lost trees, and planning to zoning the forest boundary.

7.11 For the projects that have happened, have all members of the community been able to participate?

All members of the community have been able to participate in the projects that have happened.

7.11.1 Can you tell us more about this?

Women have participated as men do because there is no discrimination.

Any other remarks:

- They want to have capital to make local handicrafts into products and have markets to support those products.*
- They want to have markets for agricultural products and have fixed prices so that there will be no more price pressure from middlemen.*
- Women's participation was occasionally challenged by patrols in the steep forest, which was not done efficiently.*
- The participation of the disadvantaged and poor households is treated like any other household.*

- **220315V1 - Kan-3**

Interview: Interview group of men in the village

Village name: Kan Village

District: Thongmixay District

Province: Xayabouly Province

Date: 15/03/2022

Interview ID: 220315V1 - Kan-3

Surveyor's Name (s): Sing and Kong Lor

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

There are differences between men and women in this village; women do not work as hard as men.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

Several crops are cultivated in the village, such as rice, casava, vegetables, and field crops.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

There were no issues in a year; people were not affected by the rice scarcity, and some rice was left to be sold.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

Yes, I produce cash crops.

2.4 What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.).

The trio responded that the main challenges people face in terms of agricultural production include droughts, floods, and diseased crops (leaf scorch) in some years. It is because of deforestation, which is a factor in climate change. Another challenge is that the Kan village is located near the border of Thailand. There are often forest fires on the Thai side of the border, causing loss in forest and natural disasters to occur.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

- *One said that the farmers got market information from people in the same village.*

- *Another responded that farmers had received market information from neighboring districts to tell each other.*

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

The challenges we face in accessing markets are the shortage of vehicles for transport of products; there were some middlemen who bought crops from the village at a cheaper price than the market because of the distance between the markets and the village; and the damaged roads.

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

There are no challenges for different groups, especially in agriculture in the village.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

We do not practice shifting cultivation because the District Agriculture and Forestry has allocated land for sustainable rice cultivation.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

People in the village avoid using agrochemicals.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

They got information from the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, which recommends changing the rice species every three years, and surveyed the soil to guide people on how to fertilize the crops. Meanwhile, the climate conditions seem better than in the past.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

They practice agroforestry, particularly animal husbandry due to the Agriculture and Forestry Office has allocated forest areas for livestock, but cannot deforest for consumption.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

They have attended agricultural training and learn to practice from the district agriculture and forestry office and do almost every year.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

Farmers share their knowledge by discussing directly the challenges and solutions they encounter, and they also search for some information from other media as well as from their own experience.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

The three said that there was the village conservation forest, Nam Pouy national protected area, the provincial protection forest, and the village protection forest.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

- *The first replied that different types of forests are beneficial to the lives of the villagers.*
- *The other two replied that different types of forests are beneficial in improving the weather, as well as seasonal rainfall and fertile communities.*

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

Non-timber forest products are falling dramatically, according to all three, and there is insufficient supply to fulfill local need as the population grows, therefore demand is increasing as well.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

Men and women use forest resources, including:

- *Women go into the forest to collect vegetables, as well as bamboo shoots and find food.*
- *Men go into the forest to find food like women do, but they have to raise animals as well.*

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them?

The trio said that they had harvested some forest products such as rattan, Boun shoots, mushrooms, bamboo shoots, and others found in the forest.

- *Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)*

The three said that the products they had been harvested had changed. This is because non-timber forest products have decreased rapidly due to population growth.

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are no differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

The village forest resource is divided into inspection and patrol responsibilities once a month.

- *How are women and men involved in forest protection and management?*

The trio said that women and men were equally involved in forest protection and management.

- *Are there differences in the roles of men and women?*

The trio said that the roles of men and women were different. Men are patrolling and women are cooking in the kitchen.

- *What are challenges they face?*

The trio said that the challenge they were facing was wildfires, while the real challenge is patrol funds are less. They receive about 30,000 kip a day, so their family members disagree if they need to participate in the forest patrols.

- Do you have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

We want the project to raise up the daily rate for forest patrols and want to increase the rate in this section.

3.5.1 What about members of ethnic communities?

There is only one ethnic group in Kan village, called Lao Loum.

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

The trio said that the poorest families benefited from the village forest management, including clothes, as well as about 50 kilograms of rice and a few small household items.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing).

They said that some family members had lost their disadvantages due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest.

- If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

All villagers were affected by the restrictions on forest use within the village forest on shifting cultivation and were not compensated.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

They said that there was a land use plan in their community.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighboring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

We have experienced land use conflicts, particularly where some locals have built fences around the forest areas, and now this problem has not been resolved.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land within the village.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

There is only one ethnic group, called Lao Loum.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

It is easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

We are aware of climate change.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

They have noticed changes in the climate, such as droughts, but not severe droughts.

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

The forest has changed, particularly more grown and huger and becoming richer after the order No. 15/PM has been implemented.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

They have noticed changes in agricultural lands and production having to do with changing weather and temperatures, especially the higher temperatures which cause changes in agricultural soils as well as malnourished soil and soil degradation.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

The community faces natural disasters from drought, but not much.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

We have not noticed any changes or any trends.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

This has affected peoples' livelihoods and/or ecosystems, such as the leaf scorch disease that occurs on the rice plant.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).

Members of the village community have been affected by floods in the past three years, particularly in certain poor households.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)

People have responded to natural disasters by using irrigation mechanisms to irrigate their fields if they have noticed that droughts have occurred and building dams to store water for the dry season.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?

They said that locals have planned and implemented these activities are done on their own without any support from anyone.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

They said that now there is no longer any deforestation in the community.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

They said that now there are no longer any trends in deforestation.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

They said that this would not affect ecosystems and forests.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

This affects local people's livelihoods, such as they have faced difficulty in finding some non-timber forest products, as well as firewood and wood for consumption.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

The method to reduce deforestation requires encouraging families who want to have well-being to turn on the cultivation of some crops and livestock for commercial purposes, but the problem is that some households have failed to comply.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe.

If locals did not suspend deforestation, they would probably face drought and flood issues.

What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

Some environmental challenges shift as the season's changes.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project

7.1 Do you know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village?

They know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village.

7.2 What are some of the I-GFLL activities that have taken place here?

Many activities of the I-GFLL project have taken place in this village, such as investment in clearing rice fields, purchasing some barbed wire to build fences for raising livestock, and promoting tea Miang cultivation.

7.3 Have you been involved in any I-GFLL project activities here? Or someone you know?

We have been involved in the I-GFLL project activities but have not received funding assistance.

7.4 What was that experience like?

Experience in surveying the land area before proceeding with financing for agriculture.

7.5 Was it easy to learn about the activities (to find out about the activities?)

It was easy to learn about activities, but there were still challenges in practical implementation due to a shortage of funds or budget and insufficient personnel.

7.6 The project has tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins?

The project has published and tried to speak to everyone in the village about the project activities before it begins its implementation.

7.6.1 Have you been part of the consultation process? or someone in your household?

Yes, we have been part of the consultation process.

7.6.2 How could this have been made easier?

Yes, it is easy to participate in the consultation process.

7.6.3 What were the things that made participation difficult?

It was not difficult.

7.7 One of the project aims is to support participatory land-use planning – has that happened here?

That has not happened in this village.

7.7.1 Can you tell us more about this?

More information about this participatory land use planning could not be provided.

7.8 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

It has not yet been implemented in this village.

7.8.1 Can you tell us more about this?

More information about sustainable agriculture could not be provided.

7.9 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

We think that the project will be able to help.

7.9.1 Why or why not?

Since the I-GFLL project has already been implemented in many villages and districts.

7.10 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

This has not happened here since it has not been implemented in this village.

7.11 For the projects that have happened, have all members of the community been able to participate?

For the projects that have happened, all members of the community have been able to participate.

Have special methods been taken to get women's participation? What about participation of ethnic people?

No have

7.11.1 Can you tell us more about this?

Women have participated to survey and accounting or financial work.

Any other remarks:

- On the project?

We would like to propose this project to help construct the irrigation system for the rice fields.

- On challenges to women's participation?

No suggestion.

- On ethnic participation?

No suggestion.

- On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

No suggestion.

1.2 Consultations in Xayabury District

A. District level: Xayabury

- **220316D1 - Xayabury-1**

Office Groups Interview: District Natural Resources and Environment Office.

District: Xayaboury

Province: Xayaboury

Date: 16/03/2022

Interview ID: Xayaboury-1

Surveyor's Name (s): Phao and Kong Lor

Changing environmental and climatic conditions

1. Have you noticed changes in the weather (temperature, rain levels, natural disasters)?

They have noticed changes in the weather, such as rain out of season, higher temperatures, extreme cool weather, and floods.

1.1 How has (changed or bad weather) this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems?

Changes in the weather have affected people's livelihoods, including heat weather, as well as extreme cold weather, floods and fire forests, but now fire forests no longer occur.

1.2 Are some groups and households in your district more vulnerable to natural disasters, floods, and/or drought?

This includes flooding due to several days of rain, causing damage to local houses, while the other challenge is flooding into people's agriculture lands, causing damage and poor productivity.

1.3 Who is particularly vulnerable and why?

Floods make people extremely vulnerable, especially when houses and crops are flooded.

2. Have you noticed changes in forest areas in your district, and how does this affect local livelihoods?

They have noticed changes in the district's forest areas, which has an effect on local livelihoods. For example, forest species were abundant in the past, but today the forests are reduced than they used to be, making it more difficult for people to locate food in the woods.

3. Have you noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards (e.g. floods, drought, landslides)? If yes, please describe.

Climate change is occurring as a result of deforestation. Example: If people do not stop deforestation, there will be climate change, as well as rain out of season, droughts, landslides, and floods.

3.1 Have these trends changed in the last 5, 15 or 30 years? Please describe how.

These trends have changed from year to year, with some years experiencing extreme heat, while others saw extreme cold, and some years experiencing droughts, while others had huge floods.

4. Do you consider climate change in your current planning for land use planning, agricultural management or forest management? If yes, please describe how.

Current plans for land use planning, agricultural management, or forest management are important to consider the importance of climate change due to previous studies and surveys on land allocation for different types of land use.

Role in Forest Management and Climate Change Adaptation activities

5. What is your (office's/department's) role in forest management? (in Project 1 districts ask if there is a difference between before and now, or within the context of the project)

The office's role in forest management consists of tree planting, as well as attending to tree planting activities and cleaning along the roads.

6. What is your office's role in climate change adaptation?

Their office plays a role in climate change adaptation by protecting trees, mobilizing people to help maintain forests, and planting trees to replace those that have been destroyed.

7. Does your office have the capacity to fulfil these roles? If no, what is needed?

Their offices have the capacity to fulfil these roles.

8. Do you think forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters? And if yes, why?

Forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters because if people were not managed to halt deforestation or deforestation of watersheds, the forest would have less abundance.

9. Are there other projects or initiatives (ongoing or planned) related to land rights/ registration/ tenure in the district?

There is a GLZ project in Xayaboury District related to land rights as well as land title deeds, which is related to the issuance of land title deeds systematically for both construction land and agricultural land.

Role of men and women in land use and agriculture

10. What are the roles of i) women and ii) men in forest and land use? (Please differentiate by, ethnicity, and vulnerable (= poor, disabled) groups where suitable.)

Women and men have equal access to the forest and land use, with no discrimination based on ethnicity, as well as vulnerable groups, the poor, and the disabled.

10.1 In forest protection?

Females have equal rights, but due to frailty and family obligations, they do not work on patrol like men.

10.2 In agricultural production?

They have equal rights.

10.3 In agri-business?

They have equal rights

11. How can women become more involved in forest and land use?

Women are involved in forests and land use equally with men.

12. How can ethnic minority groups become more involved in forest and land use?

Ethnic minority groups are involved in forests and land use equally with the Lao Loum ethnic group.

13. Do you feel that women have the same access to benefits from forest resources as men?

Women and men have equal access to the benefits of forest resources.

13.1 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over forest resources?

Men and women have equal participation in the decision-making and management of forest resources.

13.2 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over agricultural activities?

Men and women have equal participation in the decision-making and management over agricultural activities.

14. Does the new forest law protect the rights of all community members equally?

The new forest law protects the rights of all communities equally, but someone may be unknown.

14.1 Do you understand well the new Forest Law?

We have a good understanding of the new forest law, but not all of the articles.

14.2 Is there understanding of the new Forest Law at the village level?

Locals may not understand the new forest law at the village level.

15. Who is responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the district level? At village level?

The central government is responsible for enforcing forestry laws and providing forestry protection at the district level and village level.

15.1 Are women specifically involved? (village)

Women are specifically involved in enforcing forest law at the village level. There is also the village women's council that is assigned as the Land and Forest Management Committee.

15.2 What about members of ethnic communities? (village)

Members of ethnic communities are specifically involved in enforcing forest law at the village level, but some people may not understand forest law enforcement.

15.3 How is coordination and cooperation between villages and DOFI/ POFI? (district)

Coordination between the village and DOFI and POFI: The provincial office will inform the district, then the district office coordinates with the village to operate accordingly.

15.4 What are any risks or challenges they face related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

The risks and challenges they found or face related to forest law enforcement and forest protection include people now having deforestation for their livelihoods, especially for agriculture, while some locals have violated forest law by leaving their livestock to find food in the protected areas. These are the challenges they have faced.

16. What are the current challenges for Land Use Planning (LUP) as relates to:

There was no land allocation for communities in the past, so locals were able to use the land and forests as they wished. But now the land and forests have been allocated to the villagers, resulting conflicts and people are dissatisfied with the management of the land they have used before. This is because the villagers used to have a number of lands for agriculture previously, but the re-allocation of the land use has reduced the villagers' agricultural land amount, which is the current challenge for Land Use Planning (LUP).

16.1 Women?

There are no current challenges for LUP that relate to women.

16.2 Ethnic people?

There are current challenges for LUP that relate to ethnic people since they don't have land for rice cultivation. Therefore, they need to clear the forest for their shifting cultivation.

16.3 The poorest members of communities?

There are current challenges for LUP that relate to the poorest members of communities because they rely on natural resources to create a family economy and because they need land for agriculture and raising animals. Therefore, deforestation was occurred to expand the areas.

16.4 Land use conflicts?

There are no current challenges for LUP that relate to land use conflicts or incorrect demarcation of people's boundaries.

16.5 Issues with land allocation and titling?

There are no current challenges for LUP that relate to issues with land allocation and titling.

16.6 Others?

There are no other current challenges for LUP.

17. There is ongoing work on a Provincial Deforestation Monitoring Systems, with systems in place in Houaphan, Xayaboury and Luang Prabang.

17.1 How is this being implemented (if interviewing within these 3 provinces)?

If illegal deforestation in the protected forest has been reported, the relevant sectors will conduct monitoring and offenders will be arrested or fined in accordance with laws of Laos.

17.2 Who is involved? Please discuss the involvement of women, ethnic people, disabled persons, poor households, among others.

Those involved in this system include the village authorities as well as relevant sectors of the district, the inspection sector, and the Lao Women's Union.

17.3 What are i) opportunities and ii) challenges/ barriers of the PDMS?

The opportunities, challenges, and barriers of PDMS are facing difficult patrols and insufficient communication equipment.

18. Access to markets is important for supporting deforestation free agriculture. What challenges in accessing markets do villagers have?

The challenge of accessing the local markets is that the market is very competitive because people have cultivated the same crops, which increases product amounts and causes middlemen to pressure the prices of local products for their resale to gain profit.

18.1 Where possible differentiate between the challenges faced by:

1, Women and women-owned or -led businesses.

There are no challenges faced by women and women-owned or-led businesses.

2, Different ethnic groups.

They are equal.

3, Other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, among others).

They have faced financial issues.

Overall perspectives on the project:

19. What is your opinion of the ongoing I-GFLL project, do you think it is helping to reduce deforestation in the target provinces/ districts?

The ongoing I-GFLL project is helping to reduce deforestation in the target provinces and districts.

19.1 Why or why not?

Because central authorities have already disseminated information about forest-related activities.

19.2 What other benefits has the project generated?

The benefit of the project is that it disseminates information on the activities of the project to the public for understanding.

19.3 Have you seen any barriers to participation in the project?

They have not seen any barriers.

19.3.1 What are the challenges and ideas on how they can be overcome?

There are not any challenges.

- Communities in remote areas?

No have

- Ethnic communities?

No have

- Women, and female headed households?

No have

- Landless households

No have

- The most vulnerable members of communities.

No have

20. Does your department/office feel that it currently has the technical capacity to support the project?

He said that their office now has the technical capacity to support the project.

20.1 If not, please specify what areas specific capacity support is needed e.g. adaptation planning and mainstreaming, monitoring, etc.

No answer.

21. Do you feel that Gender equality is being practiced for project activities?

Gender equality is being practiced for project activities.

22. Do you feel that Social inclusion of men and women from diverse ethnic groups and vulnerable groups is taking place?

This project is taking place to include men and women from diverse ethnic groups and vulnerable groups for harmonic.

23. The I-GFLL project is being adapted for Phase 2, including a renewed focus on climate change. Are you aware of these changes?

These changes are not yet known.

24. As the project prepares to expand into new areas, what can be done to make the project more successful?

If people are ready, it can be done to make the project more successful by raising people's awareness about forest and land use.

25. Any other remarks:

25.1 On the project?

They want the project to meet villagers and explain more about the project's activities.

25.2 On challenges to women's participation?

It should allow women to be part of the village to attend the meeting.

25.3 On ethnic participation?

It was difficult because they were not ready to attend the meeting.

25.4 On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

No have.

26. Do you have any final comments or questions?

They are unable to express their opinions since they are unfamiliar with the project.

- **220316D1 - Xayabury-2**

Office: District Agriculture and Forestry Office.

District: Xayaboury

Province: Xayaboury

Surveyor's Name (s): Mr. Thammanoon and Mr. Danai

Date: 16/03/2022

Changing environmental and climatic conditions

1. Have you noticed changes in the weather (temperature, rain levels, natural disasters)?

Yes, they have noticed changes in the weather.

1.1 How has (changed or bad weather) this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems?

Changes in the weather have affected people's livelihoods, including droughts and floods that affect farmers and business operators.

1.2 Are some groups and households in your district more vulnerable to natural disasters, floods, and/or drought?

Households in the district are more vulnerable to natural disasters, such as floods.

1.3 Who is particularly vulnerable and why?

All people who live in this district are considered to be severely affected as the floods have an impact on the productivity of farmers because their crops have not been harvested on time, and that includes businesses.

2. Have you noticed changes in forest areas in your district, and how does this affect local livelihoods?

They have noticed changes in the district's forest areas due to population growth, so agriculture lands have been expanded to include forest encroachment for subsistence agriculture, and most people rely on forests for their livelihoods when they are encroached upon, making it harder to find food in that area.

3. Have you noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards (e.g. floods, drought, landslides)? If yes, please describe.

They have noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards. If locals continue deforestation, the natural disaster will only intensify because forests are the main heart of ecosystem conservation. If there were no forests, ecosystems and soil degradation would be inevitable.

3.1 Have these trends changed in the last 5, 15 or 30 years? Please describe how.

In the past, this district was never affected by floods, but it has occurred in the last two years.

4. Do you consider climate change in your current planning for land use planning, agricultural management or forest management? If yes, please describe how.

Of course, because they have planned on forest and land use and ensured to increase the rate of forest growth and prevent it from decreasing. They have assigned the water resource areas and the plain areas for agriculture lands and provided some finance for people for livestock to replace forest encroachment.

Role in Forest Management and Climate Change Adaptation activities

5. What is your (office's/department's) role in forest management? (in Project 1 districts ask if there is a difference between before and now, or within the context of the project)

They have used the law on forestry, as well as aquatic, wildlife, and other regulations related to forests, and have investigated forest encroachment by handing over to district and village officials. Although the invasion of the forest is still ongoing, authorities have focused on preventing the clearing of forest for shifting cultivation with the aim of reducing deforestation.

6. What is your office's role in climate change adaptation?

The role has been implemented and expanded further in accordance with forest law and coordinated with each village authority to expand and be consistent.

7. Does your office have the capacity to fulfil these roles? If no, what is needed?

Their offices have insufficient capacity to fulfil these roles because they have faced a budget shortage, as well as vehicles and equipment. There is also the challenge of travelling to reach each target village because most of the villages are located in the mountains.

8. Do you think forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters? And if yes, why?

Forest management is an important aspect because nothing can change the climate except the forest.

9. Are there other projects or initiatives (ongoing or planned) related to land rights/ registration/ tenure in the district?

There is an International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) project, but the district received funds from ADB for the local land management.

Role of men and women in land use and agriculture

10. What are the roles of i) women and ii) men in forest and land use? (Please differentiate by, ethnicity, and vulnerable (= poor, disabled) groups where suitable.)

The role of women and men in forest and land use remains less effective for ethnicity groups because there is still discrimination in some families. Because most women rely on men to make decisions.

10.1 In forest protection?

Women and men have equal rights in forest protection because it is a unity within the village.

Ethnicity groups have equal rights in forest protection as other groups.

Vulnerable groups have equal rights in forest protection as well.

10.2 In agricultural production?

Women and men have equal rights in agricultural production.

Ethnicity groups have equal rights in agricultural production as other groups.

Vulnerable groups have equal rights in agricultural production as well.

10.3 In agri-business?

Women and men have equal rights in agri-business.

Ethnicity groups have equal rights in agri-business as other groups.

Vulnerable groups have equal rights in agri-business as well.

11. How can women become more involved in forest and land use?

Women are involved in forests and land use equally with men because they have assisted each other.

12. How can ethnic minority groups become more involved in forest and land use?

Ethnic minority groups are involved in forests and land use equally with other groups.

13. Do you feel that women have the same access to benefits from forest resources as men?

Women have equal access to the benefits of forest resources as men.

13.1 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over forest resources?

Men and women have equal participation in the decision-making and management of forest resources.

13.2 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over agricultural activities?

Men and women have equal participation in the decision-making and management over agricultural activities.

14. Does the new forest law protect the rights of all community members equally?

Yes, the new forest law protects the rights of all communities equally.

14.1 Do you understand well the new Forest Law?

They understand well the new Forest Law.

14.2 Is there understanding of the new Forest Law at the village level?

There is some understanding, but it is not widespread because it can be seen that people are still deforesting.

15. Who is responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the district level? At village level?

Everyone is responsible for enforcing forestry laws, but in the process of propagating the law, the District Agriculture and Forestry Office is tasked with implementing and disseminating this law at the village level.

15.1 Are women specifically involved? (village)

Women are specifically involved in enforcing forest law at the village level.

15.2 What about members of ethnic communities? (village)

Members of ethnic communities are specifically involved in enforcing forest law at the village level as well.

15.3 How is coordination and cooperation between villages and DOFI/ POFI? (district)

They have appointed responsible persons at the village level to report the situation by telephone.

15.4 What are any risks or challenges they face related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

The challenge is that some people already know the law, but they still fail to comply due to lack of knowledge, and another challenge is that most of them rely on the forest for their livelihoods.

16. What are the current challenges for Land Use Planning (LUP) as relates to:

16.1 Women?

There are no current challenges for LUP that relate to women.

16.2 Ethnic people?

There are some current challenges for LUP that relate to ethnic people since they disagree if there is a plan to expand the route within their land areas.

16.3 The poorest members of communities?

There are no current challenges for LUP that relate the poorest members of communities.

16.4 Land use conflicts?

Land use conflicts are a challenge in almost every village due to land disputes regarding agricultural production.

16.5 Issues with land allocation and titling?

The issues with land allocation and titling are current challenges when notifying the payment of land tax. Most people think that if they have already paid the land tax, then the land belongs to them, and they assume that they can do everything on the land.

16.6 Others?

There are no other current challenges for LUP.

17. There is ongoing work on a Provincial Deforestation Monitoring Systems, with systems in place in Houaphan, Xayaboury and Luang Prabang.

There is a Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System, with ongoing work in Xayaboury Province.

17.1 How is this being implemented (if interviewing within these 3 provinces)?

It has been implemented and trained in recent months with organized training on deforestation in groups and some monitoring tools for fire forest and forest encroachment.

17.2 Who is involved? Please discuss the involvement of women, ethnic people, disabled persons, poor households, among others.

Everyone is involved in the system.

17.3 What are i) opportunities and ii) challenges/ barriers of the PDMS?

The barriers of PDMS are facing a shortage of vehicles on work implementation.

18. Access to markets is important for supporting deforestation free agriculture. What challenges in accessing markets do villagers have?

The challenges in accessing the market for the villagers include that they have faced a shortage of vehicles to transport their products to markets, while one man said that most farmers are living in remote areas where road access is inconvenient, which makes it difficult to reach the market directly, so most of them rely on middlemen to buy, and some are under lower price pressure from middlemen.

18.1 Where possible differentiate between the challenges faced by i) women (and women-owned or -led businesses), ii) different ethnic groups and iii) other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, among others).

It doesn't matter if the woman is the head of the household; ethnic groupings and disadvantaged groups will all be facing these challenges.

Overall perspectives on the project:

19. What is your opinion of the ongoing I-GFLL project, do you think it is helping to reduce deforestation in the target provinces/ districts?

The ongoing I-GFLL project is able to help reduce deforestation.

19.1 Why or why not?

Because the project has been implemented and provides funding to some families who are working in shifting cultivation to help them turn to agriculture and animal husbandry.

19.2 What other benefits has the project generated?

Since the project began to be implemented, it has generated benefits in terms of reducing deforestation.

19.3 Have you seen any barriers to participation in the project?

The barriers to participation in the project are conflicts between some households who have received funding and those who did not.

19.3.1 What are the challenges and ideas on how they can be overcome?

The challenges and ideas on how they can be overcome include:

- *There are no challenges for communities in remote areas.*
- *There are no challenges for ethnic communities.*
- *There are no challenges for women, and female headed households.*
- *District authorities have coordinated with village authorities to find agricultural land for the landless households.*
- *There are no challenges for the most vulnerable members of communities.*

20. Does your department/office feel that it currently has the technical capacity to support the project?

They said that their office is now considered technically capable of supporting this project because they have sufficient technical staff but still have a shortage of training in project work and require comprehensive technical training.

20.1 If not, please specify what areas specific capacity support is needed e.g. adaptation planning and mainstreaming, monitoring, etc.

No answer.

21. Do you feel that Gender equality is being practiced for project activities?

Gender equality is being practiced for project activities.

22. Do you feel that Social inclusion of men and women from diverse ethnic groups and vulnerable groups is taking place?

It is believed that the project will include men and women from diverse ethnic groups and vulnerable groups in the future.

23. The I-GFLL project is being adapted for Phase 2, including a renewed focus on climate change. Are you aware of these changes?

These changes are not yet known.

24. As the project prepares to expand into new areas, what can be done to make the project more successful?

They want to increase the number of target villages and the number of families who receive financial assistance.

25. Any other remarks:

- *The specialists did not assign the land areas and prepare a report in a thorough enough manner.*
- *They would like to see forest codes distributed.*
- *They want the district's budget to be increased, as well as money for their work.*
- *They want the money for VFAG work to be increased.*
- *They want the project to increase the budget to 1000 euros per household.*
- *They want the project to increase the number of families receiving project funding.*

- **220316D1 - Xayabury-3**

Office Groups Interview: District Lao Women's Union Office (LWU).

District: Xayaboury

Province: Xayaboury

Date: 16/03/2022

Interview ID: Xayaboury-3

Surveyor's Name (s): Sing

Changing environmental and climatic conditions

1. Have you noticed changes in the weather (temperature, rain levels, natural disasters)?

They have ever noticed changes in the weather.

1.1 How has (changed or bad weather) this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems?

The changes include more rain out of season and higher temperatures during the dry season, causing droughts. People's livelihoods are affected because of the hot weather in the dry season and the river water dries faster than usual. The villagers were therefore unable to cultivate their crops because there was no water source.

1.2 Are some groups and households in your district more vulnerable to natural disasters, floods, and/or drought?

Natural disaster risks include floods, droughts, and wildfires.

1.3 Who is particularly vulnerable and why?

Those who are particularly vulnerable are the locals. Because if there is a flood, it could damage their houses or some properties, and if it floods the agriculture land, it will damage people's crops or poor productivity.

2. Have you noticed changes in forest areas in your district, and how does this affect local livelihoods?

There have been noticed changes in the forest area in this district, such as how it is affecting local livelihoods. Before, there was abundance, but now there is drought.

3. Have you noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards (e.g. floods, drought, landslides)? If yes, please describe.

She said that she has noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards, with resulting floods and droughts. Deforestation results in insufficient trees to absorb or store water, while floods and droughts also occur in the rainy season.

3.1 Have these trends changed in the last 5, 15 or 30 years? Please describe how.

These trends have changed similarly in the last 10 years. These changes have been caused by people starting to cut down more trees, causing several natural disasters.

4. Do you consider climate change in your current planning for land use planning, agricultural management or forest management? If yes, please describe how.

There are the main considerations for climate change in the current planning for land use, agricultural management, or forest management because they have been surveyed and addressed if they found forest degradation, and they will mobilize on planting trees to restore forests and construct embankments along the rivers where floods always occur.

Role in Forest Management and Climate Change Adaptation activities

5. What is your (office's/department's) role in forest management? (in Project 1 districts ask if there is a difference between before and now, or within the context of the project) *No Answer*

6. What is your office's role in climate change adaptation? *No Answer*

7. Does your office have the capacity to fulfil these roles? If no, what is needed? *No Answer*

8. Do you think forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters? And if yes, why? *No Answer*

9. Are there other projects or initiatives (ongoing or planned) related to land rights/ registration/ tenure in the district? *No Answer*

Role of men and women in land use and agriculture

10. What are the roles of i) women and ii) men in forest and land use? (Please differentiate by, ethnicity, and vulnerable (= poor, disabled) groups where suitable.)

Women and men have equal access to the forest and land use, with no discrimination based on groups of people or ethnicity.

10.1 In forest protection?

They have equal rights in forest protection

10.2 In agricultural production?

They have equal rights in agricultural production

10.3 In agri-business?

They have equal rights in agri-business

11. How can women become more involved in forest and land use?

Women are more likely to be involved in forests and land use than men, about 45% of the population in each village.

12. How can ethnic minority groups become more involved in forest and land use?

Ethnic minority groups are involved in forests and land use equally with the Lao Loum ethnic group.

13. Do you feel that women have the same access to benefits from forest resources as men?

They feel that women and men have equal access to the benefits of forest resources.

13.1 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over forest resources?

They think that men and women have equal participation in decision-making and management of forest resources because they have discussed and shared responsibilities with each other in each task.

13.2 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over agricultural activities?

They think that men and women have equal participation in decision-making and management of agricultural activities because they have discussed and shared responsibilities with each other in each task.

14. Does the new forest law protect the rights of all community members equally?

The new forest law protects the rights of all communities equally.

14.1 Do you understand well the new Forest Law?

They understand well the new Forest Law.

14.2 Is there understanding of the new Forest Law at the village level?

She said that she thinks villagers have a good understanding of the new forest law because authorities from the relevant sectors have published it regularly.

15. Who is responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the district level? At village level?

- *The District Agriculture and Forestry Office is responsible for enforcing forestry law and providing forestry protection at the district level.*
- *The village agriculture and forestry sectors are responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the village level.*

15.1 Are women specifically involved? (village)

Women are specifically involved in enforcing forest law at the village level because there is the village women's council that is assigned as the Land and Forest Management Committee.

15.2 What about members of ethnic communities? (village)

The members of ethnic communities are specifically involved because some ethnic villages have forest sectors in their villages and work in forest patrol and inspection.

15.3 How is coordination and cooperation between villages and DOFI/ POFI? (district)

She said she is unknown.

15.4 What are any risks or challenges they face related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

The risks and challenges they face or face related to forest law enforcement and forest protection include when the law is published, some families that have failed to comply with the law, and some people who live in remote or rural areas that still face challenges in forest law enforcement.

16. What are the current challenges for Land Use Planning (LUP) as relates to:

16.1 Women?

There are no current challenges for LUP that relate to women.

16.2 Ethnic people?

There are current challenges for LUP that relate to ethnic people because people in remote areas do not have a clear understanding and most of them live in mountainous areas with no agricultural land, so they had to clear the forest for agriculture.

16.3 The poorest members of communities?

There are current challenges for LUP that relate to the poorest members of communities because people are living without agricultural land. They need to clear forests agricultural production and make a living for their families.

16.4 Land use conflicts?

There are current challenges for LUP that relate to land use conflicts because there are some land areas reserved for agricultural production.

16.5 Issues with land allocation and titling?

There are no current challenges for LUP that relate to issues with land allocation and titling.

16.6 Others?

There are no other current challenges for LUP.

17. There is ongoing work on a Provincial Deforestation Monitoring Systems, with systems in place in Houaphan, Xayaboury and Luang Prabang.

17.1 How is this being implemented (if interviewing within these 3 provinces)?

This is being implemented by appointing the responsible committee of the district agriculture and forestry office to coordinate with villages to inspect the notified forest areas.

17.2 Who is involved? Please discuss the involvement of women, ethnic people, disabled persons, poor households, among others.

Those involved in this system include the District Agriculture and Forestry Office, the District Natural Resources and Environment Office, and the village forestry sectors, which cooperate with the village authorities.

17.3 What are i) opportunities and ii) challenges/ barriers of the PDMS?

She said that she is unknown.

18. Access to markets is important for supporting deforestation free agriculture. What challenges in accessing markets do villagers have?

The villagers' access to markets is challenged by the production and distribution of goods in a small circle; initially, prices were reasonable, but after a while, prices began to fall.

18.1 Where possible differentiate between the challenges faced by:

1, Women and women-owned or -led businesses.

The production and distribution of goods in a small circle; initially, prices were reasonable, but after a while, prices began to fall.

2, Different ethnic groups.

There is no vehicle to place the products for sale in markets; only middlemen come to meet farmers in the villages, but the price is not as high as the general market.

3, Other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, among others).

The challenge to market access is to pressure the prices of produce or goods from middlemen due to the lack of vehicles to transport the produce to markets.

Overall perspectives on the project:

19. What is your opinion of the ongoing I-GFLL project, do you think it is helping to reduce deforestation in the target provinces/ districts?

They think that the ongoing I-GFLL project is helping to reduce deforestation in the target provinces and districts.

19.1 Why or why not?

This is because the I-GFLL project allows people to plan for sustainable agriculture.

19.2 What other benefits has the project generated?

The benefit of the project is that it helps to reduce deforestation and develop people's livelihoods for a better life.

19.3 Have you seen any barriers to participation in the project?

They have not seen any barriers.

19.3.1 What are the challenges and ideas on how they can be overcome?

She said that she is unknown.

- Communities in remote areas?

No have

- Ethnic communities?

No have

- Women, and female headed households?

No have

- Landless households

No have

- The most vulnerable members of communities.

No have

20. Does your department/office feel that it currently has the technical capacity to support the project?

She feels like their office currently has the technical capacity to support the project as previously.

20.1 If not, please specify what areas specific capacity support is needed e.g. adaptation planning and mainstreaming, monitoring, etc.

No answer.

21. Do you feel that Gender equality is being practiced for project activities?

Gender equality has always been practiced for project activities.

22. Do you feel that Social inclusion of men and women from diverse ethnic groups and vulnerable groups is taking place?

This project is taking place to include men and women from diverse ethnic groups and vulnerable groups in the district.

23. The I-GFLL project is being adapted for Phase 2, including a renewed focus on climate change. Are you aware of these changes?

She said that she was aware of these changes.

24. As the project prepares to expand into new areas, what can be done to make the project more successful?

She said that as the project prepares to expand into these areas, she wants the project to guide or lead people in implementing project activities.

25. Any other remarks:

25.1 On the project?

She said that she wants the zoning of land and forests to be the property of the locals and banned people to expand the land to other areas.

25.2 On challenges to women's participation?

There is no answer.

25.3 On ethnic participation?

She said that she wants the zoning of land and forests to be the property of the locals and banned people to expand the land to other areas.

25.4 On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

She said that she wants the zoning of land and forests to be the property of the locals and banned people to expand the land to other areas.

26. Do you have any final comments or questions?

She has no comment.

B. Village level: Houaysangaem

• 220316V1 - Houaysangaem 1

Village name: Houaysangaem
District: Xayabouly District
Province: Xayabouly Province
Interview: Interview group of Village authorities.
Interview by: Khamphao, 16/03/2022
Interview ID: Houaysangaem (1)

Village demographic & forest/land governance questions (For village leadership group only)

1. What is the village population?

Houaysangaem Village has a population of 812 people.

2. Number of Women?

There are 373 females.

3. Different ethnic groups present in the village? (And numbers)

There are three ethnic groups in the village, including Lao Loum, Hmong, and Phai (Prai). The Hmong account for nearly 95% of the population, followed by Prai and Lao Loum. Those who marry only 1-2 people in this village are Lao Loum.

4. What kind of forest resources does the village have?

According to the village chief, there are five types of forests in the village, such as the village forest, protected forest, production forest, watershed forest, sacred forest, and conservation forest.

5. How long has it been in place?

The village was allocated land and forests in 1997, while the watershed forest and sacred forest of the village existed long before land and forest zoning. Then other forests were zoned for periodic management.

6. How is forest resource management coordinated between the district and the village?

There is regular coordination between village and district, especially in the agriculture and forestry sectors, and relevant sectors in the dissemination of land use policies in accordance with the law. The authorities from the district level have allocated land and forests and determined the boundaries of each forest type for people to know. They sometimes tried to talk about regulations, as well as forest law, or recommend ways to prevent forest fires each year, while government officials also worked in the village on a monthly basis, several times a year. The district has appointed and commissioned the village to protect the forest

as the village is close to natural resources and uses non-timber forest products directly. The district has appointed the village to focus on protecting forest resources and preventing deforestation for shifting cultivation. They have also warned people to stay cautious in coping with potential natural disasters. In the past, there have been fire forests near the village, and the district has assisted the community in extinguishing the fire to prevent it from spreading.

7. What are the challenges related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

The village has faced challenges related to forest law enforcement due to some locals who do not understand and do not see the importance of forests. Some families have violated the law even though they know it is illegal. The reason is that many people are still uneducated or poor, and some family leaders are not strong. For example, drug addiction regularly creates social problems.

8. How are decisions made about forest and land management?

Locals in the village have complied with the law to implement forest and land management; in the past, people have used the land without a land title deed for agriculture, as well as for the construction of their buildings and grazing due to their practice of traditional land-use and the use of huge trees or creeks to mark boundaries. Traditional land-use practices have led to frequent conflicts over communal land use due to improper land use and unsustainable forest management. To avoid the challenges, villagers, as well as the village authorities, have asked district officials to allocate land to locals so that people can use the land properly. Nowadays, many villagers are registered to issue land title deeds for land construction. The allocation of agricultural land or construction land in this village depends on the real condition of the village and the consent of the people. Forest management is responsible by the village for implementation and monitoring in five areas, namely the Lao Front for National Development Office, Economic, Administrative, Forestry, and village-level organizations with women's unions and youth, while the major sectors are MoPS and MoD.

9. Are these decisions made in village meetings, or by village committee?

For other tasks that are related to the overall work of the village or the government, decisions are made in village meetings to discuss and address other issues together, while the village authorities cannot decide on their own.

10. Are women involved in these decisions?

Women have the right to be involved in discussions, make decisions, and present their work equally to men. Although women have equal rights as men and use forests as a primary source of livelihood, they

often have fewer chances to be involved in decision-making or other planning. Women's unions are key to decision-making leadership.

11. One of the project goals is to help women and the poorest and most vulnerable villagers to take part in making decisions about forest and land resources. Is this possible?

Women and the poorest and most vulnerable villagers can participate in making decisions and planning for forest resource management and land allocation.

12. What are the barriers to participation?

The barriers to participating in this project include that it has chosen the poorest families that have no agricultural lands; some families have no skills or do not understand the activities to be done, which makes it difficult to participate. Some people are still careless and ignore the fact that they have responsibilities, caring more about their own benefit than the public. Some poor families are addicted to drugs and abuse their children and wives physically. These are barriers to participation.

13. Does the village benefit from commercialization of sustainably managed village forests?

The village will benefit from the commercialization of sustainably managed village forests in many ways, such as: forests have been protected; there will be huge trees that can be used to build houses; and the weather will also improve. When the weather has improved and green cover areas have increased, several animal species will grow, as well as non-timber forest products, terrestrial and aquatic animals, and biodiversity. When the forest is fertile and full of natural resources and NTFPs, there are many benefits for the villagers. For example, locals are able to harvest some non-timber forest products for sale for their livelihoods. Moreover, when the forest is managed, it will benefit future generations.

14. How are forest products distributed within the village? Are people satisfied with the forest product distribution system?

Forest products that villagers harvest from the forest include seasonal plants, wood, bamboo, firewood, rattan, tiger grass, bamboo shoots, mushrooms, herbs, wild vegetables, and terrestrial or aquatic animals. People are satisfied with the forest product distribution system.

15. How are complaints about land or forest management systems dealt with?

There have been some cases in the past, especially those who left their new homes or who are landless for agricultural production, and they have applied for permission from village and district officials to practice agricultural production in the land or forest management areas.

Solution: The district officials have worked with village authorities to find a solution to this problem, but it remains unaddressed because there are no agricultural areas in the village.

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

The main occupation of the villagers is practicing agricultural production, especially paddy farming for some, but most villagers practice upland rice cultivation. If there is any leftover rice, it will be sold. In addition to growing rice, some families also raise livestock such as buffaloes, cows, goats, and poultry; they also plant some crops to sell in villages and markets, such as corn, sesame, cassava, and chilies. People who have good economic conditions can engage in trading, such as building stores for the sale of some goods they consume as well as NTFPs, including bamboo shoots, rattan, boon shoots, vegetables, wildlife, and so on. Besides paddy farming, men who have skills are able to search for jobs in construction or work as laborers in the villages or towns, depending on the condition of each individual. There are quite fewer female-headed households in this village, but even then, they do the same agriculture production as everyone else.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

In this village, rice is the main crop for cultivation, followed by corn, chilies, cucumbers, and cassava. But cassava has only just begun to grow this year.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

There are about 20–30 households that have faced rice insufficiency for about 3 months, they have worked as laborers to work on construction to earn money to buy rice; some people take their livestock for sale or exchange rice, such as ducks, chickens, and pigs; while some go into the forest to find non-timber forest products for sale for their daily survival. Most families with insufficient rice are families with no main labor and have many children, or are landless for sustainable agriculture. Some of them are lazy, have no savings and are addicted to drugs.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

Some crops are commercially cultivated, such as cassavas, corns, millets, and chilies.

2.4 What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.).

The main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production are climate change and climate variability. There was heavy rain and plenty of rainfall in some years, but droughts and strong winds in others, and there were also floods and landslides that hit crops. This results in poor yields, as well as pest issues that damage crops, such as birds, rats, and caterpillars. The worst problem is that locusts and rats destroy rice during its flower blooms. Market access is also a challenge because the village is located far from the town, making it difficult to transport agricultural products to the market because they do not have their own vehicles. Hiring another vehicle to transport goods is more expensive and not worth the investment, resulting in less profit or even a loss.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

Farmers receive information about crop production from the District Agriculture and Forestry Office and middlemen. Most of the market information is obtained from local villagers or from general middlemen who sell or buy produce in the local community.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

In addition to the pest challenges, there is also the challenge of transportation because of long distances. For example, if villagers want to sell their massive products, they are required to transport them to the town for sale to merchants who buy them at good prices. If villagers sell their products to middlemen in the village, they are often exploited by suppressing the price of products, which is seen as exploitation and unfair for farmers.

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

The relationship between women and men in this village is particularly strong. Men form an important component of the main decision-making in farming and other businesses in this village, with the majority of men serving as managers. As for the agricultural activities and daily chores, they help each other equally. Vulnerable groups or poor families can also engage in agriculture, although poor families will do what they can. If a family was landless or only had a small plot of land for agriculture, they could go to work with those who have many plots of land and share the yields after harvest according to an agreement they made.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

People practice shifting cultivation in the village. Rotating means the shifting cultivation that is not stable each year and rotates alternately throughout, and every three or five years the rice returns to cultivate the former place. The reason for shifting cultivation each year is that the old fields are unable to plant rice or have poor yields.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

Farmers use chemicals or pesticides.

- Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health?

The use of chemicals in agricultural production has had negative impacts on the environment or people's health, but must be protected.

- Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying? Where do they access these materials?

Most villagers are well aware of the chemicals they are applying, such as herbicides and pesticides, which can be purchased at the general markets of the district and sometimes sold by local merchants.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

The agriculture and forestry sectors have recommended and provided information and planting methods to adapt to climate change, as well as advising and finding plant varieties, especially some fruit trees for farmers to experiment with cultivating to make sure if they suit the soil conditions.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

In fact, people don't practice agroforestry in the village, but there are some outsiders who have planted in their own gardens that are located within the village boundary, especially the rubber plantations

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

The villagers had attended an agricultural training and learned about sowing, planting, and maintenance methods from the District Agriculture and Forestry Office, under the Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Project in 2005.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

Villagers and farmers have often shared ideas and knowledge, for example, during the pre-planting period, they discussed what sorts of rice and crops they should plant this year to adjust to the weather conditions and what crops to cultivate for excellent yields. Most of the villagers, especially the Hmong people, will talk and discuss their well-being during traditional festivals such as the Noj Peb Caug Festival.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

There are various forests surrounding the village, such as the village forest, sacred forest, production forest, the national protected area and protection forest.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

Each species of forest is beneficial because it helps to cover the green areas, maintain the water sources, prevent erosion and protect the environment. If there are rich forests, people may utilize them. For example, wood (Damma resin) can be sold as products, while tiger grass and bamboo can be used in handicrafts, and other trees or biodiversity can be used in traditional herbals.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

As we know, today's forests are decreasing every year due to human deforestation, and there is also an increasing drought disaster every year that affects the growth of trees and other plants. Everything, whether it be non-timber forest products or wooden resources, is insufficient for the needs of the people who are increasing. Forest zoning or land allocation is also a limiting factor in the use of forest natural resources.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

Most of the women went to the forest to find bamboo shoots, vegetables, rattan shoots, Boun shoots, cardamoms, and herbs to consume and sell. Women are more likely to go to the forest to find forest products than men. Most of the men worked hard, looking for wood to build houses, fences, and hunt some non-protected wildlife such as boars, squirrels, birds, and aquatic animals.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them? Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

People use wood to build houses, fences, and make firewood, while some bamboo, rattan, giant upright elephant ear plant, and tiger grass can be used for handicrafts for use in households and sale. Forest products that used to exist in the past have changed from their original conditions, such as trees, which have decreased, while some terrestrial and aquatic animals have disappeared. The biggest change is that the vast green forest that was once exist, but there is now gone, and people only see bald mountains everywhere.

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are no differences in the use of forest resources between ethnic groups.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

The village has assigned each group to protect the forest areas, especially during the dry season when forest fires occur. The villagers also pay attention to surveillance and help each other to build firebreaks if there is a forest fire, and inform the authorities from the relevant sectors so they can arrange to deal with it.

3.5.1 How are women and men involved in forest protection and management? Are there differences in the roles of men and women? What are challenges they face? Do they have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

Women and men are involved in protecting and managing forest resources. Women, especially village women's unions, are also under the committees. There was no difference in the roles of men and women in this village, due to the village's division of duties. If patrolling is a man's task, while women monitor from behind. The challenge they face is wildfires, and they are required to pay attention to it seriously; if there are wildfires, they help to extinguish them and build firebreaks. Meanwhile, there is now some deforestation for cultivation or for sale, but not much. If they find violators, they have informed village authorities in order to address the challenges, and they educate the offenders and issue a warning or fine in accordance with the forest law.

3.5.2 What about members of ethnic communities?

There is no difference in the role of ethnic groups, due to everyone is involved in protection and management as well. They have no problem dealing with it.

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

The poorest families benefit greatly from village forest management. For example, forests are a source of livelihood for people, and forests can protect the environment and provide protection from strong winds. Timber and non-timber forest products can also be used to build houses and sell them.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing). If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

Some village members are more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest. In the past, there was no land allocation and no forest management. People were able to occupy many plots of agricultural land, but after the government planned on zoning the boundaries and prohibiting deforestation for cultivation, So many people are disadvantaged because they are landless for agriculture. Some people used to have grazing areas for their livestock, but now they have been designated as protected areas or protection forests, making the community unable to access other activities. Poor families are particularly affected because they rely on forests for their livelihood.

Solutions: Villages and districts have discussed and found solutions for these issues, especially since village authorities have agreed to allocate the public land of the village to them for agricultural production like other members in the village.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

The community has had a land use and forest management plan for a long time, with a dashboard showing the boundary, as well as land and each type of forest in the village.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

They have never experienced land-use conflicts with neighbouring villages. Most of the conflicts between families and families in the village are because the lands do not have title deeds to mark the correct border, while some people have expanded their fence to cover another land. The majority of agricultural areas along by the locals are the original land, and they use it as traditional. Some land lots simply mark the border by using huge trees, anthills, or large stones as the boundary.

The solution is to invite the conflicting families to a meeting; if the issue cannot be solved at the village level, two families must be suspended from practicing agricultural production on the conflicted land and be educated about the laws.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women in the village have equal access to land use. For example, registering title deeds within the family; if the property is jointly owned by the husband and wife, the title deed will include both names.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

Men and women from different ethnic groups have equal access to land use in accordance with family law and gender roles.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

Everyone has easy access to the land in the village, people have a good understanding of land use, everyone has their own residential and agricultural land, and everyone has the right to use the land according to the law.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

The weather has changed dramatically, especially now that there is a drought as well as non-seasonal rainfall. When it rains, there are often strong winds and thunderstorms.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

They have noticed changes in weather conditions, such as higher temperatures, causing soil to become too dry as well as forest getting dry in some areas. For example, some kinds of bamboo trees are dry and dying, while the waters of the streams that were once plentiful but now dried up; non-seasonal rainfall; even in the past, there was never heavy rain during February or March, or if it rained, it was a little, but now it's raining heavily during February or March. Besides the rain, landslides also hit roads and agricultural areas.

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

Forests currently have changed dramatically. For example, the hills that used to be covered with rich forest, including several huge trees, plenty of bamboo shoots, and other natural vegetables, are now almost nonexistent. Forests are degraded and there is drought. Some years are very dry, leading to wildfires.

There are some new plants growing as replacements that are similar to the thorn grasses.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

There has also been a change in agriculture due to what they have noticed from the cultivation of various crops, such as rice and corn. It is nice and provides good yields in the first year, but productivity drops in the second year and continues dropping in the third year, resulting in a loss of cost because of the change in soil conditions, especially if it is dry and hard and does not absorb water, plus climate change and non-seasonal rainfall.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

The communities have faced natural disasters such as droughts or heavy rain some years, causing landslides and damaging unharvested people's crops as well as landslides into the roads that make it harder for communities to travel to meet each other.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

They have noticed the changes and trends that occur almost every year, but it has never happened like this in the last 5–10 years, especially the droughts, fire forests, and landslides that occur every year.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

It has affected livelihoods and ecosystems, especially making it difficult for people to travel. Sometimes heavy rain and flash floods occur and affect agricultural land, damaging some crops. Meanwhile, these natural disasters affect everyone's livelihoods.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).
According to the head of the village, everyone has been affected by these disasters. There are a total of about 2 households that were severely affected by the flash flood and damaged some crops, while the remaining crops that survived the flood also died later.

In the natural disaster that happened at that time, people did not receive any assistance from anyone.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)

There are some activities related to preparing for natural disasters, including village-level surveillance, as well as issuing warnings and advice for high-risk agricultural production areas. The village authorities also announce through the loudspeaker of the village to warn locals to cope with the disasters. The drought has also made people cautious when using both indoor and outdoor fires to avoid wildfires.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?

The village has implemented it on its own, by comply with the recommendations of the district and relevant authorities.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

The main cause of deforestation in this community is deforestation for cultivation by people, while most of the people who live in these highlands rely on forests for their livelihood, including agriculture and animal husbandry. Of course, such activities definitely have an impact on the forest environment.

Due to the changing economic and social situation, the trade of forest resources and non-timber forest products has become more widespread. People struggle to find ways in order to meet the needs of society. Therefore, deforestation has occurred to take the wood to sell.

Some merchants and capitalists have taken advantage of the purchase of logs and persuaded the villagers to find the wood to sell for them.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.
Deforestation has decreased significantly compared to when the land was not yet allocated and the forest was not yet managed. There has been widespread deforestation for cultivation in the past. Several merchants have purchased large quantities of wood because it has not been managed seriously and

everyone can do what they want. Nowadays, there are forest management systems, resulting in a decrease in deforestation for cultivation.

The forest law is currently enforced strictly. For example, if anyone wishes to cut down trees to build a house, they must submit a request letter for permission from the head of the village and relevant sectors as appropriate.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

This affects ecosystems and forests in ways such as higher temperatures; some of the mountains that were once densely forested and rich in biodiversity are now extinct; some mountains become bald mountains without trees; water in the rivers drying up (it also happens in the rivers where it has never dried up); and the number of terrestrial and aquatic animals decreasing and some extinct.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

It affects local communities, particularly since harvesting for non-timber forest products is becoming more difficult. They face a shortage of wood for use, while locals need to travel further than before to collect firewood. The number of NTFPs has decreased, especially forest vegetables and herbals, due to deforestation and population growth.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

The way to reduce deforestation in the village is to comply with the rules published by the Agriculture and Forestry sector, while the village authorities also pay attention to monitoring and keep an eye on inspection, and advise communities to stop deforestation for shifting cultivation. Families who used to cut down trees for sale or used to practice shifting cultivation also received recommended turning to engage in sustainable agriculture and animal husbandry.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe.

Deforestation and forest degradation are frequently linked to more serious natural disasters. The most common yearly problems are forest fires and burning forests for cultivation. There is still some haze in the air that covers the area tightly. When an issue like this occurs, it will have an impact on the environment and cause the forest to degrade.

What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

In addition to the fire forest, there is heavy rain and landslides in the rainy season that hit people's agricultural areas and roads. Some years, droughts cause some trees to wither and die, such as bamboo trees.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project

7.1 Do you know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village?

They know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village because the teams have informed the village of the project purpose and activities in the village previously.

7.2 What are some of the I-GFLL activities that have taken place here?

According to the report in the meeting, the I-GFLL project's activities include:

- Sustainable forest protection*
- Land allocation and forest management, and zoning of land and forest areas.*
- Founded livestock and agriculture groups and provided funding to support them.*

7.3 Have you been involved in any I-GFLL project activities here? Or someone you know?

All of them on this committee are involved in the I-GFLL project activities.

7.4 What was that experience like?

They think it will not be difficult because people understand and are pleased with the assistance project, while this project has just begun in this village this year. So there is not much activity and only an implemented plan.

7.5 Was it easy to learn about the activities (to find out about the activities?)

According to the Agriculture and Forestry sector or project that they have explained the activities. They think anyone can learn easily, and all activities comply with recommendations from the District Agriculture and Forestry Office.

7.6 The project has tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins?

The project and government sectors have organized the meeting, as well as published information and discussed it with the villagers in advance.

7.6.1 Have you been part of the consultation process? or someone in your household?

They, as well as all the village members, attended the consultation meeting at that time.

7.6.2 How could this have been made easier?

The discussion has not faced any difficulty, and no one objected.

7.6.3 What were the things that made participation difficult?

There was not a thing that made participation difficult, and everyone agreed.

7.7 One of the project aims is to support participatory land-use planning – has that happened here?

The support of participatory land use planning took place in this village.

7.7.1 Can you tell us more about this?

Participatory land-use planning is a village and community that requires consensus to implement.

7.8 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

The village has been promoting sustainable agriculture, but it has not yet been implemented.

7.8.1 Can you tell us more about this?

Sustainable agriculture includes implementing the right practices and people acting on their own to reduce forest encroachment. Families who received grant funds need to continue protecting forests and continue growing rice and raising animals.

One person said, "It is permanent agriculture and animal husbandry without forest encroachment for practice shifting cultivation each year."

7.9 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

If can be implemented as planned, they believe that the project will be able to help reduce the risks of natural disasters.

7.9.1 Why or why not?

Because if there is good forest management, it is good for environmental protection and ecosystem balance. While the forest will be covered with green, rivers will not dry up or erode during heavy rain because the forest can prevent and maintain the soil well.

7.10 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

According to the project plan, there are plans to help villagers with forest management, such as assistance in planning, agreeing with, planting, rehabilitation, monitoring, and including patrols, with these activities are available in the village.

7.11 For the projects that have happened, have all members of the community been able to participate? Have special methods been taken to get women's participation? What about participation of ethnic people?

All members, regardless of gender or race, are playing the role and participating in the implementation. Women join the committee with men and help to spread the laws and patrol the forest like men.

7.11.1 Can you tell us more about this?

There is no answer.

Any other remarks:

- People want the government as well as the project to support them to create sustainable careers, gain income more than practice shifting cultivation to reduce illegal deforestation.

- They want the project to support funding for animal husbandry and provide fruit seedlings for people to plant, and they want the relevant sectors to provide healthcare for their livestock because some cattle are killed by foot and mouth disease (FMD) and hemangioma diseases every year. The village chief said that about 20-30 cattle are killed by FMD and bovine digital dermatitis each year.

- **220316V1 - Houaysangaem 2**

Village name: Houaysangaem
District: Xayaboury
Province: Xayaboury
Interview: Interview group of women in the village
Date: 16.03.2022

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

There are not differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

People in the village have cultivated some rice, cassava, millets, and corn.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

They have been experiencing a rice shortage every year for about 3 months.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

They produce cash crops such as cassava, millets, and corn.

2.4 What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.).

The main challenges people face in terms of agricultural production are market access and price pressures from middlemen. For example, millet prices will be lower.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

Farmers get market information from middlemen and mainly sell their products to middlemen.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

The shortage of transportation vehicles is the most significant challenge to market access.

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

Due to the many different groups and ethnic groups, there are differences in agriculture.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

They have practiced shifting cultivation and seen changes during the rotation season of cultivation, especially that productivity has been decreased.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

Villagers use agrochemicals such as herbicides for their shifting cultivation.

- Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health?

Yes, of course, there have been some negative impacts on the environment or people's health.

- Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying? Where do they access these materials?

People are aware but unable to avoid it; they get chemicals by buying them on the market.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

They said that they didn't know because there was no one to recommend.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

They practice agroforestry, such as teak tree cultivation.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

They have not attended any agricultural training, but they have learned on their own.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

There is no sharing of knowledge between farmers.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

There are national protected areas, protection forests, and production forests.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

Different types of forest resources benefit the community by having a place to find food and firewood.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

The forest provide sufficient products for people needs in the village.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

Men and women have equal rights in using forest resources.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them?

The main products they harvest from the forest consist of bamboo shoots, mushrooms, and some types of fruits.

- Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

They have noticed some changes in its composition due to some products having decreased as the population increases.

- 3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are no differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups.

- 3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

The village forest resources are managed by stopping logging for sale and reducing deforestation.

- How are women and men involved in forest protection and management?

Women and men were equally involved in forest protection and management.

- Are there differences in the roles of men and women?

There are no differences in the roles of men and women.

- What are challenges they face?

The challenges they face are wildfires and insufficient water for firefighting.

- Do you have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

To overcome these challenges, they are required to assist each other or cooperate with all the villagers.

- 3.5.1 What about members of ethnic communities?

Members of ethnic communities are involved in forest protection and management just like other individuals.

- There was no difference in the role of members of ethnic communities.

- There was no challenge for members of ethnic communities.

- There was no challenge, they work in accordance with the recommendation by the village authorities.

- 3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

The poorest families benefit from village forest management in the same way as other general families.

- 3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing)?

Agriculture restrictions result in lost advantages due to lower productivity and a lack of readily available support.

- If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

People who rely on forests for their livelihood make up the bulk of those who are particularly affected.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

The community has a land-use plan.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

They said that many households in the village have suffered land-use conflicts, particularly those with nearby agricultural property, which tends to have zoning issues and some families still argue about fences to divide the territory.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land within the village.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

Men and women from different ethnic groups have equal access to land within the village as other individuals.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

Villagers can access the land in the village more easily after land allocation.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

They said that they are aware of climate change due to higher temperatures, rain out of season, and droughts.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

They said that they have noticed changes in temperatures from year to year, which continue to increase, and last year a landslide occurred.

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

There has been a bit of change from the landslide.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

They said they have noticed changes in agricultural lands due to warming conditions that have made the soil harder and drier as a result of the weather.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

The community faces droughts and landslides.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

It is more severe than it was 5-7 years ago since it was noticed that if there was a drought, crops would be damaged and production would suffer.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

It has affected people's livelihoods, such as rising temperatures, which make it difficult to sustain life and unable to produce them fully, damaging crops and resulting in reduced productivity. As for the landslides, some families were affected by landslides that damaged some crops.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).

All families are particularly impacted by the droughts, and only a few families were affected by the landslides.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management). If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?

There are not any activities related to preparing for natural disasters.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

The main causes of community deforestation are felling for houses building and firewood.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

They said that they have noticed on the felling is increasing as more new married couples have moved to their own houses, resulting in more wood being used to build houses, while the number of trees has begun to decrease.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

It has the effect of reducing the number of small and large trees and damaging the ecosystem, such as reducing the number of wildlife living in the area.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

This affects local people's livelihoods. For example, water sources are reduced each year, while finding firewood is harder, and some non-timber forest products have been decreased.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

Cutting down some huge trees to build houses is prohibited. If anyone wants to do it, they must inform the village authorities, but it remains difficult because there are still some groups that have deforested illegally.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe. What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

This can be noticed because it is getting hotter every year because when the forest decreases and it rains, there are no trees to prevent waterways and becoming unable to absorb water, while other problems are not found.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project

7.1 Do you know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village?

They said they know about the I-GFLL project activities.

7.2 What are some of the I-GFLL activities that have taken place here?

The activities that the I-GFLL project has undertaken in the village are:

- *Land allocation.*
- *Forest Management*
- *Agricultural assistance.*
- *Accept FPIC*
- *Funded by VFAG.*

7.3 Have you been involved in any I-GFLL project activities here? Or someone you know?

Almost all the villagers have been involved in the I-GFLL project activities.

7.4 What was that experience like?

From the experience of working with the project, it can be seen that the allocation of forest areas is organized and the boundaries of agricultural production areas are known without forest encroachment. Some people are aware of the disadvantages of shifting cultivation.

7.5 Was it easy to learn about the activities (to find out about the activities?)

It was an intermediate level to learn about the activities because some family members lacked sufficient knowledge.

7.6 The project has tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins?

Yes, before implementing the project, it was published and discussed with villagers about the activities.

7.6.1 Have you been part of the consultation process? or someone in your household?

Yes, they have been part of the consultation process.

7.6.2 How could this have been made easier?

It is easy because there is a loudspeaker in the village notification.

7.7 One of the project aims is to support participatory land-use planning – has that happened here?

Yes, it has happened in the village.

7.7.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They said that they couldn't say anything else because they hadn't fully comprehended the situation.

7.8 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

Yes, it has happened in the village.

7.8.1 Can you tell us more about this?

There should be a stop to shifting cultivation and replacing it with rice plantations to reduce ecological and environmental degradation.

7.9 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

They said that they think the project will be able to help.

7.9.1 Why or why not?

This is because the project is funded for implementation and has technical leadership.

7.10 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

It has happened in the village, but they said that they cannot provide further information.

7.11 For the projects that have happened, have all members of the community been able to participate?

For the projects that have happened, all members of the community have been able to participate including women and ethnic groups.

7.11.1 Can you tell us more about this?

Both women and ethnic groups are involved in every step of the process of providing feedback and information about the project and the village.

Any other remarks:

- On the project?

They want the project supported by finance for clearing the agricultural production areas.

They want the project to be supported by finance for fish farming.

They want the project to be supported by finance for raising animals.

- On challenges to women's participation?

There are no challenges to women's participation.

- On ethnic participation?

There are no challenges to ethnic participation.

- On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

There are no challenges to the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households.

220316V1 - Houaysangaem 3

Interview: Interview ethnic group in the village

Village name: Houaysangaem Village

District: Xayaboury District

Province: Xayaboury Province

Date: 16/03/2022

Interview ID: Houaysangaem -3

Surveyor's Name (s): Sing and Kong Lor

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

There is no difference in livelihoods between men and women in Houaysangaem Village or between different ethnic groups and the most vulnerable groups.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

Villagers have grown various crops such as upland rice, farm rice, corn, and sesame to support their families.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

They have not found rice insufficiency because rice is sufficient every year.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

They produce cash crops such as cassava, millets, corn, and sesame.

2.4 What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.).

The main challenge people face in terms of agricultural production is that the upland rice and corn are destroyed by rats and pests. The past three years have seen severe droughts.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

They said that they don't know, but when it's harvest time, merchants will come to buy products in the village, and some have vehicles that will transport their products to sell in the town of Xayaboury.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

The challenges they face in accessing markets include the long distances and a shortage of vehicles to transport produce to the town.

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

They said that there are no differences in challenges for different groups in the village.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

They said that people in the village practice shifting cultivation in the old agricultural land.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

People in the village use agrochemicals in their agricultural production.

- Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health?

It has had a negative impact on the environment and is harmful to health.

- Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying? Where do they access these materials?

People are aware of the different chemicals they are applying, and they get these materials from the shops in Xayabury District.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

- *Many people said that they did not receive any information on best practices to improve yields and they just practiced normal cultivation.*
- *Some said the information on best practices to improve yields and adapt to climate change was not implemented due to the fact that there was no technician to lead them.*

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

They practice agroforestry, such as the cultivation of teak, rubber, and bamboo.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

- *Many of them said that they have learned from neighboring villages and have begun implementation.*
- *Some said that, in the past, they had attended agricultural training courses organized by the District Agriculture and Forestry Office.*

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

The people of this village shared their knowledge with each other by sharing the real experiences they had faced in the past.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

The types of forests near villages include village forest, production forest, the forest used for production, and production forest.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

ifferent types of forest resources benefit the community, such as providing firewood, using wood for building homes, and being the source of livelihood for the people. But nowadays, some non-timber forest products have begun to decrease.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

The forest provides insufficient products for people's needs because NTFP is greatly reduced.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

Men and women use forest resources, such as wood, to build animal houses, fences, etc.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them?

People harvest forest products, such as bamboo shoots, sweet vegetables, rattan, mushrooms, and other edible species.

- Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

The availability of these products has greatly changed over the years due to deforestation by people in the past. So now NTFPs are decreasing, making it difficult to seek them for consumption.

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are no differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups in Houaysangaen Village.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

Different types of forest resources in the villages are managed by locals. When a forest fire occurs, they will help extinguish the fire and protect the forest to prevent further deforestation by people.

- How are women and men involved in forest protection and management?

Women and men were equally involved in forest protection and management.

- Are there differences in the roles of men and women?

There are no differences in the roles of men and women.

- What are challenges they face?

The main challenge they were facing was wildfires.

- Do you have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

The solution to overcome this challenge requires a switch from shifting cultivation to paddy farming, so deforestation and forest fires will not occur again.

3.5.1 What about members of ethnic communities?

Members of ethnic communities in the village are involved in protecting the forest, especially when a forest fire occurs, and they will help extinguish the fire and manage the forest so that people don't overuse it.

- Are there differences in the roles of ethnic communities?

Ethnic communities play an equal role in forest management.

- What are challenges they face?

The main challenge people face is wildfire.

- Do you have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

The solution to overcome this challenge requires a switch from shifting cultivation to paddy farming, so deforestation and forest fires will not occur again.

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

The poorest families benefit from village forest management in that they can use wood to build houses and earn a living in the managed forest.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing)?

Some village members are at a greater disadvantage due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest.

- If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

Ethnic communities have been impacted by grazing areas, while the affected households are compensated a small amount.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

They said that their community have a land use plan.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

They said that they have experienced land-use conflicts in the village as well as in nearby villages, for example, someone placing fences around a protected area without permission from the village and high-level authorities.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land within the village.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

Men and women from different ethnic groups have equal access to land within the village.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

It is easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

They said that they are aware of climate change.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

They said that they have noticed changes from year to year, particularly if a year sees a lot of bamboo flowers in full bloom. The year is characterized by changes in temperature, as well as heavy rain, drought, and landslides.

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

There have been changes in the forest. It used to be a lush forest, but it is currently being deforested, and wildfires occur on a regular basis. As a result, forests are not abundant.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

They said they were unknown.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

The livelihoods of villagers are threatened by natural disasters such as droughts and forest fires.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

In the past 5 years, the climate has changed, causing droughts, slow-growing crops, and post-harvest losses.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

It has affected people's livelihoods and ecosystems, especially access to water resources, which is difficult, as well as post-harvest losses, access to distant water resources, and the difficulty of finding other natural resources.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).

There are no members of the community that were affected by these disasters.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)

There are no any activities related to preparing for natural disasters.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?

No answer.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

The main cause of community deforestation is forest fires that occur in other places and spread to forests in this area.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

If deforestation does not stop, there will be drought and no seasonal rain.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

This affects ecosystems and forests, resulting in the loss of forest resources and soil degradation.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

This affects the livelihoods of local people if people do not work together on forest management and protect forest resources, which makes it difficult to find NTFPs as well as firewood and wood for consumption.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

The way to reduce deforestation is for people to grow crops and raise animals for commercial purposes, and the barrier is that some families have failed to follow the instructions issued by high-level officials.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe.

Deforestation and forest degradation have had an impact on the frequency of severe natural disasters, particularly droughts that have occurred due to the lack of trees to store water.

What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

- *There are environmental challenges due to deforestation, resulting in a decrease in forests, higher temperatures, forest fires that occur regularly, very cold in winter, and rain that is not seasonal.*
- *There are social challenges, including some people who do not understand the involvement of forest management and the use of natural resources, resulting in several conflicts.*

Part 2: Perspectives on the project

7.1 Do you know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village?

They said that they know about the I-GFLL project.

7.2 What are some of the I-GFLL activities that have taken place here?

Some of them said that they know the I-GFLL activities that have taken place in the village are to promote livelihoods and forest management, while some said that they do not know.

7.3 Have you been involved in any I-GFLL project activities here? Or someone you know?

Some people say that they have been involved in I-GFLL project activities, while some others have not involved in I-GFLL project activities.

7.4 What was that experience like?

They said that from the experience working on the project, they knew about forest protection and how to implement it. They also did a survey of the target area of the project.

7.5 Was it easy to learn about the activities (to find out about the activities?)

They said that it was hard to learn about the activities.

7.6 The project has tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins?

The project has disseminated and tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins.

7.6.1 Have you been part of the consultation process? or someone in your household?

Some have been part of the consultation process, while others have not.

7.6.2 How could this have been made easier?

Yes, it is easy to participate in the consultation process.

7.6.3 What were the things that made participation difficult?

It was difficult due to some people groups' not being interested in participating in the consultation process.

7.7 One of the project aims is to support participatory land-use planning – has that happened here?

They said that it has happened in the village.

7.7.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They said that they want the project to plan on land use, look at the appropriate areas, and plan for the people to raise animals.

7.8 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

It has happened in the village with the aim of promoting sustainable agriculture.

7.8.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They said that they want the project to manage land suitable for raising animals and assist with providing weed seeds and steel wire fencing for sustainable agriculture.

7.9 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

They think that the project will be able to help.

7.9.1 Why or why not?

They believe that the project is able to implement since the I-GFLL project has already been implemented in many villages and districts.

7.10 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

It has not happened yet.

7.11 For the projects that have happened, have all members of the community been able to participate?

All members of the community have been able to participate.

Have special methods been taken to get women's participation?

They said that they wanted to assign some tasks for women's participation.

What about participation of ethnic people?

They said that they wanted to assign some tasks for ethnic people's participation in order to ensure that they understood.

7.11.1 Can you tell us more about this?

No have

Any other remarks:

- On the project?

People in Houaysangaem village want the project to help create other occupations that earn more than cultivating upland rice, which reduces shifting cultivation, and they also want the project to provide funds for animal husbandry. They also want the relevant sectors to concentrate on taking good care of the livestock because their livestock are killed by up to 50 cases of foot and mouth disease and bovine digital dermatitis each year. In addition, they also want the project to find stable markets so that middlemen do not press prices.

2. Consultations in Luang Prabang Province

2.1 Consultations in Nan District

A. District level: Nan

- **220318D1 - Nan 1**

Interview district level in Nan District On 18/03/2022.

Interviewed a representative officer of DonRe

Interviewed by Phao and Phu

Interview ID: 220318D1 - Nan 1

Office: Nan District Agriculture and Forestry Office.

District: Nan

Province: Luang Prabang

Changing environmental and climatic conditions

1. Have you noticed changes in the weather (temperature, rain levels, natural disasters)?

He has noticed that the weather has changed a lot compared to the previous days because the weather is unusual. The weather changes include rain out of season, heavy rainfall, strong winds, and lightning every year. The fluctuating temperatures in the summer are very hot, leading to drought, dry streams, and insufficient water supply for people's production. In the past, it felt like the cool weather stayed longer in the winter, but now it doesn't last long. As a result, people's lives are difficult.

- He also said that Nan is the district located in a valley without overgrown forests, which means it is at risk of natural disasters such as droughts, floods, or landslides. There have been countless natural disasters in the past. The last time, in 2017, there was severe flooding in some areas in Nan District, resulting in homes being flooded and many people's properties being lost. For example, in Keomixay village, five people were killed in the floods, and many household items and livestock were washed away.

1.1 How has (changed or bad weather) this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems?

This change has affected people's livelihoods. First, people are unable to produce their agricultural products as much as they want. This is also resulting in a shortage of water for crops, making them unfresh and not nice. Some years there is a severe drought that causes forest fires, making it difficult for people to find some non-timber forest products and affecting the poor people's numbers.

1.2 Are some groups and households in your district more vulnerable to natural disasters, floods, and/or drought?

Many villages and some households in Nan District are vulnerable to natural disasters. The worst are floods, and droughts. When heavy rains occur, causing landslides have occurred, affecting the roads and locals' agricultural land.

- Meanwhile, the droughts have been exacerbated, while some streams or creeks that people once used or drank in the forests have either dried up or dwindled.

1.3 Who is particularly vulnerable and why?

All people are particularly vulnerable, but the worst affected are farmers who practice agricultural production because the people's farming in this area relies on natural water sources. Therefore, if the weather conditions are not favorable some years or there is a severe drought, farmers will not be able to produce their agricultural production.

2. Have you noticed changes in forest areas in your district, and how does this affect local livelihoods?

In general, forests have changed a lot compared to before. In the past, there were abundant forest resources that consisted of a great deal of valuable biodiversity, but now the forests are destroyed and degraded, possibly due to the increasing population every year, while agricultural production increases, causing deforestation for cultivation and commercial purposes.

- Forests have become increasingly bald mountains due to they have cleared forest for cultivating rice and crops such as cassava, corn, and millets. This is why forests have changed.

- The effects on local people's livelihoods include fewer huge trees for use; forest resources are reduced, which forces people to leave their homes further than before to look for non-timber forest products to consume and sell.

3. Have you noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards (e.g. floods, drought, landslides)? If yes, please describe.

He said that he thinks deforestation is part of climate change. For example, it was rich in biodiversity during the ancestors' period, with large trees and many species of wildlife, but now those resources are almost extinct, while the temperature is also rising, rain out of season, strong winds, lightning, mountains and forests are degraded, and erosion along stream banks every year.

3.1 Have these trends changed in the last 5, 15 or 30 years? Please describe how.

Every year there will be challenges with different weather conditions. Some years it rains a lot, some years it rains less, and it is not normal, but floods have occurred almost every year. Looking back 15-20 years ago, the air and forests were still fresh and abundant, and the smog was not as bad as present.

4. Do you consider climate change in your current planning for land use planning, agricultural management or forest management? If yes, please describe how.

He thinks that the offices or relevant sectors at the district, provincial, or central levels have already planned and considered climate change adaptation. They also plan for land use and forest management and increase the rate of forest growth sequentially and prevent further reductions. They have designated areas with abundant water resources and high elevations for agricultural management, as well as funding for locals to raise livestock to compensate for deforestation.

Role in Forest Management and Climate Change Adaptation activities

5. What is your (office's/department's) role in forest management? (in Project 1 districts ask if there is a difference between before and now, or within the context of the project)

The role of forest management is to take part in the implementation and consultation with the relevant authorities in accordance with the project's master plans and rules of the Office of Agriculture and Forestry as direct operators. They have joined in zoning the forest areas into 3 types, namely, production forests, protected forests, and agricultural forests. The Natural Resources and Environment sectors have also worked together to plant trees in degraded forest areas to create green zones and maintain a balanced environment.

6. What is your office's role in climate change adaptation?

The office's role in climate change adaptation remains as planned by managing land, as well as forest management, forest restoration, and improving people's lives for the better. Each year, appropriate and reasonable actions have been implemented to improve the area's condition, while the relevant sectors or all government sectors in the district and residents have cooperated to plant trees in the forest and release fish, which they call the National Arbor Day.

7. Does your office have the capacity to fulfil these roles? If no, what is needed?

He thinks that they have the capacity to fulfil these roles, but all they need is funding to develop and continue to implement the project activities.

The government also has a further need for the following:

- He wants the project to support government technical officers who receive training and exchange knowledge with other departments to enhance their capabilities and allow relevant staff to participate in project activities, if possible.

8. Do you think forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters? And if yes, why?

He said yes, forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters as follows:

- If there is a forest cover, the climate will improve. For example, it will rain seasonally, and forest biodiversity will increase.

- Forests absorb land surface well.

- Prevents agricultural production and young plants from being harmed by wind direction.

- Helps release oxygen

9. Are there other projects or initiatives (ongoing or planned) related to land rights/ registration/ tenure in the district?

There is one project that supports surveying related to land tenure in this district, but he/she did not remember.

Role of men and women in land use and agriculture

10. What are the roles of i) women and ii) men in forest and land use? (Please differentiate by, ethnicity, and vulnerable (= poor, disabled) groups where suitable.)

Women and men have equal access to the forest and land use.

10.1 In forest protection?

- For women: women are involved in implementing and are involved in making decisions on forest use and forest surveys. Women participated in the survey just as men did.

Women know about forests better than men, but they are less involved and work on inspection less than men due to a number of factors, such as social and cultural knowledge, low education, and high family responsibilities.

- The role of women and men in forest and land use is less effective for ethnicity groups because there is still discrimination in some families because most women rely on men to make decisions.

- Vulnerable groups or poor households have the right to make decisions as well.

10.2 In agricultural production?

- Women have the same right to make decisions as men and continue to be the primary labor force in agricultural production.

Women and men are trending to stop shifting cultivation because they are too busy and overworked.

- Vulnerable groups or poor households have the right to make decisions as well, but they may be faced with shortages or insufficient factors for production.

10.3 In agri-business?

- For the district, women play a key role in making important decisions in running agri-business or other businesses. Women in cities, for example, are more likely to start their own businesses and open their own stores.

- Vulnerable groups and poor families also have the right to make decisions, but the families of the poor are often timid about making decisions.

- Women and men have equal rights in agri-business.

- Ethnic groups also have equal rights in agri-business as other groups.

11. How can women become more involved in forest and land use?

In general, women are more likely to be involved in forest and land use than men due to the fact that they are more likely to seek forest resources for consumption and sale in markets and will get to know many details about the condition of the resources. In addition, women have shown a wide range of interest in protecting forests.

12. How can ethnic minority groups become more involved in forest and land use?

There are various ethnic groups in the district with different terms of culture and way of life, but it is a challenge to get involved in forest management due to the geographic location of the district. There are many villages located far from the main town, so these people groups may not understand the policy of protecting and managing forests as deeply as they should, or their participation in forest use may not be much.

13. Do you feel that women have the same access to benefits from forest resources as men?

Women and men have equal access to the benefits of forest resources.

13.1 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over forest resources?

Women and men have equal participation in decision-making and management over forest resources, but the main decisions about land use or forest resource management are often made by men and village authorities. Women can do personal work just like men.

- He said that ethnicity women in the district can do all kinds of work, whether it's hard work or simple work, and they do it better than men.

13.2 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over agricultural activities?

Women and men have equal participation in decision-making and management over agricultural activities. They have discussed and shared responsibilities with each other, particularly the project tasks that include at least 2-3 female members on the committee.

14. Does the new forest law protect the rights of all community members equally?

The new forest law protects the rights of all community members equally.

14.1 Do you understand well the new Forest Law?

They have a good understanding of the new forest law.

14.2 Is there understanding of the new Forest Law at the village level?

He said that most people understand the new forest law because the relevant authorities have disseminated information to locals at the village level regularly. They also have raised awareness about the application of forest law and regulations and targeting women as well. Many groups can understand, but it is inevitable because most people rely on forests for their livelihoods.

15. Who is responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the district level? At village level?

Law enforcement is everyone's duty, but the main responsibility will be the District Agriculture and Forestry Office, which will also assign responsibility to each sector, while the village level will be assigned to the village authorities.

15.1 Are women specifically involved? (village)

Women are specifically involved in enforcing forest law at the village level.

15.2 What about members of ethnic communities? (village)

Although there are not many ethnic groups, some mini-ethnic groups are also involved in enforcing forest law because there is no discrimination against all ethnic groups. Every Lao citizen has the right to freedom. Ethnic communities are specifically involved because some ethnic villages have forest sectors with people who work in forest patrol and inspection.

15.3 How is coordination and cooperation between villages and DOFI/ POFI? (district)

In the past, there was coordination, as well as data providing, monitoring of deforestation and village patrols coordinated with the district or the forest inspection sector by phone, when some cases occurred, such as illegal deforestation or other illegal activities against the law; sometimes village authorities met with the district directly in their office to report the condition. After the forest inspection office has been notified of the incident, it will examine the actual situation and, if there is a big problem, inform the District of Agriculture and Forestry Office.

15.4 What are any risks or challenges they face related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

Some people don't understand the forest law and don't see the importance of protecting forests. There is also a frequent occurrence of deforestation. Employees need to pay attention to such issues to educate those people to better understand the law and regulations, including following the steps and legal procedures.

- People who are responsible for forest law enforcement and forest protection have concerns about coordinating or reporting challenges at the community level in the village because they are worried about their own safety if the issues that have reported are involved with illegal action. This is a challenge for local law enforcement.

- One challenge they face related to forest law enforcement is that because there are some people who do not have a sustainable career, they continue to practice shifting cultivation. Other challenges were that there were also poor people who worked on cutting woods for sale, as well as building houses and cutting firewood.

16. What are the current challenges for Land Use Planning (LUP) as relates to:

16.1 Women?

There are no current challenges for LUP that relate to women.

16.2 Ethnic people?

Challenges in Land Use Planning for Ethnic Groups Sometimes it can be difficult because some families have practiced agricultural production in the production forest, such as rubber plantations and raising animals.

16.3 The poorest members of communities?

The poorest members of communities have faced current challenges for LUP because some families do not have land for sustainable production, while some people have practiced agro-production in the production forest area and look for some prohibited NTFPs to sell to merchants.

16.4 Land use conflicts?

In the past, some groups of people had disputes over land use in local communities, some had territorial disputes or encroached on each other's production areas, and this problem occurs regularly, especially for those who practice shifting cultivation. The district authorities need to meet with these people on occasion to resolve issues peacefully.

16.5 Issues with land allocation and titling?

In the past, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and relevant sectors have issued land title deeds to a number of people. Most permanent title deeds are issued in the municipality of the district and only construction land. Agricultural land can issue permanent title deeds as well, but you have to pay extra.

- When it comes to land allocation and titling, the difficulty is that most people feel that if they pay the land tax, they automatically own the property. Then they learned they could do anything they wanted with the land, resulting in issues such as these.

16.6 Others?

There are no other current challenges for LUP.

17. There is ongoing work on a Provincial Deforestation Monitoring Systems, with systems in place in Houaphan, Xayaboury and Luang Prabang.

He said that their office, particularly the District of Natural Resources and Environment Office, does not yet have a deep understanding of whether or not the relevant sectors have implemented a Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System.

17.1 How is this being implemented (if interviewing within these 3 provinces)?

The relevant offices and the District of Agriculture and Forestry Office may have already implemented this task.

17.2 Who is involved? Please discuss the involvement of women, ethnic people, disabled persons, poor households, among others.

No have answer.

17.3 What are i) opportunities and ii) challenges/ barriers of the PDMS?

The opportunities and challenges of implementing PDMF systems are emerging and have not yet been fully realized.

- According to the information from the Office of Agriculture and Forestry, this activity has just begun and has provided training on group deforestation audits with tools for detecting forest fires and forest invasion.

18. Access to markets is important for supporting deforestation free agriculture. What challenges in accessing markets do villagers have?

Access to markets is important for supporting deforestation-free agriculture, but they have noticed that farmers are being exploited by merchants because the market is uncertain about product support, there is no guarantee of price, and finally, the farmers have no right to bargain.

- Other challenges are that most farmers live in remote areas and that road access is inconvenient. As a result, they find it difficult to get direct market access and often rely on middlemen to buy their products, and some are pressured to lower prices by middlemen.

18.1 Where possible differentiate between the challenges faced by:

18.1.1 Women and women-owned or -led businesses.

There are some challenges faced by women and women-owned or-led businesses.

18.1.2 Different ethnic groups.

There are some challenges faced by different ethnic groups.

18.1.3, Other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, among others).

Poor households are seen as being more exploited in ways such as taking advantage at the prices, trust, as well as fairness and education. Because the majority of vulnerable people are not well educated and they are honest.

Overall perspectives on the project:

19. What is your opinion of the ongoing I-GFLL project, do you think it is helping to reduce deforestation in the target provinces/ districts?

The ongoing I-GFLL project is helping to reduce deforestation.

19.1 Why or why not?

The I-GFLL project is very useful because after it begins to be implemented, locals will become more aware and understand forest boundaries, as well as land allocation and forestry, allowing access to project funds for some families. The project also strengthens forest management operations at the local level, especially women, who have a better understanding of gender roles.

- *The project provided financial assistance to some low-income families and those involved in shifting cultivation in order for them to practice sustainable agricultural production and animal husbandry.*

19.2 What other benefits has the project generated?

The project has generated benefits for locals, such as when the project began to be implemented, fewer people invaded the forest, and people's lives were improved; the project also generated benefits for districts and provinces, particularly the governments benefiting from the active involvement of technical staff in training to build their capacity.

19.3 Have you seen any barriers to participation in the project?

The barriers to participation in the project are the following:

- *The first barrier is that the equipment is insufficient to meet the needs and may cause the work to not be completed fully.*

- *The second barrier is that there aren't enough vehicles to go to the objective; thus, they must use their personal vehicles to distribute information to the general people. As a result, he would like to propose a budget for vehicle maintenance, which is used to spread information to the public, due to the difficulty and long travel of meeting people.*

- *This activity is a new task for the locals, and they may not have a good understanding because the time for the process is short because the training needs to take more time to understand.*

- *There have been strengthened and monitored by the districts and provinces.*

19.3.1 What are the challenges and ideas on how they can be overcome?

There are some challenges and ideas on how they can be overcome as followed:

- Communities in remote areas?

Communities in remote areas have faced challenges in travelling along the roads, particularly during the rainy season. There has sometimes been flooding from heavy rain or landslides over the roads, making travel difficult.

- Women, and female headed households?

Women and female-headed households have faced a number of challenges, including the absence of the primary laborer in their households.

- Landless households

Poor households have faced challenges due to a shortage of finance and labor. Even though authorities have allocated some agricultural land for them to practice cultivation together, there are still conflicts from time to time. Meanwhile, authorities have focused on funding solutions to support these poor families.

- The most vulnerable members of communities.

No answer.

- Ethnic communities?

Ethnic communities may face challenges in using their local languages, which can lead to misunderstandings in communication.

20. Does your department/office feel that it currently has the technical capacity to support the project?

He thinks that their office currently has the technical capacity to support the project.

20.1 If not, please specify what areas specific capacity support is needed e.g. adaptation planning and mainstreaming, monitoring, etc.

Even if they have sufficient technical staff, they still lack training in project work, so they would like the project to organize training for the whole technical staff and organize training more often to develop skills and achieve the expected benefits.

21. Do you feel that Gender equality is being practiced for project activities?

Gender equality is being practiced for project activities.

22. Do you feel that Social inclusion of men and women from diverse ethnic groups and vulnerable groups is taking place?

He thinks that this project is taking place to include men and women from diverse ethnic groups and vulnerable groups.

23. The I-GFLL project is being adapted for Phase 2, including a renewed focus on climate change. Are you aware of these changes?

He said that they are aware of these changes.

24. As the project prepares to expand into new areas, what can be done to make the project more successful?

He wants the project to provide opportunities for technical staff in related fields to participate in additional training or activities.

25. Any other remarks:

25.1 On the project?

He recommended that the project allow several technical staff to participate in the project activities as well as training at all times, so that when one employee is absent from work or moves to another place, it may cause problems for the new staff who just start work to replace the old one if they don't have one to support the work. Therefore, it may face difficulties in working procedures.

25.2 On challenges to women's participation?

There are no challenges to women's participation.

25.3 On ethnic participation?

There are no challenges on ethnic participation.

25.4 On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

Poor households or vulnerable individuals have the right to participate as well, and to provide priority opportunities for them.

26. Do you have any final comments or questions?

- He said that, if possible, they wanted the project to increase the budget for the technical staff team.

- *They have requested funds to support tree planting to replace some losses, as well as plant some fruit trees for communities where they are in good condition.*

- *"I would like the district leaders to participate in the training to better understand the project activities. For example, in the current situation that you are interviewing me, I have some project activities that I cannot give you information about. The reason is that our offices rarely participate in the project activities at all times, or the participant was away." he added.*

- **220318D1 - Nan 2**

Interview: District Agriculture and Forestry Office

District: Nan

Province: Luang Prabang

Date: 18/03/2022

Interview ID: Nan-(2)

Surveyor's Name (s): Kong Lor and Thammanoon

Changing environmental and climatic conditions

1. Have you noticed changes in the weather (temperature, rain levels, natural disasters)?

They said that they have noticed changes in the weather.

1.1 How has (changed or bad weather) this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems?

Climate change affects people's livelihoods in ways such as destroying environmental around upstream areas or upstream forests, while deforestation dramatically increases flood risk when heavy rain and hits villages that are located in the risk areas. Meanwhile, the climate has changed since 2014–2015.

1.2 Are some groups and households in your district more vulnerable to natural disasters, floods, and/or drought?

Households in the district are at risk of flooding because Nan District has a river that runs through the city centre, and when it rains excessively, the residences along the river bank are flooded, and the crops along the river are damaged. Droughts occur practically every year in the district, causing annual damage equal to 40% of the district's territory, while droughts and floods cover 30–40% of the district's area.

1.3 Who is particularly vulnerable and why?

Local residents who live at the river's bank are particularly vulnerable.

2. Have you noticed changes in forest areas in your district, and how does this affect local livelihoods?

The main cause is deforestation by people who live along the watershed or in upstream forests and rely on the forest for their livelihoods; it has also impacted people's paddy and residential land.

3. Have you noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards (e.g. floods, drought, landslides)? If yes, please describe.

They have noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards due to the fact that in the past, although it rained, it never flooded, but now when it rains heavily, it immediately floods.

3.1 Have these trends changed in the last 5, 15 or 30 years? Please describe how.

They said that deforestation was cause for the changing trends. Although it rained in the past, it never flooded, but with increased deforestation, which occurred between 2011 and 2015, it began to flood.

4. Do you consider climate change in your current planning for land use planning, agricultural management or forest management? If yes, please describe how.

The planning for land use planning, agricultural management, or forest management in Nan District has major considered climate change, with the aim of sustainable forest management, in order to protect forests to grow, as well as mobilizing people's awareness of forest conservation to promote their livelihood. They also disseminate information on the conservation and protection of watershed forests.

Role in Forest Management and Climate Change Adaptation activities

5. What is your (office's/department's) role in forest management? (in Project 1 districts ask if there is a difference between before and now, or within the context of the project)

Prior to the project implementation, the law of forest management was published to villages across the district according to specific forest management regulations in accordance with Order 15/PM.

6. What is your office's role in climate change adaptation?

The relevant offices' role is to issue notices to each village in case of floods, as well as droughts and heavy rain, so that they can be prepared to deal with it. The Agriculture and Forestry Office has also prepared to plant trees on the vacant lands to restore forests as needed.

7. Does your office have the capacity to fulfil these roles? If no, what is needed?

Their office has the capacity to fulfil these roles. They want some budget to construct a tree nursery and to buy seedling monitoring equipment; they also plan to cooperate with villagers to plant trees together as appropriate.

8. Do you think forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters? And if yes, why?

They said that forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters; if people continue deforestation, climate change will get worse. In the past, the temperature in the district was quite good, but the present temperature is higher and there is non-seasonal rainfall.

9. Are there other projects or initiatives (ongoing or planned) related to land rights/ registration/ tenure in the district?

The District Office of Natural Resources and Environment may be able to answer this question.

Role of men and women in land use and agriculture

10. What are the roles of i) women and ii) men in forest and land use? (Please differentiate by, ethnicity, and vulnerable (= poor, disabled) groups where suitable.)

Women and men have equal access to the forest and land use.

10.1 In forest protection?

They have equal rights in forest protection

10.2 In agricultural production?

They have equal rights in agricultural production

10.3 In agri-business?

They have equal rights in agri-business

11. How can women become more involved in forest and land use?

They said that women and men can be equally involved in forest and land use.

12. How can ethnic minority groups become more involved in forest and land use?

They said that ethnic minority groups can be equally involved in forest and land use as other ethnic groups without discrimination.

13. Do you feel that women have the same access to benefits from forest resources as men?

They said that women and men have equal access to the benefits of forest resources.

13.1 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over forest resources?

They said that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over forest resources.

13.2 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over agricultural activities?

They said that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over agricultural activities.

14. Does the new forest law protect the rights of all community members equally?

They said that the new forest law protects the rights of all community members equally and to the fullest 100%.

14.1 Do you understand well the new Forest Law?

Almost everyone understands well the new forest law.

14.2 Is there understanding of the new Forest Law at the village level?

They have disseminated the new forest law at the village level, but only about 50% of villagers understood it.

15. Who is responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the district level? At village level?

The District Agriculture and Forestry Office is responsible for enforcing forestry law and providing forestry protection at the district level, while the village agriculture and forestry sectors are responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the village level.

15.1 Are women specifically involved? (village)

Women are specifically involved in enforcing forest law and forestry protection.

15.2 What about members of ethnic communities? (village)

The members of ethnic communities are specifically involved in enforcing forest law and forestry protection.

15.3 How is coordination and cooperation between villages and DOFI/ POFI? (district)

The coordination between the villages and the DOFI and POFI is usually done via phone directly if there are some issues.

15.4 What are any risks or challenges they face related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

There are several risks and challenges they find or face in forest law enforcement and forest protection. For the patrol work, there is a high risk of harm to the staff, so it is necessary to take authorities and locals together.

16. What are the current challenges for Land Use Planning (LUP) as relates to:

16.1 Women?

There are no current challenges for LUP that relate to women.

16.2 Ethnic people?

There are the current challenges for land use planning as it relates to ethnic people. Although they participate in LUP, there is little understanding of forest law.

16.3 The poorest members of communities?

These are the current challenges for land use planning as it relates to the poorest members of the community. Although they participate in LUP, there is little understanding of forest law and there is continued deforestation for cultivation.

16.4 Land use conflicts?

There are no current challenges for LUP that relate to land use conflicts in this district.

16.5 Issues with land allocation and titling?

There are current challenges for LUP that relate to issues with land allocation and titling, such as people in some areas wanting authorities issued land title deeds for many hectares of forests, and they are unable to address these issues until present.

16.6 Others?

The locals attended the meeting to disseminate information about the project, but the purpose of the project was not clearly understood.

17. There is ongoing work on a Provincial Deforestation Monitoring Systems, with systems in place in Houaphan, Xayaboury and Luang Prabang.

17.1 How is this being implemented (if interviewing within these 3 provinces)?

There is no implementation or running any activity about deforestation monitoring systems, but they have appointed some employees to be responsible for this activity.

17.2 Who is involved? Please discuss the involvement of women, ethnic people, disabled persons, poor households, among others.

Those involved in this system include all employees of the Office of Agriculture and Forestry, as well as all ethnic communities in the village level.

17.3 What are i) opportunities and ii) challenges/ barriers of the PDMS?

Opportunities, challenges and barriers of PDMS include: sometimes the project provide the form in an English version, so people need them to translate it into Lao; and internet issues, because there is no signal for internet in some areas; but this system is modern; if there is a problem in any area, they'll take a satellite image and get there.

18. Access to markets is important for supporting deforestation free agriculture. What challenges in accessing markets do villagers have?

They said that the main challenge for villagers in accessing markets is that the products' prices fluctuate. There is no sale-buy contract, so middlemen pressure prices lower, an unfair practice to farmers.

18.1 Where possible differentiate between the challenges faced by:

1, Women and women-owned or -led businesses.

Women and women-owned or-led businesses have not faced any challenges in accessing markets.

2, Different ethnic groups.

There are no challenges in accessing markets.

3, Other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, among others).

There are no challenges in accessing markets.

Overall perspectives on the project:

19. What is your opinion of the ongoing I-GFLL project, do you think it is helping to reduce deforestation in the target provinces/ districts?

They think that the ongoing I-GFLL project is helping a lot to reduce deforestation in the target provinces and districts by 100%.

19.1 Why or why not?

There is zoning for forest management as well as patrolling areas that are at risk due to their frequent invasion and promotion of green plant cultivation.

19.2 What other benefits has the project generated?

They said that the project has improved people's livelihoods, such as forest management and encouraging people to practice agricultural production in allocated areas in order to avoid deforestation.

19.3 Have you seen any barriers to participation in the project?

They have seen barriers to participation in the project, such as communities or people's agricultural production areas located far away from the villages; surveying was not included in the system; and they were required to drive long distances.

19.4 What are the challenges and ideas on how they can be overcome?

The challenge is that the agricultural land is located far away from the villages and people have relocated, while authorities are unable to allocate agricultural land in the protected areas for people.

- Communities in remote areas?

They have no fund for promotion, so communities in remote areas are required to spend their own money on agricultural production.

- Ethnic communities?

There are rarely any issues for ethnic communities due to all three ethnic groups having equal rights. They are involved in activity implementation without discrimination in order to avoid inequality, because there are many Lao Loum ethnic group among others.

- Women, and female headed households?

It depends on the budget and family's member labor.

- Landless households

The village authorities are appointed to address the issues under the support of government officials.

- The most vulnerable members of communities.

There would be no problem if there was sufficient labor and funds.

20. Does your department/office feel that it currently has the technical capacity to support the project?

Their office currently has the technical capacity to support the project.

20.1 If not, please specify what areas specific capacity support is needed e.g. adaptation planning and mainstreaming, monitoring, etc.

They have poor computer skills, so they want the project to provide knowledge on using some equipment like GIS, and they also want the project to organize training on the QGIS program before they begin project implementation.

21. Do you feel that Gender equality is being practiced for project activities?

They said that gender equality is being practiced for project activities.

22. Do you feel that Social inclusion of men and women from diverse ethnic groups and vulnerable groups is taking place?

They said that social inclusion of men and women from diverse ethnic groups and vulnerable groups is taking place, especially when locals are involved according to their family interests. Any village with three ethnic groups also participated.

23. The I-GFLL project is being adapted for Phase 2, including a renewed focus on climate change. Are you aware of these changes?

They said that they were not aware of these changes.

24. As the project prepares to expand into new areas, what can be done to make the project more successful?

The personnel are important and they are required to improve their IT and QGIS skills so they will be able to work on the project due to the major monitoring activities being IT.

25. Any other remarks:

25.1 On the project?

They've requested additional vehicles to provide service, such as cars that will be used to transport personnel to work in the field during the winter, as well as color printers and GPS.

25.2 On challenges to women's participation?

They want women to be involved in the gender campaign and realize forest protection, at least to support women's participation in the project or village meeting in order to help women be more reliable.

25.3 On ethnic participation?

They would like to have a team of ethnic groups participate in the project to make it easier to understand the activities.

25.4 On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

They have virtually no voting rights in surveys or interviews.

26. Do you have any final comments or questions?

- They have asked for budgets for working with the villages.

- *They want to have learning activities to enter the Phase 2 project.*
- *There was no management budget before planning.*
- *They want the project to organize knowledge exchange between district and district, and also provinces and provinces between Xayabury, Luang Prabang, and Houaphan.*

- **220318D1 - Nan 3**

Office Groups Interview: Lao Women's Union Office (LWU) and Lao Front for National Development Office.

District: Nan

Province: Luang Prabang

Date: 18/03/2022

Interview ID: 220318D1-Nan-3

Surveyor's Name: Sing

Changing environmental and climatic conditions

1. Have you noticed changes in the weather (temperature, rain levels, natural disasters)?

They have noticed changes in the weather.

1.1 How has (changed or bad weather) this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems?

What has changed is that rain falls out of season, temperatures rise in the dry season, producing droughts and affecting people's agricultural productivity owing to a lack of water, and although the weather used to be quite cool in the past, it is now only cold for a limited period of time. As a result, livelihoods are challenging.

1.2 Are some groups and households in your district more vulnerable to natural disasters, floods, and/or drought?

Natural disasters include floods and droughts.

1.3 Who is particularly vulnerable and why?

Farmers, in particular, are extremely vulnerable. For example, after completing rice sowing, heavy rain and water have washed rice away; or after finished rice sowing, but dryness occur and lack of water have caused flaws and rice plant mortality.

2. Have you noticed changes in forest areas in your district, and how does this affect local livelihoods?

They have noticed changes in forest areas in the district, such as the district's forest area has changed dramatically: as a result of deforestation and shifting cultivation of cassava, corn, and millets, forest areas have become more bald mountains. This is one of the reasons why forests have altered.

3. Have you noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards (e.g. floods, drought, landslides)? If yes, please describe.

They said that they have noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards, particularly droughts. Water sources were plentiful in the past since there was less deforestation; however, humans have recently chopped down trees in large numbers of forests, causing rivers that were previously bountiful to dry up and turn into a little river.

3.1 Have these trends changed in the last 5, 15 or 30 years? Please describe how.

These trends have changed in a similar way during the last 15 years, as the population has grown and so has the need for agricultural land. More deforestation and consequent drought have resulted as a result of this.

4. Do you consider climate change in your current planning for land use planning, agricultural management or forest management? If yes, please describe how.

The current land use planning, as well as agricultural and forest management, has taken into account substantial climate change in order to avoid future natural disasters.

Role in Forest Management and Climate Change Adaptation activities

5. What is your (office's/department's) role in forest management? (in Project 1 districts ask if there is a difference between before and now, or within the context of the project)

- Lao Front for National Development Office: She said that they have promoted in order to raise public awareness about the benefits and disadvantages of deforestation, which results in natural disasters.

- Lao Women's Union Office: She said that they have spread gender issues and disseminated information to raise public awareness and understanding of the benefits of forests in forest management and water conservation.

6. What is your office's role in climate change adaptation?

Their office plays a role in climate change adaptation by visiting residents and providing information on deforestation, which causes climate change.

7. Does your office have the capacity to fulfil these roles? If no, what is needed?

They said that their offices have the capacity to fulfil these roles.

8. Do you think forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters? And if yes, why?

Yes, due to forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters; for example, if management prohibits people from chopping down trees or deforestation, the watershed forest will be abundant.

9. Are there other projects or initiatives (ongoing or planned) related to land rights/ registration/ tenure in the district?

There is the Irrigation Agriculture Project, which focuses on gender roles and agriculture.

Role of men and women in land use and agriculture

10. What are the roles of i) women and ii) men in forest and land use? (Please differentiate by, ethnicity, and vulnerable (= poor, disabled) groups where suitable.)

Women and men have equal access to the forest and land use, with no discrimination based on people groups and ethnicity.

10.1 In forest protection?

They have equal rights in forest protection

10.2 In agricultural production?

They have equal rights in agricultural production

10.3 In agri-business?

They have equal rights in agri-business

11. How can women become more involved in forest and land use?

Women can become more involved in forest and land use than men for about 50% of the population in each village.

12. How can ethnic minority groups become more involved in forest and land use?

Ethnic minority groups are involved in forests and land use equally with the Lao Loum ethnic group.

13. Do you feel that women have the same access to benefits from forest resources as men?

They feel that women and men have equal access to the benefits of forest resources.

13.1 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over forest resources?

They think that men and women have equal participation in decision-making and management of forest resources because they have discussed and shared responsibilities in each task.

13.2 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over agricultural activities?

They think that men and women have equal participation in decision-making and management of agricultural activities because they have discussed and shared responsibilities in each task.

14. Does the new forest law protect the rights of all community members equally?

The new forest law protects the rights of all communities equally.

14.1 Do you understand well the new Forest Law?

They have a good understanding of the new forest law.

14.2 Is there understanding of the new Forest Law at the village level?

They think that people at the village level have a good understanding of the new forest law because authorities from relevant sectors have disseminated it regularly.

15. Who is responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the district level? At village level?

- The District Agriculture and Forestry Office is responsible for enforcing forestry law and providing forestry protection at the district level.

- The village agriculture and forestry sectors are responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the village level.

15.1 Are women specifically involved? (village)

Women are specifically involved in enforcing forest law at the village level.

15.2 What about members of ethnic communities? (village)

The members of ethnic communities are specifically involved because some ethnic villages have forest sectors in their villages and work in forest patrol and inspection.

15.3 How is coordination and cooperation between villages and DOFI/ POFI? (district)

They said that if the village forestry team discovered any forest encroachment, they would immediately contact the forest inspection office. After the forest inspection office had completed their investigation, they would notify the Department of Agriculture and Forestry if they found any major issues.

15.4 What are any risks or challenges they face related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

The risks and challenges they find or face in forest law enforcement and forest protection are as follows: There are those people for whom no other profession can suffice. As a result, shifting cultivation is a risky and challenging job. Poor folks worked as well, chopping wood for sale, constructing buildings, and cutting wood for fuel. This is the other challenge in forest law enforcement.

16. What are the current challenges for Land Use Planning (LUP) as relates to:

16.1 Women?

There are no current challenges for LUP that relate to women.

16.2 Ethnic people?

There are no current challenges for LUP that relate to ethnic people.

16.3 The poorest members of communities?

There are current challenges for LUP that relate to the poorest members of communities because people depend on forests for their livelihood.

16.4 Land use conflicts?

There are current challenges for LUP that relate to land use conflicts because locals have dissatisfaction with zoning land areas due to the fact that they get less agricultural production land than in the past.

16.5 Issues with land allocation and titling?

There are no current challenges for LUP that relate to issues with land allocation and titling.

16.6 Others?

There are no other current challenges for LUP.

17. There is ongoing work on a Provincial Deforestation Monitoring Systems, with systems in place in Houaphan, Xayaboury and Luang Prabang.

17.1 How is this being implemented (if interviewing within these 3 provinces)?

There is work implementation on a Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System, with sharing task responsibilities with the Forestry sector, and assigning the Forestry Inspection sector to monitor the field.

17.2 Who is involved? Please discuss the involvement of women, ethnic people, disabled persons, poor households, among others.

Those involved in this system include the Office of Agriculture and Forestry, as well as the village forest sector coordinated with the village authorities.

17.3 What are i) opportunities and ii) challenges/ barriers of the PDMS?

They said that they are unknown.

18. Access to markets is important for supporting deforestation free agriculture. What challenges in accessing markets do villagers have?

The challenge for villagers to access the market is because middlemen put pressure on their pricing, and now district officials have addressed the locals' prices issues.

18.1 Where possible differentiate between the challenges faced by:

- 1, Women and women-owned or -led businesses.

Women and women-owned or-led businesses have faced challenges with middlemen putting pressure on product prices.

- 2, Different ethnic groups.

Different ethnic groups have faced challenges with middlemen putting pressure on product prices.

- 3, Other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, among others).

The challenge to market access is to pressure the prices of products or goods from middlemen due to the lack of vehicles to transport the produce to markets.

Overall perspectives on the project:

19. What is your opinion of the ongoing I-GFLL project, do you think it is helping to reduce deforestation in the target provinces/ districts?

They think that the ongoing I-GFLL project is helping a lot to reduce deforestation in the target provinces and districts.

19.1 Why or why not?

This is because the I-GFLL project provides funding to people for other activities that do not involve deforestation, such as providing barbed wire for people to fence the grazing area and supporting grass species for people to plant grass for livestock.

19.2 What other benefits has the project generated?

The project has provided funds for locals with stable careers.

19.3 Have you seen any barriers to participation in the project?

The barrier o participating in this project is that there aren't enough vehicles to go to the objective; thus, they must use their personal vehicles to distribute information to people. As a result, they would like to propose a budget for vehicle maintenance, which is used to spread information to the public, due to the difficulty and long travel of meeting people.

19.3.1 What are the challenges and ideas on how they can be overcome?

It is challenging to reach the target communities if it is raining that day. As a result, they have decided to travel to the other village to overcome the issues.

- Communities in remote areas? - *No have*
- Ethnic communities? - *No have*
- Women, and female headed households? -*No have*
- Landless households - *No have*
- The most vulnerable members of communities. - *No have*

20. Does your department/office feel that it currently has the technical capacity to support the project?

They think that their offices currently have the technical capacity to support the project.

20.1 If not, please specify what areas specific capacity support is needed e.g. adaptation planning and mainstreaming, monitoring, etc.

No answer.

21. Do you feel that Gender equality is being practiced for project activities?

Gender equality has always been practiced for project activities.

22. Do you feel that Social inclusion of men and women from diverse ethnic groups and vulnerable groups is taking place?

This project is taking place to include men and women from diverse ethnic groups and vulnerable groups in the district in order to make them realize the importance of forest protection work equally.

23. The I-GFLL project is being adapted for Phase 2, including a renewed focus on climate change. Are you aware of these changes?

They said that they were aware of these changes.

24. As the project prepares to expand into new areas, what can be done to make the project more successful?

As the project prepares to expand into new areas, all sectors are expected to do their part and concentrate on their tasks. They do not want to wait, but each duty must be completed in a timely manner because if one job is not completed, another cannot be completed. Therefore, they'd like to clearly split the task so that it can continue to go forward.

25. Any other remarks:

25.1 On the project?

They would like to clearly divide the task in order to keep it moving ahead.

25.2 On challenges to women's participation?

There is no comment.

25.3 On ethnic participation?

There is no comment.

25.4 On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

They said that they want the project to focus on truly needy individuals who are in severe need of assistance and ensure that they are truly receiving it, particularly those who lack agricultural land or animals, as well as those who engage in deforestation.

26. Do you have any final comments or questions?

There is no comment.

B. Village level: Keomany

• 220319V1 - Keomany 1

Date: 19/03/2022
Village name: Keomany Village
District: Nan District
Province: Luang Prabang Province
Marking: Village leadership group, women group, and poor groups
Interview ID: LPB, NAN, Keomany
Surveyor's Name (s): Mr. Thammanoon

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

There are no differences in the village because there is only one household that is of the Lao Loume ethnic group and the remains are of the Khmu ethnic group.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

Villagers have grown various crops such as upland corn, millets, and rice.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

They face rice insufficiency for five months, especially from July to December.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

People have planted some produce cash crops, such as corn, cassava and millets.

2.4 What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.).

The main challenge they face in terms of agricultural production is a lack of water, which is causing less yield, while the price of chemical fertilizers has increased.

People have faced the factor of the shortage of water for their agricultural production for a long time ago.

The factor causing the price of chemical fertilizers to rise is the strength of the Thai baht.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

The farmers get market information from the middleman to know the price of the product.

The farmers sell their products to middlemen.

They sell millets during January, corn during September, while cassava is just starting to be planted this year.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

They have not faced any challenges in accessing markets because the middleman travels to buy all the products in the village.

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

They all have faced the same challenge, especially a lack of water for agricultural production.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

They have seen changes in shifting cultivation, particularly soil deterioration, and the forest around the cultivation has changed as well.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

- Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health?
- Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying? Where do they access these materials?

People use agrochemicals.

They think there have been negative impacts on people's health and that there are also impacts on the soil where they use chemicals. For example, in the first year, use 4 bags of fertilizer; the second year requires more for good productivity.

People are not aware of the different chemicals they are applying, and they get these materials from the markets.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

When the villagers have seen what other villages are doing to improve their productivity, they often do the same, for example, by planting millets or corn.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

They don't practice agroforestry.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

They attended an agricultural training on February 14, 2022, organized by the District Agriculture and Forestry Office.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

The people of this village shared their knowledge with each other by word of mouth and got information from a project on agricultural production (they cannot remember the project's name).

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

There is a village protection forest and a village protected area.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

Forest resources benefit the community by providing water for consumption because the government provides villages with gravity-fed water from the forest. At the same time, people can also find non-timber forest products to cook and sell, such as paper mulberry.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

The forest provides insufficient products for local.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

Men and women use forest resources in the same way because they are both able to access the forest to harvest some NTFPs for sale.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them?

People harvest forest products, such as firewood, paper mulberry, blood yam, and tiger grass.

- Firewood is used in the kitchen to light a fire.
- Paper mulberry is peeled from the forest and sold to the middlemen.
- Blood yam can be mined from the ground and sold to middlemen.
- *Tiger grass can be cut and sold to middlemen.*
- Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

This has changed as all non-timber forest products have been reduced, which is why it is insufficient to meet the needs of the villagers.

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are no differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups because most villagers are ethnic groups.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

If the forest resources are managed by local patrol officials, villagers will assist in the extinguishment of forest fires if wildfires occur.

- How are women and men involved in forest protection and management?

Women and men were involved in forest protection and management, such as patrolling by local forest officials or when wildfires occurred, villagers would assist in the extinguishment of forest fires.

- Are there differences in the roles of men and women? What are challenges they face?

There are no differences in the roles of men and women.

- Do you have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

They are not facing any challenges.

3.5.1 What about members of ethnic communities?

- Are there differences in the roles of ethnic communities?
- What are challenges they face?
- Do you have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

Most of the villagers are ethnic groups, so the answer is the same as in article 3.5.

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

The poorest families benefit from village forest management in several ways, including access to water for consumption and harvesting some non-timber forest products for other family members.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing).

There are about 4 or 5 households more disadvantaged.

- If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

They are poor families with low incomes because they rely on forests for their livelihood, such as cutting down trees for firewood or repairing houses. If there are restrictions on forest use, they cannot take advantage of this factor.

The NUSAP project has assisted by providing some rice and cash.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

They said that their community have a land use plan.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

They have not experienced any land use conflicts.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land within the village.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

Men and women from different ethnic groups have equal access to land within the village.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

It is easy.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

They said that they are aware of climate change.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

In the village, there are floods, landslides, and droughts; if there is rain at the start of the year, there will be no rain at the end of the year (difficult to practice on agricultural production).

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

There have not been any changes in forests; if there were changes, they were caused by the villagers' deforestation or shifting cultivation.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

They have noticed changes. For example, agricultural lands are drying up due to rising temperatures and non-seasonal rainfall.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

Flooding, drought, and landslides.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

The last ten years have been far more intensive than the previous fifteen.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

Droughts: It has affected people's livelihoods because it is more difficult to practice agriculture, while the yield is not as high as it should be. (People would be in limited supply if they practiced it).

Floods: There was a loss of life and property, and crops were damaged.

It has affected ecosystems with impacts on soil conditions, as well as forest and water resources, which have been negatively changed.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).
All members of the community are particularly impacted by these disasters, with a total of 80%. The worst was the family that died, including 5 deaths.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)
There are not any activities related to preparing for natural disasters; instead, the government has merely supported supplies and some food for consumption in the event of natural disasters.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?
They said it did not have.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

The main causes of deforestation are house repairing, making firewood, and cultivation.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

They have noticed changes increasing due to the need for shifting cultivation.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

Forests have been reduced, and there are more water shortages, particularly where shifting cultivation is practiced.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

Non-timber forest products have been reduced, making them insufficient to meet the needs of locals to harvest NTFPs for consumption and sale.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

Paddy farming in an area with sufficient water sources and raising livestock is the way to reduce deforestation.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe.

It had a far greater impact, especially with the droughts.

What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

Environment: decreased forest area and drought within the village or nearby.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project

7.1 Do you know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village?

They said that they know about the I-GFLL project.

7.2 What are some of the I-GFLL activities that have taken place here?

FPIC

VFAG

PSAP

7.3 Have you been involved in any I-GFLL project activities here? Or someone you know?

Yes, most people in the village have been involved in I-GFLL project activities.

7.4 What was that experience like?

The project has supported poor households and given assistance.

7.5 Was it easy to learn about the activities (to find out about the activities?)

It was moderate to learn about the activities.

7.6 The project has tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins?

The project has tried to speak to everyone in the village.

7.6.1 Have you been part of the consultation process? or someone in your household?

They said they have been part of the consultation process.

7.6.2 How could this have been made easier?

It is easy.

7.6.3 What were the things that made participation difficult?

No answer.

7.7 One of the project aims is to support participatory land-use planning – has that happened here?

It has not happened yet in the village.

7.7.1 Can you tell us more about this?

No answer.

7.8 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

Yes, it has happened in the village.

7.8.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They said that existing rice fields are unable to produce as much as they should due to a lack of water sources.

7.9 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

They think that the project will be able to help.

7.9.1 Why or why not?

Due to the management and planting of replacement trees and the cooperation of locals.

7.10 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

They said there was no start on implementation yet.

7.11 For the projects that have happened, have all members of the community been able to participate? Have special methods been taken to get women's participation? What about participation of ethnic people?

All members of the community have participated, and no special methods have been taken to get women's participation and ethnic people's participation, but they would like to get informed on activities about 2 or 3 days in advance.

7.11.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They can't talk more about this.

Any other remarks:

- Women's groups, as well as ethnic and other vulnerable households, are ready to participate in the project, but they would like to get informed about the activities' implementation in advance.

- Other remarks: Due to a lack of water in the rice fields, they have asked for some budget from the project for the clearance of the paddy farm areas where there is a sufficient water source, with a total area of 7 hectares. They also want the project to provide some grass species for animal husbandry, as well as construct irrigation, a bridge across creek from the village to reach their agricultural areas, and some chairs for the village meeting room.

- **220319V1 - Keomany 2**

Interview: Interview poor groups in the village

Village name: Keomany Village

District: Nan District

Province: Luang Prabang Province

Date: 19/03/2022

Interview ID: LPB, NAN, Keomany

Surveyor's Name (s): Mr. Thammanoon

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

There is no difference because there is only one Lao Loum ethnic family in this village, while the rest are Khmu ethnic groups.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

Villagers have grown various crops such as millets, cassava and rice.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

People face rice insufficiency for about 5 months a year, between July and December.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

People produce cash crops, such as corn, cassava and millets.

2.4 What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.).

The main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production are water shortages, causing poor yields, while the price of chemical fertilizers has increased. People have faced the factor of the shortage of water for their agricultural production for a long time ago. The factor causing the price of chemical fertilizers to rise is the strength of the Thai baht.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

Farmers get market information from middlemen. They sell their products to middlemen. Farmers sell millets in early January, corn in September, while cassava just began to be planted this year.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

They have not faced any challenges in accessing markets because the middleman travels to buy all the products in the village.

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

They all have faced the same challenge, especially a lack of water for agricultural production.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

People practice shifting cultivation, and they have seen the soil degradation and forest conditions change around the cultivation areas.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

People use agrochemicals.

- Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health?

They think there have been negative impacts on people's health and that there are also impacts on the soil where they use chemicals. For example, in the first year, use 4 bags of fertilizer; the second year requires more for good productivity.

- Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying? Where do they access these materials?

People are not aware of the different chemicals they are applying, and they access these materials from the markets.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

When the villagers have seen, what other villages are doing to improve their productivity, they often do the same, for example, by planting millets or corn.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

They don't practice agroforestry.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

They attended an agricultural training on February 14, 2022, organized by the District Agriculture and Forestry Office.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

The people of this village shared their knowledge with each other by word of mouth and got information from a project on agricultural production (they cannot remember the project's name).

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

There is a village conservation forest and a village protection forest.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

Forest resources benefit the community by providing water for consumption because the government provides villages with gravity-fed water from the forest. At the same time, people can also find non-timber forest products to use and sell, such as paper mulberry.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

The forest provides insufficient products for local needs.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

Men and women use forest resources in the same way because they are both able to access the forest to harvest some NTFPs for sale.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them?

People harvest forest products, such as paper mulberry, blood yam, and tiger grass.

- Firewood is used in the kitchen to light a fire.
- Paper mulberry is peeled from the forest and sold to the middlemen.
- Blood yam can be mined from the ground and sold to middlemen.
- *Tiger grass can be cut and sold to middlemen.*
- Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

This has changed as all non-timber forest products have been reduced, which is why it is insufficient to meet the needs of the villagers.

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are no differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups because most villagers are ethnic groups.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

If the forest resources are managed by local patrol officials, villagers will assist in the extinguishment of forest fires if wildfires occur.

- How are women and men involved in forest protection and management?

Women and men were involved in forest protection and management, such as patrolling by local forest officials or when wildfires occurred, villagers would assist in the extinguishment of forest fires.

- Are there differences in the roles of men and women? What are challenges they face?

There are no differences in the roles of men and women.

- Do you have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

They are not facing any challenges.

3.5.1 What about members of ethnic communities?

- Are there differences in the roles of ethnic communities?
- What are challenges they face?
- Do you have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

Most of the villagers are ethnic groups, so the answer is the same as in article 3.5.

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

They can access to water for consumption and harvesting some non-timber forest products for other family members.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing).

Some village member about 4 or 5 households are more disadvantaged.

- If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

They are poor families with low incomes because they rely on forests for their livelihood, such as cutting down trees for firewood or repairing houses. If there are restrictions on forest use, they cannot take advantage of this factor. The NUSAP project has assisted by providing some rice and cash.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

They said that their community have a land use plan.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

They have not experienced any land use conflicts.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land within the village.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

Men and women from different ethnic groups have equal access to land within the village.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

It is easy.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

They are aware of climate change.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

In the village, there are floods, landslides, and droughts; if there is rain at the start of the year, there will be no rain at the end of the year (difficult to practice on agricultural production).

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

There have not been any changes in forests; if there were changes, they were caused by the villagers' deforestation or shifting cultivation.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

They have noticed changes. For example, agricultural lands are drying up due to rising temperatures and non-seasonal rainfall.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

Flooding, drought, and landslides.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

The last 10 years have been far more intensive than the previous 15 years.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

Droughts: It has affected people's livelihoods because it is more difficult to practice agriculture, while the yield is not as high as it should be. (If they do, it is insufficient for consumption).

Floods: There was a loss of life and property, and people's crops were damaged. It has affected ecosystems with impacts on soil conditions, as well as forest and water resources, which have been negatively changed.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).

All members of the community are particularly impacted by these disasters, with a total of 80%. The worst was the family that died, including 5 deaths.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)

There are not any activities related to preparing for natural disasters; instead, the government and enterprises have supported supplies and some food for consumption when natural disasters strike.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?

It did not have.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

House repairing, making firewood, and cultivation.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

The changes have increased due to the need for shifting cultivation.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

Forests have been reduced, and there are more water shortages, particularly where shifting cultivation is practiced.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

Non-timber forest products have been reduced, making them insufficient to meet the needs of locals to harvest NTFPs for consumption and sale.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

Paddy farming in an area with sufficient water sources and raising livestock.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe.

It had a far greater impact, especially with the droughts.

What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

Environment: decreased forest area and drought within the village or nearby.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project

7.1 Do you know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village?

They know about the I-GFLL project.

7.2 What are some of the I-GFLL activities that have taken place here?

FPIC – VFAG – PSAP

7.3 Have you been involved in any I-GFLL project activities here? Or someone you know?

Yes, most people in the village.

7.4 What was that experience like?

The project has supported poor households and given assistance.

7.5 Was it easy to learn about the activities (to find out about the activities?)

It was moderate to learn about the activities.

7.6 The project has tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins?

The project has tried to speak to everyone in the village.

7.6.1 Have you been part of the consultation process? or someone in your household?

They have been part of the consultation process.

7.6.2 How could this have been made easier?

It is easy.

7.6.3 What were the things that made participation difficult?

No answer.

7.7 One of the project aims is to support participatory land-use planning – has that happened here?

It has not happened yet in the village.

7.7.1 Can you tell us more about this?

No answer.

7.8 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

Yes, it has happened in the village.

7.8.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They said that existing rice fields are unable to produce as much as they should due to a lack of water sources.

7.9 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

They think that the project will be able to help.

7.9.1 Why or why not?

Due to the management and planting of replacement trees and the cooperation of locals.

7.10 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

There was no start on implementation yet.

7.11 For the projects that have happened, have all members of the community been able to participate? Have special methods been taken to get women's participation? What about participation of ethnic people?

All members of the community have participated, and no special methods have been taken to get women's participation and ethnic people's participation, but they would like to get informed on activities about 2 or 3 days in advance.

7.11.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They can't talk more about this.

Any other remarks:

- On the project?

- Women's groups, as well as ethnic and other vulnerable households, are ready to participate in the project, but they would like to get informed about the activities' implementation in advance.

- Other remarks: Due to a lack of water in the rice fields, they have asked for some budget from the project for the clearance of the paddy farm areas where there is a sufficient water source, with a total area of 7 hectares. They also want the project to provide some grass species for animal husbandry, as well as construct irrigation, a bridge across creek from the village to reach their agricultural areas, and some chairs for the village meeting room.

- **220319V1 - Keomany 3**

Interview: Interview poor groups in the village

Village name: Keomany Village

District: Nan District

Province: Luang Prabang Province

Date: 19/03/2022

Interview ID: Keomany -3

Surveyor's Name (s): Sing and Kong Lor

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

There is no difference in livelihoods between men and women in Keomany Village or between different ethnic groups and the most vulnerable groups.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

Villagers have grown various crops such as upland rice, and corn.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

Many say they face rice insufficiency for six to seven months, and they also say that some families have faced rice post-harvest losses due to their upland rice being damaged by rats.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

People have planted corn commercially while rice is grown for consumption.

2.4 What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.).

The main challenges that villagers face in terms of agricultural production include their upland rice being damaged by rats, resulting in post-harvest losses, while droughts also affect changes in agricultural production.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

There are some Chinese companies that were formed in Nan District to purchase corn from locals, and some merchants travel to buy corn in each village.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

The challenge that villagers have faced in accessing markets is the low product prices because they are being pressed on prices through the middlemen. The locals can sell their products at reasonable prices because their corn productivity is not bad, but there is no road access to the farms. So some farmers are required to hire some laborers to carry the corn out of their farms, while others are unable to hire anyone due to a lack of funds.

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

They said that these challenges are not different for different groups in the village, but they all face the same challenges, such as the fact that there are no roads accessing the farms to transport the products.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

Most of the people in the village had only one plot of land and were unable to practice shifting cultivation. They can only shift the type of crops that were planted each year.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

The villagers use agrochemicals in their agricultural production, such as herbicides and chemical fertilizers.

- Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health?

There have been negative impacts on the environment: The land used to yield beautiful crops, but none of them are now. There have been negative impacts on people's health: Some people experience dizziness, leg pain, and a rash around their bodies.

- Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying? Where do they access these materials?

People are aware of the different chemicals they are applying, and they get these materials from the shops in Nan District.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

Many said the District of Agriculture and Forestry Office has disseminated and recommended ways to improve yields, but people do not have several plots of land for agricultural use, and the road is difficult to access for their farms.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

They don't practice agroforestry.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

The District of Agriculture and Forestry Office has disseminated and recommended ways to improve yields, but people do not have several plots of land for agricultural use, and the road access is difficult to travel on.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

The people of this village shared their knowledge with each other by sharing the real experiences they had faced in the past.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

The types of forests near villages include production forest, the forest used for production, and production forest, and protection forest.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

Forest resources benefit the community since they may be exploited to provide a source of income for the people, such as picking vegetables or bamboo shoots for consumption.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

The forest provides sufficient products for local needs because there are still plenty of NTFPs.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

Men and women use forest resources the same way, such as collecting mushrooms, as well as bamboo shoots, firewood, and searching for other NTFPs.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them?

People harvest forest products, such as bamboo shoots, mushrooms, firewood, and other edible NTFPs.

- Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

The availability of these products has greatly changed over the years due to deforestation by people in the past. So now NTFPs are decreasing, making it difficult to seek them for consumption.

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are no differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups in Keomany Village.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

Locals in the village manage forest resources together. There is a village forestry sector that monitors it; if deforestation is found, offenders will be educated and fined.

- How are women and men involved in forest protection and management?

Women and men were equally involved in forest protection and management.

- Are there differences in the roles of men and women?

There are no differences in the roles of men and women.

- What are challenges they face?

They are not facing any challenges.

- Do you have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

To overcome these challenges and avoid deforestation, they have switched from shifting cultivation to paddy farming.

3.5.1 What about members of ethnic communities?

Members of ethnic communities in the village are involved in protecting and managing forests from overuse.

- Are there differences in the roles of ethnic communities?

Ethnic communities play an equal role in forest management.

- What are challenges they face?

They do not face any challenges.

- Do you have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

To overcome these challenges and avoid deforestation, they have switched from shifting cultivation to paddy farming.

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

Poor families benefit from village forest management in that they can use the timber to build houses and earn a living in the forest, but deforestation is prohibited.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing)?

Some village members are more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest.

- If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

Ethnic groups are particularly affected by the gravity-fed water project since it has turned into a forest for watershed conservation.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

They said that their community have a land use plan.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

They have never experienced any land use conflicts with neighboring villages or outsiders.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land within the village.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

Men and women from different ethnic groups have equal access to land within the village.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

It is difficult for locals to use the land in the village because there is limited land use and also less agricultural land since most of it is located in mountain areas.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

They said that they are aware of climate change.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

They've noticed a lot of changes, including severe droughts, heavy rains, landslides, and small floods throughout the rainy season. Between 2011 and 2013, there was a major flood and strong water flow that killed 5 people. The rapid flow of water was occurred at night washed away people's homes.

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

There have been a lot of changes in the forest, even though the forest used to be rich in the past, and by the year 2000, the forest had changed significantly as a result of numerous people moving to live in the community.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

They have noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature, such as poor agricultural soil quality, which makes it impossible to grow high-yield crops since the soils are hard and dry.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

Villagers' livelihoods are threatened by natural disasters such as drought and flooding.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

Over the past 15 years, the climate has changed, causing droughts, crop production slowdowns, heavy rains, landslides in the rainy season, and flooding.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

This has affected people's livelihoods and/or ecosystems. For example, from 2011 to 2013, there was a severe flood and strong water flow that killed 5 people, and the flood also washed locals' houses and damaged crops.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).

The number of community members is particularly impacted by these disasters, such as the five people killed by the flood, including four females and one male.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)

There are some projects related to preparing for floods, and they have trained people to be aware of the dangers of flooding. However, there is no flood at this time.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?
They said that they don't know.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

The main cause of community deforestation is the clearing of forests for upland cultivation and gardening.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

They have zoned the lands for agricultural production, so there may be no more deforestation.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

This affects the depletion of forest resources and land degradation due to the large number of people moving into the village.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

This affects local people's livelihoods, such as causing drought and a lack of water for agricultural production. People face difficulty finding non-timber forest products as well as other forest resources.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

The way to reduce deforestation is to encourage people to turn to cultivating crops and raising livestock for commercial purposes.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe.

Deforestation and forest degradation have had an impact on the frequency of severe natural disasters, such as drought, due to a lack of trees to store water.

What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

There is no answer.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project

7.1 Do you know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village?

They said that they don't know about the I-GFLL project.

7.2 What are some of the I-GFLL activities that have taken place here?

They said that they don't know.

7.3 Have you been involved in any I-GFLL project activities here? Or someone you know?

Some people have been involved in I-GFLL project activities in the village, while some have not.

7.4 What was that experience like?

They just talked about the project activities in the village, with the aim of improving people's livelihoods, especially in agricultural occupations such as gardening and animal husbandry.

7.5 Was it easy to learn about the activities (to find out about the activities?)

They said that they don't know.

7.6 The project has tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins?

The project has disseminated and spoken to everyone in the village about the work before it begins.

7.6.1 Have you been part of the consultation process? or someone in your household?

Many people have been part of the consultation process, while someone has not.

7.6.2 How could this have been made easier?

It's easy to have participated in the consultation process.

7.6.3 What were the things that made participation difficult?

It is difficult for some groups because they are not interested in participating in the consultation process.

7.7 One of the project aims is to support participatory land-use planning – has that happened here?

It has not happened yet in the village.

7.7.1 Can you tell us more about this?

No answer.

7.8 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

It has not happened yet in the village.

7.8.1 Can you tell us more about this?

No answer.

7.9 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

They think that the project will be able to help, but they are concerned that locals will be unable to do so because the challenge is that there are no agricultural lands, as well as no vehicles and no road access to their gardens.

7.9.1 Why or why not?

They believe that the project is able to implement since the I-GFLL project has already been implemented in many villages and districts.

7.10 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

They said there was disseminated about the project plan and project approval.

7.11 For the projects that have happened, have all members of the community been able to participate? *Members of the community have not participated.*

Have special methods been taken to get women's participation? What about participation of ethnic people?

They said that they wanted to assign some tasks for ethnic people's participation in order to ensure that they understood.

7.11.1 Can you tell us more about this?

No have

Any other remarks:

- On the project?

Residents in Keomany Village want the project to provide financial assistance to locals.

They said they needed funding to help and boost their careers. Those who do not have land on which to build a home want the project to assist them.

When heavy rains and water in the creek overflows, it causes soil erosion on the banks of the river. Some houses nearby (such as the house of Ms. Lath) have been impacted by soil erosion, so she wants the project to construct the embankment erosion control along the river near her home.

Ms. Nork wants some pigs and goats for raising.

Mrs. Kod's family is disabled (cerebral palsy) and does not know what job to do because they don't have any children. And Ms. Sack also does not know what job to do because she is alone.

Ms. Nen wants some goats for raising.

Mr. Phing is unsure about what job to choose because he is single. He needs to try to survive day-to-day, but now he is old.

Mr. Ka is unsure about what job to choose because he is too old now.

- **220319V1 - Keomany 4**

Interview: Interview ethnic groups in the village

Date: 19/03/2022

Village name: Keomany Village

District: Nan District

Province: Luang Prabang Province

Interview ID: Keomany (4)

Surveyor's Name (s): Kong Lor

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

There are differences in people's livelihoods in Keomany Village, such as women have worked in the fields and gardening, and men have worked in the village to earn money; they don't have the financial means to put effort into agricultural production, so they have done as they can; people have faced landless for agricultural and insufficient labor due to the elderly.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

Most of the people in Keomany village cultivate millets, corn, rice, and livestock.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

They said that people have faced rice insufficiency for six to seven months. Due to there being limited agricultural land and the soil also degenerating, it is not suitable for planting anything.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

People produce cash crops such as millets and corn, but they plant rice for consumption.

2.4 What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.).

The main challenges they face in agricultural production are soil degradation and poor yields. While the places to purchase local products are located far away, people have no vehicles to transport their produce for sale.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

They said that they get market information from nearby villages to buy and deliver the products for sale in the town.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

They don't have vehicles accessing markets or arrive there late for the purchase or sale of products.

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

Some families have many plots of land, and some families still have to borrow from banks to rent the land for agriculture.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

Everyone in this village practices shifting cultivation, and during shifting cultivation, it can be seen that the soil is very degraded and yields are reduced.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

Villagers use agrochemicals.

- Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health?

There are negative impacts on the environment, such as chemical residues in soil that rain will wash into rivers, as well as ecological damage, as soil degradation and people's bad health, including skin illness, dizziness, and the odor of the chemicals that people use.

- Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying? Where do they access these materials?

People are well aware of the effects of chemicals, but it is inevitable that they will be used in agriculture, and they get these materials from the shops in Nan District.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

There is no project to encourage the cultivation of millets. However, there has been a project to promote cassava cultivation as a supplementary occupation for the past 2 or 3 years.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

Locals in the village don't practice agroforestry.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

They said it was a long time ago and they don't remember if they had attended any agricultural training, but they have learned from their practical.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

They said that villagers share knowledge from past experiences, especially what they have done in practice, and they do not know where the good information came from.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

There is a village forest in Keomany Village.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

Forest resources benefit the village community in a variety of ways, including as a source of commodities, and food such as bamboo shoot, rattan, and a variety of other household items.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

Forests provide insufficient products for people's needs. As the population increases, so too does the demand for NTFPs.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

Men and women use forests for their livelihoods and as a primary resource for housing.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them?

The main products they harvest include bamboo shoots, mushrooms, rattan, banana flowers, and non-timber forest products that can be used as their family meals.

- Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

Products that have been used have changed a lot from the past due to deforestation, causing a reduction in NTFPs. In the past, the NTFPs were very abundant in the village forest, but now it is hard to harvest them. When the NTFPs have been reduced, people are required to find food in other nearby villages.

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are no differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups in the village.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

The village's forest resources have been managed by the locals, helping to protect the forest.

- How are women and men involved in forest protection and management?

Women and men were equally involved in forest protection and management.

- Are there differences in the roles of men and women?

There are no differences in the roles of men and women in forest protection.

- What are challenges they face?

They are not facing any challenges.

- Do you have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

They don't know how to overcome these challenges.

3.5.1 What about members of ethnic communities?

Members of ethnic communities in the village are involved in protecting and managing the forest along with other ethnic communities.

- Are there differences in the roles of ethnic communities?

There are no differences in the roles of men and women in forest protection.

- What are challenges they face?

They do not face any challenges in forest protection.

- Do you have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

They don't know how to overcome these challenges because they haven't faced any challenge yet.

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

The poorest families benefit from village forest management, including using timber for housing and finding for food in the protected forest area.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing).

Some village members are more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest.

- If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

Because people are restricted from clearing forests in the water source area or watershed in order to protect the forest and water source for agricultural production.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

They said that Keomany Village has a land use plan for commercial agriculture.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

They have experienced land use conflicts with neighboring villages or outsiders because they want the village's protected land for agricultural production.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land within the village. For example, before farming in any area, if the husband or wife disagrees, that means they are unable to do it.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

Men and women from different ethnic groups have equal access to land within the village like other ethnic groups.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

It's not easy. For example, if a person's land is used for agricultural production, it's easy, but if he/she doesn't have land, it must be rented out for agricultural production.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

Some people are aware of climate change and some are unaware of climate change.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

They said that they have not noticed any changes in temperatures, rain fall, droughts, or landslides.

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

There have been changes in the forest due to the fact that there were plenty of invasive species and abundant enough to supply their needs, but now the soil is degraded and there is more drought.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

They have noticed changes, such as there being good in the first period for planting some upland rice, corn and millets, but after time has passed for a while, they become dried up and eventually die.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

People in the community have faced natural disasters from 2013 to 2014, especially those living along rivers, which flooded, killing five people and damaging several houses.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

They noticed from 2013-2014 that there was severe flooding because there was heavy rain in other areas and a flash flood occurred at night time without warning in advance, killing 5 people. Meanwhile, it is currently only rain but not flooding.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

This has affected people's livelihoods, such as the loss of houses, roads, making access to natural resources difficult, etc.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).

The number of community members is particularly impacted by these disasters, such as some women, elderly people, and poor families that died.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)

There are no activities related to preparing for these natural disasters.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?

No answer.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

People have been doing shifting cultivation in the past since they didn't have a place to earn their living.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

They have noticed changes or trends in deforestation. They know that it has changed but had to do it in order to earn their living because there was no second occupation.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

This has an impact on ecosystems and causes forest reduction or degradation, resulting in extremely hot weather and non-seasonal rainfall.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

It affects local people's livelihoods. For example, in the past, harvesting for NTFPs near the village was sufficient, but now it is not, and people need to go far from their village or find NTFPs in other village areas, while collecting firewood and timber for use also faces difficulties.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

There is no way to reduce deforestation from happening.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe.

Deforestation and forest degradation have had an impact on the frequency of natural disasters, such as non-seasonal rainfall, severe floods, and droughts, due to the fact that several hectares of forests have been destroyed in the past.

What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

There is no answer.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project

7.1 Do you know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village?

They said that they don't know about the I-GFLL project in the village.

7.2 What are some of the I-GFLL activities that have taken place here?

They said that they don't know about the I-GFLL activities that have taken place in the village.

7.3 Have you been involved in any I-GFLL project activities here? Or someone you know?

They said that they have not been involved in any I-GFLL project activities.

7.4 What was that experience like?

Villagers have not participated in any project activities.

7.5 Was it easy to learn about the activities (to find out about the activities?)

It was difficult because they did not know how to find out about the activities.

7.6 The project has tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins?

They said that they don't know because it's been a long time and they don't remember if the project tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it began.

7.6.1 Have you been part of the consultation process? or someone in your household?

They said that they have not been any part of the consultation process.

7.6.2 How could this have been made easier?

They said they don't know because they have not been any part of the consultation process.

7.6.3 What were the things that made participation difficult?

No answer.

7.7 One of the project aims is to support participatory land-use planning – has that happened here?

They said that they don't know.

7.7.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They are unable to provide information due to not knowing any.

7.8 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

They said that has not happened in the village.

7.8.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They are unable to provide information due to not knowing any.

7.9 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

They think that the project will be able help.

7.9.1 Why or why not?

Because if the project can start to proceed as planned, they want the project to run more activities to reduce the impact of climate change. The villagers see this as a great advantage and believe it can reduce the impact of climate change.

7.10 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

They said that this had not happened in the village yet.

7.11 For the projects that have happened, have all members of the community been able to participate?

They said that there had not been any projects implemented in the village.

Have special methods been taken to get women's participation? What about participation of ethnic people?

They said that they don't know of any special methods, and there is no challenge about the participation of ethnic people.

7.11.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They were unable to provide further information on the participation of women and ethnic groups.

Any other remarks:

- On the project?

- *One said that he/she would want request fund from the project to support for agricultural and animal husbandry.*
- *One said he wanted request fund for clear the land for rice farming because he was elderly and needed money to feed the goats.*
- *Another said that he/she wants to request fund for purchase pipes for connecting water to his/her rice farm.*
- *One said he or she wants to request fund for fish ponds and fruit gardening.*

- On challenges to women's participation?

They said that there was no challenge to women's participation.

- On ethnic participation?

They said that there was no challenge to ethnic participation.

- On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

They said that there was no challenge on the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households.

C. Village level: Pha Yuak

- **220319V1 - Pha Yuak 1**

Village name: Pha Yuak
District: Nan District
Province: Luang Prabang Province
Interview: Interview group of Village authorities.
Interview by: Khamphao and Danai
Date: 19/03/2022
Interview ID: Pha Yuak (1)

Village demographic & forest/land governance questions (For village leadership group only)

1. What is the village population?

The village has a population of 738 people, 131 households, and 103 families.

2. Number of Women?

There are 387 females.

3. Different ethnic groups present in the village? (And numbers)

There are two different ethnic groups present in the village, namely Hmong and Lu Mien.

4. What kind of forest resources does the village have?

There is the conservation forest, as well as protection forest, use forest, and production forest in the village.

5. How long has it been in place?

All kinds of forests have been in place since 2000.

6. How is forest resource management coordinated between the district and the village?

The coordination on forest resource management between the district and the village is just disseminated in the forest law to local people.

7. What are the challenges related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

The challenges related to forest law enforcement and forest protection include that most people are aware, but there are some people who remain illegally felling trees for sale, and these people will not adhere to the forest law.

8. How are decisions made about forest and land management?

Forest and land management are joint decisions between the village and the district level.

9. Are these decisions made in village meetings, or by village committee?

These decisions are made in village meetings that are attended by all villagers.

10. Are women involved in these decisions?

Women are involved in these decisions.

11. One of the project goals is to help women and the poorest and most vulnerable villagers to take part in making decisions about forest and land resources. Is this possible?

One of the project goals is to help women and the poorest and most vulnerable villagers take part in making decisions about forest and land resources, and they think this is possible.

12. What are the barriers to participation?

There are no barriers to participation.

13. Does the village benefit from commercialization of sustainably managed village forests?

The village benefit from commercialization of sustainably managed village forests.

14. How are forest products distributed within the village? Are people satisfied with the forest product distribution system?

Forest products distributed within the village are bamboo shoots, mushrooms, NTFPs, paper mulberry, and tiger grass, which are considered sufficient for locals' needs.

15. How are complaints about land or forest management systems dealt with?

The relevant sector at the district level will deal with complaints about the land or forest management system.

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

There are differences in the village between Hmong and Lu Mien ethnic groups due to most Hmong being engaged in upland cultivation and gardening, while the Lu Mien rely on forest for their livelihoods, and some are hired to earn income.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

Villagers cultivate some rice, millets, chilies, and Cantonese green cabbage.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

They face rice insufficiency for about 2 to 3 months a year.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

They produce cash crops such as millets, chilies, and Cantonese green cabbage.

2.4 What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.).

The main challenges that people face in terms of agricultural production are pests that destroy their crops, as well as drought that kills rice trees, while some face post-harvest losses, and the last challenge is poor roads and a long travel distance to access their agricultural areas.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

Farmers get market information from word of mouth from locals within the village.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

People face challenges in accessing markets because some families don't have their own vehicles to transport their products for sale.

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

Due to there being different ethnic groups in the village, making it different in agricultural activities, especially the Hmong, whose main focus is on agricultural production, while Lu Mien will seek jobs to earn income.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

They practice shifting cultivation and have seen changes during upland cultivation rotation, such as soil degradation and reduced yields.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

Villagers use herbicides for agricultural production.

- Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health? Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying?

People are aware of negative impacts but are inevitable and are required to apply them because they face a shortage of labor and they can only be careful when using them.

- Where do they access these materials?

People access these materials from the markets.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

They get information on best practices to improve yields from the District Agriculture and Forestry Office, and they also get information from the NUSAP project.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

There are only a few families that practice agroforestry, such as teak and rubber plantations.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

They learned to practice and share their knowledge with those who have experience in cultivation in the village.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

Farmers share knowledge by word of mouth and seek information from those they know or who have experience.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

There are national protected areas, protection forests, and production forests.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

It benefits by providing cool air and being a source of food.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

The forest provides insufficient products for the needs of the village due to the forest area being located between eight villages, causing conflicts in using the forest to harvest some food.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

Men and women have equal rights to use forest resources.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them? Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

The main products they harvest are birds, squirrels, rats, jungle fowl, bamboo shoots, mushrooms, and some herbal medicines. The availability of these products has changed over the years due to the population having increased and the territories adjacent to many villages. This has resulted in a decrease.

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are no differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups because most of them rely on forests for their livelihoods.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

The village forest resources are managed by patrolling and inspecting for illegal felling.

3.5.1 How are women and men involved in forest protection and management? Are there differences in the roles of men and women? What are challenges they face? Do they have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

Women and men are involved equally in protecting and managing forest resources.

There are no differences in the roles of men and women.

The main challenges they face are outsiders' invasion and illegal felling of trees in the forest areas belonging to the village's responsibility.

They just recommend villagers to keep an eye when they go into the forests to overcome these challenges.

If any illegal activity is found, they should inform the village authorities or relevant sector.

3.5.2 What about members of ethnic communities?

Members of ethnic communities are involved in forest protection and management like other groups.

- There are no differences in the roles of ethnic communities.

- They face challenges like other groups.

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

The poorest families benefit from village forest management like other groups.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing). If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

No one is more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

The community has a land use plan.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

They have experienced conflicts within the village, such as people with adjacent agricultural land often having problems, which the village authorities are required to discuss and address.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land within the village without discrimination.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

Men and women from different ethnic groups have equal access to land within the village.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

Villagers have easy access to the land within the village boundaries.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

They are aware of climate change.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

They have noticed changes in higher temperatures, as well as heavy rain and droughts over the last 2 years.

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

There have been changes in the forests due to the widespread forest fires that damaged a number of trees.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

They have noticed changes in agricultural lands, such as soil hardening due to drought, resulting in poor yields and ineffectiveness.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

The community faces natural disasters, especially drought, which causes people to face a shortage of water every year.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

They have noticed a change in trends' intensity compared to the last 10 years, causing several households to face shortages of water for consumption and leave their homes further away to seek water.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

It has affected people's livelihoods and ecosystems. For example, it damages most of the crops and loses aquatic ecosystems due to the stream drying up yearly.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).

There are almost all members in the village who are particularly impacted by these disasters.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)

There are no activities related to preparing for natural disasters in the village because they are ignorant about this matter.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?

There is no answer.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

The main causes of community deforestation are felling for sale, making firewood, gardening and burning to make charcoal for sale.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

They have noticed that the number of forests has decreased significantly from previous years.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

It has the effect of reducing the number of wildlife and NTFPs that used to exist, and water sources in the forest are drying up.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

It affects local communities, particularly since harvesting for forest products is becoming more difficult, while locals need to travel further than before to collect firewood and waste their time.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

They are looking for ways to reduce deforestation in their village, such as reducing the use of wood for charcoal, as well as fences or for sale, but they still find some outsiders and locals in the village illegally felling trees.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe.

What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

Deforestation and forest degradation have had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters, especially since people face a shortage of water every year.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project

7.1 Do you know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village?

They know about the I-GFLL project activities.

7.2 What are some of the I-GFLL activities that have taken place here?

The I-GFLL project's activities include:

- FPIC
- VFAG
- Sustainable agriculture.
- Forest management.

7.3 Have you been involved in any I-GFLL project activities here? Or someone you know?

They have been involved in the I-GFLL project activities.

7.4 What was that experience like?

From the experience of the participants in the project, they have organized training but have not yet implemented it.

7.5 Was it easy to learn about the activities (to find out about the activities?)

They think it's intermediate level from what they heard.

7.6 The project has tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins?

The project has disseminated and tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins on implementation.

7.6.1 Have you been part of the consultation process? or someone in your household?

They have been part of the consultation process.

7.6.2 How could this have been made easier?

It has been easy to be part of the consultation process because there has been advance announcement through the loudspeaker of the village.

7.6.3 What were the things that made participation difficult?

There is no answer.

7.7 One of the project aims is to support participatory land-use planning – has that happened here?

Participatory land use planning has not yet happened in the village.

7.7.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They can't provide any because they don't know the details.

7.8 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture, which has happened in the village.

7.8.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They have provided further information on agriculture to the project and recommended ideas about agricultural production in their village.

7.9 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

They think that the project will be able to help.

7.9.1 Why or why not?

Because the project has funds for implementation and has modern tools. It can also be seen that the project has planned on forest management, if any, will be able to balance forests and reduce other natural disasters if forests are increased.

7.10 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

This has not happened yet.

7.11 For the projects that have happened, have all members of the community been able to participate? Have special methods been taken to get women's participation? What about participation of ethnic people?

This has not happened yet, so they are unable to provide any details.

7.11.1 Can you tell us more about this?

The participation of women and ethnic groups is the same as that of other groups in the villages without any discrimination.

Any other remarks:

- They want the project to support fund to build the gravity-fed water for the village because people have faced a water shortage every year.
- They want the project to support the fund to build the village chief's office.

- **220319V1 - Pha Yuak 2**

Interview: Interview women groups in the village

Village name: Pha Yuak Village

District: Nan District

Province: Luang Prabang Province

Date: 19/03/2022

Interview ID: LPB, NAN, Pha Yuak -2

Surveyor's Name (s): Thammanoon

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

There is no difference in livelihoods in the Village. Most of the Hmong are farmers, while some families of Yao people are engaged in trading.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

They have cultivated some crops such as millets and rice.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

- People in the village face rice insufficiency for about 2 to 3 months a year.

- Poor households and disable persons face rice insufficiency for about 9 to 10 months a year.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

They produce millets as cash crops.

2.4 What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.).

The main challenge they face in terms of agricultural production is that their crops are destroyed by rats and grasshoppers.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

Farmers get market information from word of mouth and sell their crops to the factories nearby the village during December.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

The people facing challenges in accessing markets find that the markets have pushed prices down.

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

There are no differences, but the only challenge is that people face water shortages for agricultural production.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

They practice shifting cultivation and have seen changes in the soils and forests due to slash and burn agriculture.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

People use agrochemicals.

- Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health?

They know there have been negative impacts on people's health, but they do not know if there have been negative impacts on the environment.

- Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying? Where do they access these materials?

They are not aware of the different chemicals they are applying, and they get these materials from Khop District.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

They don't know.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

They do not practice agroforestry.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

They have attended an agricultural training organized by the NUSAP project in 2019.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

Farmers share knowledge by word of mouth, and they access information on best practices from the District Agriculture and Forestry Office.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

The kinds of forest resources that are near the village include village conservation forest, protection forest, and production forest.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

Forest resources benefit the community as people are able to have non-timber forest products for daily consumption.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

The forest provided sufficient products for their needs, but for consumption only and insufficient for sale.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

Men and women have equal rights to use forest resources, and the forest is being used as a source to harvest non-timber forest products for consumption in people's daily lives.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest?

The main products they harvest are bamboo shoots, vegetables, paper mulberry and other NTFPs.

- How do they use them? Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

The availability of these products has not changed.

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are no differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

There are regular inspections and reports in the village.

- How are women and men involved in forest protection and management?

Both men and women have helped to keep an eye and report to the head of the village; if there is a forest fire, both of them will help extinguish it.

- Are there differences in the roles of men and women?

There are no differences in the roles of men and women in forest protection and management.

- What are challenges they face?

Some outsiders have cut down trees in the forest areas near the village for charcoal burning.

- Do you have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

They can do just that by informing the head of the village.

3.5.1 What about members of ethnic communities?

Members of ethnic communities are involved in forest protection and management, as per article 3.5 mentioned above

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

The poorest families benefit from village forest management like other groups without discrimination.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing). If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

No one is more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

Their community have a land use plan.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

They have experienced conflicts within the village, and there are many cases that cannot be identified.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land within the village.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

Men and women from different ethnic groups have equal access to land within the village.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

Villagers have easy access to the land within the village boundaries.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

They are aware of climate change.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

They have noticed changes in higher temperatures, as well as drought and landslides.

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

There have not been any changes in the forests.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

They have noticed changes in agricultural lands and production that have to do with changing weather and temperature. For example, non-seasonal rainfall that leads to drought.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

The community faced with natural disasters such as droughts.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

The drought has occurred and intensified over the past 5 years.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

It has affected people's livelihoods, and people's lives are becoming more difficult because productivity is reduced.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).

Half of the village's population is particularly impacted by droughts.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)

There are no activities related to preparing for natural disasters in the village.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?

There is no answer.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

The main causes of deforestation in the community are felling for firewood.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

There is no change or trend in deforestation.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

It does not affect any ecosystems or forests due to its small amount of deforestation.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

The slightest deforestation does not have a negative impact on ecosystems and people's livelihoods.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

There is not any barrier.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe.

It may be reduced.

What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

- Environmental: The weather conditions have improved, while sudden climate changes rarely occur.

- Social: It may affect some families who want to renovate their homes who want to felling the wood.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project

7.1 Do you know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village?

They know about the I-GFLL project activities.

7.2 What are some of the I-GFLL activities that have taken place here?

The I-GFLL activities that have taken place in the village include:

- FPIC

- VFAG

- Agriculture

- Forest management

7.3 Have you been involved in any I-GFLL project activities here? Or someone you know?

They have been involved in I-GFLL project activities, including their family members and neighbors.

7.4 What was that experience like?

They just attended the training and did not practice any implementation, so they don't know about it.

7.5 Was it easy to learn about the activities (to find out about the activities?)

It's an intermediate level to learn about the activities

7.6 The project has tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins?

The project has tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins.

7.6.1 Have you been part of the consultation process? or someone in your household?

They have been part of the consultation process, including their family members as well.

7.6.2 How could this have been made easier?

It has been easy to be part of the consultation process.

7.6.3 What were the things that made participation difficult?

There is no answer.

7.7 One of the project aims is to support participatory land-use planning – has that happened here?

The participatory land use planning has not yet happened in the village.

7.7.1 Can you tell us more about this?

There is no answer.

7.8 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

It has happened in the village.

7.8.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They have recommended the project on accessing water for agricultural production.

7.9 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

They think that the project will be able to help.

7.9.1 Why or why not?

Due to there being a forest management project that may reduce the impacts of climate change.

7.10 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

It has not happened in the village.

7.11 For the projects that have happened, have all members of the community been able to participate?

Not all members of the community have been able to participate, but most have been able to participate.

Have special methods been taken to get women's participation? What about participation of ethnic people?

There is no answer.

7.11.1 Can you tell us more about this?

There is no answer.

Any other remarks:

- On the project?

There is no answer.

- On challenges to women's participation?

There is no answer.

- On ethnic participation?

There is no answer.

- On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

There are many vulnerable families in the village who need help from the project.

They want the project to provide some gravity-fed water to the village because people have faced a shortage of water.

- **220319V1 - Pha Yuak 3**

Interview: Interview ethnic groups in the village
 Village name: Pha Yuak Village
 District: Nan District
 Province: Luang Prabang Province
 Date: 19/03/2022
 Interview ID: Pha Yuak -3

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

There is no difference in livelihoods in Pha Yuak Village between men and women or between different ethnic groups and the most vulnerable groups. But Yao ethnic groups will not practice upland cultivation because they know how to earn money, and the conditions are the same for men and women.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

Villagers have cultivated various crops such as rice, and millets.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

Many of them said that people face rice insufficiency for about 2 to 3 months a year, while some poor households have rice sufficiency for just a few months and face suffering for almost the whole year.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

People cultivate millets for a cash crop, while rice is grown for food.

2.4 What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.).

They said that the main challenge people face in terms of agricultural production is that the rice plantations are destroyed by rats and grasshoppers, and they have faced severe droughts for the last 3 years.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

They said that farmers get market information from word of mouth from locals within the village, and they sell millets during December.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

The challenges people face in accessing markets are that the middlemen have pushed prices down, or maybe because it rained during the harvest, and if it didn't rain during the harvest, the price might be reasonable.

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

They said that there are no differences, but the only challenge is that people face water shortages for both consumption and agricultural production.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

They practice shifting cultivation and have seen changes during upland cultivation rotation, such as the soil quality has changed because they received good yields in the first year of planting, but when the rotation period in the second year, the yields have been reduced.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

People in this village use agrochemicals, especially fertilizer.

- Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health?

They said that it has no negative impact on the environment or people's health.

- Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying? Where do they access these materials?

They are aware of the different chemicals they are applying, and they get these materials from people in Khop District.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

They said that they are not adapting to climate change and are not getting any information from any sector on the best practices to improve yields, but they only learned from people in the village who have done this before.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

They do not practice agroforestry.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

They have attended an agricultural training course organized by the NUSAP project to provide assistance with food and nutrition.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

They said that people in this village shared their knowledge with each other by talking about their real experiences and the challenges they had faced in the past.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

The kinds of forest resources that are near the village include village conservation forest, production forest, village forest, and protection forest.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

Forest resources benefit the community as they are a source of livelihood for the villagers, such as being a source to harvest non-timber forest products and natural resources.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

They said that the forest provided sufficient products for their needs, but for consumption only and insufficient for sale.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

Men and women have equal rights to use forest resources, such as being a source of their livelihoods and providing some wood to build houses.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest?

The main products they harvest are some non-timber forest products that can be consumed and used as food.

- How do they use them? Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

They said that the availability of these products has not changed over the years.

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are no differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups in Pha Yuak Village.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

The village forest resources are managed by patrolling regularly. If any offenders are found, they will be fined.

- How are women and men involved in forest protection and management?

Women and men are involved equally in protecting and managing forest resources. For example, if there is a forest fire, both men and women will help extinguish it.

- Are there differences in the roles of men and women?

There are no differences in the roles of men and women in forest protection and management.

- What are challenges they face?

The main challenges they face are outsiders' illegal felling of trees in the forest areas near the village for charcoal burning, and they choose to fell only the cratoxylum formosum (Jack) timber.

- Do you have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

To overcome these challenges, they have informed the head of the village to find a way to address them.

3.5.1 What about members of ethnic communities?

Members of ethnic communities are involved in forest protection and management. For example, if there is a forest fire, they will help extinguish it and prevent the overuse of forest resources.

- Are there differences in the roles of ethnic communities?

Ethnic communities play an equal role in forest management.

- What are challenges they face?

Most of the challenges people face are forest fires that occur for some year.

- Do you have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

They said that they don't know.

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

The poorest families benefit from village forest management in that they can use wood to build houses and earn a living in the managed forests.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing).

No one is more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest.

- If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

There is no answer.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

They said that there are no land use plans in their community.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

They have experienced conflicts within the village and neighboring villages due to some disputes over the agricultural land of the villagers.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land within the village.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

Men and women from different ethnic groups have equal access to land within the village.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

Villagers have easy access to the land within the village boundaries.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

They are aware of climate change.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

They have noticed changes every year as more deforestation has been done in the past, causing non-seasonal rainfall, and droughts.

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

There have not been any changes in the forests.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

They said that the agricultural lands have changed and the crops have poor yields because of non-seasonal rainfall, leading to drought.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

The livelihood of villagers is faced with natural disasters such as droughts.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

They said that the drought began last year.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

It has affected people's livelihoods and the ecosystem. For example, people's crops have been damaged, resulting in starvation. People will face difficulty in their lives if loss of rice.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).

Half of the village's population is particularly impacted by these disasters.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)

There are no activities related to preparing for natural disasters in the village.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?

There is no answer.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

There is no deforestation in their village because the agricultural lands have already been zoned.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

There is no change or trend in deforestation.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

They said that it would not affect the ecosystems and forests because the villagers of Pha Yuak had no deforestation.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

It has a positive effect on local people's livelihoods.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

There is no method because the villagers of Pha Yuak had no deforestation.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe.

They said that because there was no deforestation, it could reduce natural disasters.

What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

- They said that there were no environmental challenges.
- But they said that there are social challenges because people don't have the budget to buy wood to build their houses.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project

7.1 Do you know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village?

They know about the I-GFLL project activities.

7.2 What are some of the I-GFLL activities that have taken place here?

They said that there are many activities that the I-GFLL project has implemented in this village, especially distributing information on the project activities to acknowledge people and promoting agriculture to the people in the village.

7.3 Have you been involved in any I-GFLL project activities here? Or someone you know?

Some people have been involved in the I-GFLL project activities in the village. They said that many people they know in the village are involved in the I-GFLL project activities, but some of them have not.

7.4 What was that experience like?

They said that the project has just organized training for villagers but they have not yet implemented it.

7.5 Was it easy to learn about the activities (to find out about the activities?)

They said that it's an intermediate level to learn about the activities, not easy or difficult.

7.6 The project has tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins?

The project has disseminated and tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins on implementation.

7.6.1 Have you been part of the consultation process? or someone in your household?

They said that they have been part of the consultation process.

7.6.2 How could this have been made easier?

They said that it has been easy to be part of the consultation process.

7.6.3 What were the things that made participation difficult?

There is no answer.

7.7 One of the project aims is to support participatory land-use planning – has that happened here?

They said that the participatory land use planning has not yet happened in the village.

7.7.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They can't provide any details because the participatory land use planning has not yet happened in this village.

7.8 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

That has happened in this village with the aim of promoting sustainable agriculture, and they have already published the information.

7.8.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They said that the project team had recommended they practice paddy farming, but people were unable to follow because they faced a shortage of water sources for production and inhospitable terrain due to the high mountains.

7.9 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

They think that the project will be able to help because the project has already been implemented in many villages and districts.

7.9.1 Why or why not?

They said that if the project had been managed well, it would be successful because it had already been implemented in many villages and districts.

7.10 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

They said that the project's activities taking place in the village were consensual for locals.

7.11 For the projects that have happened, have all members of the community been able to participate? *Most of the community members have participated in project activities that have already been implemented. Meanwhile, there is a way to give advance notice to allow time to participate.*

Have special methods been taken to get women's participation? What about participation of ethnic people?

They said that there is no specific method for women's participation and ethnic people's participation is also going very well.

However, ethnic people should be encouraged to participate in their assignments to ensure they are easy to understand.

7.11.1 Can you tell us more about this?

There is no further information on the participation of women and ethnic groups.

Any other remarks:

- On the project?

They want the project to provide some gravity-fed water or water supply and would like to ask for a budget to support the 3 poor households in Pha Yuak village because they are orphans without parents. Someone used to promise to help in the past, but the COVID-19 outbreak came first, so they may not be able to help.

- On challenges to women's participation?

There is no answer.

- On ethnic participation?

They said that the participation of ethnic groups is very good, particularly the Hmong, but the Yao people rarely participate in activities.

- On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

They said that the absence of the participation of other vulnerable people, as well as poor households and the elderly, was noticeable because there was no participation.

3.5 Consultations in Viengkham District

A. District level: Viengkham

- **220321D1 - Viengkham 1**

Office: Viengkham Governor's Office

District: Viengkham

Province: Luang Prabang

Date: 21/03/2022

Interview ID: Viengkham (1)

Surveyor's Name (s): Phao

Changing environmental and climatic conditions

1. Have you noticed changes in the weather (temperature, rain levels, natural disasters)?

They have noticed dramatic changes in the weather dramatically compared to the previous years, especially when the weather conditions are unnormal as well as non-seasonal rainfall, there is plenty of rainfall in some years, including strong winds and lightning, while temperatures change and summers become extremely hot, causing drought.

- In the past, there were many natural disasters every year. In particular, lightning, strong winds, heavy rain and landslides have damaged people's crops and roads, causing difficulty in travel for many people.

1.1 How has (changed or bad weather) this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems?

Climate change has affected droughts; streams are drying up, causing insufficient water supply for agricultural production. People are unable to practice their agriculture as much as they want, causing dehydrated crops to wither and poor yields. Some years, drought and extreme heat occur, causing forest fires and making it difficult for people to find non-timber forest products.

*- It has affected terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems that have changed dramatically. And now, what used to exist in the creeks, such as *Cabomba caroliniana*, freshwater algae, and tadpoles, are extinct.*

1.2 Are some groups and households in your district more vulnerable to natural disasters, floods, and/or drought?

Several villages and some households in Viengkham District are at risk of natural disasters at any time due to the geography of the district and villages located on steep hills. So, when heavy rain and strong wind can cause landslides to hit people's buildings and houses.

- The drought is getting worse while the streams in the forests that used to be the water source for people's consumption have dwindled or dried up.

1.3 Who is particularly vulnerable and why?

Everyone in the villages, as well as farmers, business people, and all road users, is particularly vulnerable. For example, heavy rain, landslides that hit and damage roads, making it difficult for people to travel due to damaged roads or landslides, cause people to waste their time, as well as opportunity and property.

2. Have you noticed changes in forest areas in your district, and how does this affect local livelihoods?

The forest has changed. They have noticed that forests are decreasing and some mountains that used to be rich forests are became the bald mountains. Forests now have been destroyed and severe degradation. It may be due to the increasing population each year, which leads to the expansion of agricultural production and more deforestation for production and trade purposes.

- Forests have become increasingly bald mountains due to they have cleared forest for cultivating rice and crops such as cassava, corn, millets and cardamoms.

- The effects on local people's livelihoods include fewer huge trees for use; forest resources are reduced, which makes people face more difficulty in harvesting non-timber forest products to consume and sell.

3. Have you noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards (e.g. floods, drought, landslides)? If yes, please describe.

He said that he thinks deforestation is part of climate change. For example, it was rich in biodiversity in the past, with large trees and many species of wildlife; people could easily see some wildlife when traveling in the forests in the past, such as birds, jungle fowl, and squirrels along the land surface or in the trees, but now those resources are almost extinct.

- The temperature is also rising, as is non-seasonal rainfall, strong winds, lightning, mountains and forests being degraded, and erosion along stream banks every year. This change affects livelihoods, making it harder for communities who rely on natural resources to make a living.

3.1 Have these trends changed in the last 5, 15 or 30 years? Please describe how.

These changes are different from the last 10–20 years due to the fact that there are no large trees available in the forest at present, while some forest mountains have become dry dipterocarp forests. There are often strong winds and lightning in the rainy season. There is also drought and wildfire in mountainous areas on the outside of the district every year.

4. Do you consider climate change in your current planning for land use planning, agricultural management or forest management? If yes, please describe how.

He thinks that the offices or relevant sectors at the district, provincial, or central levels have already planned and considered climate change adaptation. Planning for land use and forest management depends on each sector's or relevant sectors' implementation. They have designated areas with abundant water resources and non-hilly areas for agricultural promotion, as well as funding for locals to raise livestock and promote cash crops for replacement in order to reduce deforestation for shifting cultivation.

Role in Forest Management and Climate Change Adaptation activities

5. What is your (office's/department's) role in forest management? (in Project 1 districts ask if there is a difference between before and now, or within the context of the project)

The role of the office in forest management is a priority as a center to mobilize people to avoid illegal deforestation. It also recommends and encourages people to replant in non-forest areas.

- They have participated in the implementation and consultation with relevant sectors in accordance with the project master plan and regulations of the Office of Agriculture and Forestry as the lead on implementation directly.

6. What is your office's role in climate change adaptation?

In the previous years, they have been implemented on the basis of mobilizing government sectors and private companies to participate in providing some fruit seedlings and natural seedlings for planting in designated areas of the district.

- Continue to implement according to the existing plan, as well as land management, forest protection, reforestation, and improving people's livelihoods.

- They have implemented in selected locations each year that are suited to improving the state of the area.

- Relevant sectors as well as all parts of the state in the district and residents joined together to plant trees in the forest and release fish, which they called National Arbor Day.

7. Does your office have the capacity to fulfil these roles? If no, what is needed?

He thinks that they have the capacity to fulfil these roles, but all they need is funding to develop and continue to implement the project activities.

8. Do you think forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters? And if yes, why?

He thinks that forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters as follows:

- If there is a forest cover, the climate will improve. For example, it will rain seasonally, and forest biodiversity will increase.

- It increases immunity to the normal environment and can protect ecosystems well.

- Forests absorb land surface well.

- Helps release oxygen

9. Are there other projects or initiatives (ongoing or planned) related to land rights/ registration/ tenure in the district?

There was a project that was probably a GIZ project that was used to create a draft of land management and forest protection plans, but the District Office of Natural Resources and Environment may be contacted for more details.

- The district and the relevant sectors of the government have already issued some land title deeds in the district for land rights.

- The next step is to consider and issue the land title deeds for people's agricultural land. In the past, the government has piloted the issuing of land titles to ethnic groups involved in agricultural production. The reason for issuing agricultural land title deeds is because they don't want problems with the use of agricultural land in the community and want to prevent conflicts on land uses.

Role of men and women in land use and agriculture

10. What are the roles of i) women and ii) men in forest and land use? (Please differentiate by, ethnicity, and vulnerable (= poor, disabled) groups where suitable.)

Women and men have equal access to the forest and land use.

10.1 In forest protection?

- For women: women are involved in implementing and are involved in making decisions on forest use and forest surveys. Women participated in the survey just as men did.

- Women know about forests better than men, but they are less involved and work on inspection less than men due to a number of factors, such as social and cultural knowledge, low education, and high family responsibilities.

- The role of women and men in forest and land use is less effective for ethnicity groups because there is still discrimination in some families because most women rely on men to make decisions.

- Vulnerable groups or poor households have the right to make decisions as well.

10.2 In agricultural production?

- Women have the same right to make decisions as men and be the primary labor force in agricultural production.

- Vulnerable groups or poor households have the right to make decisions as well, but they may be faced with shortages or insufficient factors for production.

10.3 In agri-business?

- For the district, women play a key role in making important decisions in practice agri-business or other businesses. Women in cities, for example, are more likely to start their own businesses and open their own stores or restaurants.

- Vulnerable groups and poor families also have the right to make decisions, but some poor families are less likely to express their decisions and some are unable to practice due to family economic problems and limited time.

- Women and men have equal rights in agri-business.

- *Ethnic groups also have equal rights in agri-business as other groups.*

11. How can women become more involved in forest and land use?

Women are more likely to be involved in forest and land use than men, especially to harvest some forest resources for consumption and sale in markets; women who live in remote areas have access to more details about the condition of the resources. In addition, women have shown a wide range of interest in protecting forests.

12. How can ethnic minority groups become more involved in forest and land use?

There are various ethnic groups in the district with different terms of culture and way of life, but it is a challenge to get involved in forest management due to the geographic location of the district. There are many villages located far from the main town, so these people groups may not understand the policy of protecting and managing forests as deeply as they should, or their participation in forest use may not be much.

13. Do you feel that women have the same access to benefits from forest resources as men?

Women and men have equal participation in decision-making, but the main decisions about agriculture, forest management, or other activities are often made by men.

13.1 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over forest resources?

Women and men have equal participation in decision-making and management over forest resources, but the main decisions about land use or forest resource management are often made by men and village authorities. Women can work just like men.

- *He said that ethnicity women in the district can do all kinds of work, whether it's hard work or simple work, and they do it better than men.*

13.2 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over agricultural activities?

Women and men have equal participation in decision-making and management of agricultural activities. They have discussed and shared responsibilities with each other, particularly the project activities that include female members of the committee. For example, 90% of women can participate in village-level water conservation zoning activities due to gender equality and to build the strength for women to participate in more equal work decisions with men. In the past, women were often exploited and used more than men.

14. Does the new forest law protect the rights of all community members equally?

The new forest law protects the rights of all community members equally.

14.1 Do you understand well the new Forest Law?

They have a good understanding of the new forest law.

14.2 Is there understanding of the new Forest Law at the village level?

In general, the relevant authorities have disseminated information to locals at the village level regularly, but it may not cover all areas, and the authorities are focusing on villages that face social problems more than others. They also have raised awareness about the application of forest law and regulations and women's empowerment as well. Many groups can understand well, but some don't understand because of a lack of educational skills, while the local language is still a communication problem.

15. Who is responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the district level? At village level?

The other government officials, especially the district's governor, have the primary responsibility of enforcing forestry law, which will also assign responsibility to each sector, while the village level will be assigned to the village authorities on law enforcement.

15.1 Are women specifically involved? (village)

Women are specifically involved in enforcing forest law.

15.2 What about members of ethnic communities? (village)

All Lao citizens have equal rights regardless of ethnicity or Lao, and ethnic communities are specifically involved in enforcing forest law.

15.3 How is coordination and cooperation between villages and DOFI/ POFI? (district)

There is coordination as well as data providing and monitoring between the villages and the district or the forest inspection sectors regularly. They sometimes coordinate by phone when some cases occur, such as illegal deforestation or other illegal activities against the law; the village will take legal action against the perpetrators. Initially, the village would educate the offenders, and there would be a fine if the second violation; if they are found to be a serious case, they would inform the Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

15.4 What are any risks or challenges they face related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

The one challenge they face related to forest law enforcement and forest protection is that some people still don't have other sustainable careers, so they practice shifting cultivation. There were also poor people who cut wood for sale, as well as building houses and using it as firewood. This is the main challenge in forest law enforcement.

- Some people don't understand the forest law and don't see the importance of protecting forests, and there is also a frequent occurrence of deforestation.

- People who are responsible for forest law enforcement and forest protection have concerns about coordinating or reporting challenges at the community level in the village because they are worried about their own safety if the issues that have reported are involved with illegal action. This is a challenge for local law enforcement.

16. What are the current challenges for Land Use Planning (LUP) as relates to:

16.1 Women?

There are no current challenges for LUP that relate to women.

16.2 Ethnic people?

Challenges in Land Use Planning for Ethnic Groups Sometimes it can be difficult because locals are relying on forests for their livelihoods while some families have practiced agricultural production in the production forest, such as rubber plantations.

16.3 The poorest members of communities?

The poorest members of communities have faced current challenges for LUP because some families do not have land for sustainable agricultural production, while some people have practiced agro-production in the production forest area and harvest some prohibited NTFPs to sell to merchants.

- Initially, some people may be dissatisfied with land allocation and forest management due to limited agricultural area and less space than before.

16.4 Land use conflicts?

In the past, some groups of people had disputes over land use in local communities; some had territorial disputes or encroached on each other's production areas; and this problem occurs regularly, especially for those who practice shifting cultivation. The district authorities need to meet with these people on occasion to resolve issues peacefully. If the village can't solve the problem, it will ask for help from other relevant sectors at the district level.

16.5 Issues with land allocation and titling?

In the past, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and relevant sectors have issued land title deeds to a number of people. Most permanent title deeds are specifically issued in the municipality of the district and only on residential land. while agricultural land is yet unable to issue permanent title deeds.

- The issue with land titling is that when the land tax has been informed, most people believe that if they pay the land tax, they automatically own the property.

16.6 Others?

There are no other current challenges for LUP.

17. There is ongoing work on a Provincial Deforestation Monitoring Systems, with systems in place in Houaphan, Xayaboury and Luang Prabang.

He said that their office does not yet have a deep understanding of whether or not the relevant sectors have implemented a Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System, but he believes that the District Agriculture and Forestry Office can provide information on this activity and this system.

17.1 How is this being implemented (if interviewing within these 3 provinces)?

The relevant offices, particularly the District of Agriculture and Forestry Office, may be able to provide information on this activity. He believes that the plan will involve all relevant sectors, including ethnic communities, as well as poor groups and vulnerable people to acknowledge the activities.

17.2 Who is involved? Please discuss the involvement of women, ethnic people, disabled persons, poor households, among others.

No have answer.

17.3 What are i) opportunities and ii) challenges/ barriers of the PDMS?

The opportunities and challenges of implementing PDMF systems are new knowledge and have not yet been fully realized.

18. Access to markets is important for supporting deforestation free agriculture. What challenges in accessing markets do villagers have?

People now have faced challenges in accessing markets due to farmers' being exploited by middlemen. While the market is uncertain about product support, there is no guarantee of price, and finally, the farmers have no right to bargain.

- Other challenges are that most farmers live in remote areas and that road access is inconvenient. Therefore, they find it difficult to get direct market access and often rely on middlemen to buy their products, and some are pressured to lower prices by middlemen. That means farmers are being taken advantage on justice.

18.1 Where possible differentiate between the challenges faced by:

18.1.1 Women and women-owned or -led businesses.

There are some challenges faced by women and women-owned or-led businesses, especially unfair price advantages and price pressure from middlemen.

18.1.2 Different ethnic groups.

There are some challenges faced by different ethnic groups, especially unfair price advantages and price pressure from middlemen.

18.1.3, Other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, among others).

Poor households are seen as being more exploited in ways such as taking advantage at the prices, trust, as well as fairness and education. Because the majority of vulnerable people are not well educated and they are honest.

Overall perspectives on the project:

19. What is your opinion of the ongoing I-GFLL project, do you think it is helping to reduce deforestation in the target provinces/ districts?

The ongoing I-GFLL project is helping to reduce deforestation in the target provinces, districts and villages.

19.1 Why or why not?

Because the I-GFLL project has plans for land allocation, as well as forest management and encouraging communities' livelihoods.

- One of the project's objectives is to promote poor households, as well as women and vulnerable people, with the goal of improving their livelihoods by reducing deforestation for shifting cultivation and switching to sustainable agriculture and livestock.

19.2 What other benefits has the project generated?

The project has generated benefits from the fact that once the project is successful in implementation, people will gradually reduce encroachment on the deforestation.

- People have stable careers, which can help to improve their livelihoods, while the project also generates benefits for districts and provinces, particularly the governments benefiting from the active involvement of technical staff in training to build their capacity.

19.3 Have you seen any barriers to participation in the project?

The barriers to participation in the project are the following:

- The first barrier is that the equipment is insufficient to meet the needs and may cause the work to not be completed fully.

- The second barrier is that there aren't enough vehicles to travel to work in order to disseminate information to locals. Therefore, he would like to propose a budget for vehicle maintenance, which is used to spread information to the public due to the difficulty and the villages are located far away from the town.

19.3.1 What are the challenges and ideas on how they can be overcome?

There are some challenges and ideas on how they can be overcome as followed:

- Communities in remote areas?

Communities in remote areas have faced challenges in travelling along the roads, particularly during the rainy season. There has sometimes been flooding from heavy rain or landslides over the roads, making travel difficult.

- Women, and female headed households?

Women and female-headed households have faced a number of challenges, including the absence of the primary laborer in their households.

- Landless households

Poor households have faced challenges due to a shortage of finance and labor. Even though authorities have allocated some agricultural land for them to practice cultivation together, there are still conflicts from time to time. Meanwhile, authorities have focused on funding solutions to support these poorest families.

- The most vulnerable members of communities.

No answer.

- Ethnic communities?

Ethnic communities may face challenges in using their local languages, which can lead to misunderstandings in communication.

20. Does your department/office feel that it currently has the technical capacity to support the project?

He thinks that their office currently has the technical capacity to support the project in need.

20.1 If not, please specify what areas specific capacity support is needed e.g. adaptation planning and mainstreaming, monitoring, etc.

Even if they have sufficient technical staff, they still lack training in project work, so they would like the project to organize training for the whole technical staff and organize training more often to develop skills and achieve the expected benefits. On the other hand, it would be nice if more employees were able to attend the project activities, so that when one of the employees is absent or is moved to another workplace, another employee may take the work instead. This is to ensure that work can continue and be efficient.

21. Do you feel that Gender equality is being practiced for project activities?

Gender equality is being practiced for project activities.

22. Do you feel that Social inclusion of men and women from diverse ethnic groups and vulnerable groups is taking place?

He thinks that this project is taking place to include men and women from diverse ethnic groups and vulnerable groups.

23. The I-GFLL project is being adapted for Phase 2, including a renewed focus on climate change. Are you aware of these changes?

He thinks he is aware of these changes due to the master plan and the purpose of the project that were presented this morning. He believes that if everyone can follow the plan, it will help to reduce deforestation as well as land allocation and forest management, which is one of the indicators of climate change.

24. As the project prepares to expand into new areas, what can be done to make the project more successful?

He wants the project to provide opportunities for technical staff in related fields to participate in training or activities.

25. Any other remarks:

25.1 On the project?

- The project in the past has been limited in the number of technical staff participating in the project activities and training. Therefore, more than one person from each sector should be allowed to participate in order to ensure that when one employee is absent or relocates to another workplace, the other employee will be able to work as a replacement for the old one. If there is no second plan, there will be issues for the new employee who will be replaced, and it may cause the work to fail.

- He suggested that success be prioritized in the promotion and use of funds to carry out this activity, particularly for the benefit of villages and districts. The potential of people and other environments needs to be assessed, including what should be improved and supported once the project is over?

- In the past, many projects in the implementation phase have performed well, with community cooperation and support from the project. The success of most operations is meager and sustainability is low. Most of the time, when the project is over, the activities are gone.

25.2 On challenges to women's participation?

There are no challenges to women's participation.

25.3 On ethnic participation?

There are no challenges on ethnic participation.

25.4 On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

Poor households or vulnerable individuals have the right to participate as well, and to provide priority opportunities for them.

26. Do you have any final comments or questions?

He wants the project to be efficient with funding, and he would like the project to have some project coordinators who work in this area. If relying on government officials to coordinate the field, there may be technical, knowledge, and skill issues that may not be relevant to project

- **220321D1 - Viengkham 2**

Office: District Agriculture and Forestry Office

District: Viengkham

Province: Luang Prabang

Date: 21/03/2022

Interview ID: LPB, Viengkham (2)

Surveyor's Name (s): Thammanoon

Changing environmental and climatic conditions

1. Have you noticed changes in the weather (temperature, rain levels, natural disasters)?

They said that they have ever noticed changes in the weather.

1.1 How has (changed or bad weather) this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems?

Non-seasonal rainfall, and droughts.

- People's livelihoods: non-seasonal rainfall has resulted in rotting crops during harvest, as well as outbreaks of animal disease and pest infestations, posing a threat to livelihoods.

- Ecosystems: The water level in rivers has changed, as has the weather, as a result of deforestation to plant grass for raising animals.

1.2 Are some groups and households in your district more vulnerable to natural disasters, floods, and/or drought?

Some groups and households in the district are more vulnerable to natural disasters, especially those who built houses along the river bank, which are facing a high risk of landslides.

1.3 Who is particularly vulnerable and why?

Locals are particularly vulnerable because it affects them in all areas, depending on how strongly they are affected.

2. Have you noticed changes in forest areas in your district, and how does this affect local livelihoods?

They have noticed changes, such as the Mekong River is dwindling and non-timber forest products are insufficient to meet the needs of the people.

3. Have you noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards (e.g. floods, drought, landslides)? If yes, please describe.

They said they have noticed, especially since landslides hit people's homes two years ago due to deforestation in nearby areas, while the Mekong River has significantly reduced due to deforestation for agriculture.

3.1 Have these trends changed in the last 5, 15 or 30 years? Please describe how.

These trends have changed in the last two years, such as non-seasonal rainfall and landslides hitting people's homes, which has never happened before.

4. Do you consider climate change in your current planning for land use planning, agricultural management or forest management? If yes, please describe how.

They said yes. The team has tried to encourage people to practice agricultural production without deforestation in the forest allocated. All of the work mentioned above has considered climate change in accordance with forest management, especially the land use planning team.

Role in Forest Management and Climate Change Adaptation activities

5. What is your (office's/department's) role in forest management? (in Project 1 districts ask if there is a difference between before and now, or within the context of the project)

- Before: According to forest management regulations, they have identified the types of forests, but there is no create clear mapping due to budget limitations.

Authorities have issued regulation to control forest burning, but this cannot be done in all areas due to a lack of budget.

The zoning land plot has not been implemented due of budget constraints.

- Project duration: They are implementing project activities in some 13 target villages, spending project budgets efficiently.

6. What is your office's role in climate change adaptation?

- There is adaptation, such as support for grass planting without deforestation, and each grazing area must have at least 20% of trees.

- Roadside deforestation is prohibited in order to prevent landslides.

- Encouraged the cultivation of trees along the creek banks.

7. Does your office have the capacity to fulfil these roles? If no, what is needed?

The offices have the capacity to fulfil these roles, but there are still some things that are insufficient, such as a lack of funds to spend on disseminating jobs.

There is a lack of funding to support those who want to practice agricultural production to avoid deforestation.

There is a lack of funding to encourage people to improve their livelihoods technically and provide some seedlings of fruit trees.

8. Do you think forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters? And if yes, why?

They said yes, if people can manage the forest well, the weather will be better, while the temperature will not be higher or it can be constant, as well as seasonal rainfall, and landslides will not occur as often.

9. Are there other projects or initiatives (ongoing or planned) related to land rights/ registration/ tenure in the district?

There are not any projects related to land rights/registration/tenure in the district.

Role of men and women in land use and agriculture

10. What are the roles of i) women and ii) men in forest and land use? (Please differentiate by, ethnicity, and vulnerable (= poor, disabled) groups where suitable.)

The role of women is increasing in forest use, but land use still depends mainly on men.

Women's roles in forest use include harvesting some non-timber forest products for consumption, cooking, or sale, and these products are primarily harvested in the forest by women.

10.1 In forest protection?

They have equal rights in forest protection

10.2 In agricultural production?

Females have less rights in agricultural production

10.3 In agri-business?

Females have less rights in agri-business

11. How can women become more involved in forest and land use?

Women are involved in forest and land use equally.

12. How can ethnic minority groups become more involved in forest and land use?

Ethnic minority groups are involved in forest and land use equally.

13. Do you feel that women have the same access to benefits from forest resources as men?

Women have equal access to the benefits of forest resources as men.

13.1 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over forest resources?

Men have more participation in decision-making than women.

13.2 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over agricultural activities?

Men have more participation in decision-making than women.

14. Does the new forest law protect the rights of all community members equally?

The new forest law protects the rights of all community members equally.

14.1 Do you understand well the new Forest Law?

The forest inspection sector and forestry sectors understand the new forest law by about 70 percent, while other sectors understand it by less than 50 percent.

14.2 Is there understanding of the new Forest Law at the village level?

There is understanding of the new forest law of 20 to 30 percent at the village level.

15. Who is responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the district level? At village level?

District level: Justice sectors.

Village level: Village authorities.

15.1 Are women specifically involved? (village)

Women are specifically involved.

15.2 What about members of ethnic communities? (village)

Members of ethnic communities are specifically involved.

15.3 How is coordination and cooperation between villages and DOFI/ POFI? (district)

There is coordination and cooperation between villages and DOFI/POFI by phone and letters.

15.4 What are any risks or challenges they face related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

They are unable to comply with the law 100% because they do not have the specific staff to work on this and the information is also not clear enough.

16. What are the current challenges for Land Use Planning (LUP) as relates to:

16.1 Women?

There are several current challenges for land use planning as it relates to some women because it is a new task for them, and they require further training.

16.2 Ethnic people?

There are no current challenges for land use planning as related to ethnic people.

16.3 The poorest members of communities?

There are several current challenges for land use planning as related to the poorest members of communities because they are dependent on nature or land plots for their livelihoods. For example, if they need some money, they must sell their land and continue to clear the new land.

16.4 Land use conflicts?

There are current challenges for LUP that relate to land use conflicts and they remain unable to address them in the present.

16.5 Issues with land allocation and titling?

There are some issues with land allocation and titling due to the District Natural Resource and Environment Office issuing the land title deed instead of the personnel who have worked on the field. Therefore, there were some overlapping land document issues.

16.6 Others?

No answer.

17. There is ongoing work on a Provincial Deforestation Monitoring Systems, with systems in place in Houaphan, Xayaboury and Luang Prabang.

17.1 How is this being implemented (if interviewing within these 3 provinces)?

No answer.

17.2 Who is involved? Please discuss the involvement of women, ethnic people, disabled persons, poor households, among others.

No answer.

17.3 What are i) opportunities and ii) challenges/ barriers of the PDMS?

They are not implementing any activity due to the fact that they have just completed the training, and the team also does not have any representative to participate in any consultant process.

18. Access to markets is important for supporting deforestation free agriculture. What challenges in accessing markets do villagers have?

The main challenges in accessing markets that villagers have include the pressure on prices by middlemen and the low quality of products.

18.1 Where possible differentiate between the challenges faced by:

- 1, Women and women-owned or -led businesses.
- 2, Different ethnic groups.
- 3, Other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, among others).

All groups have faced the same challenges.

Overall perspectives on the project

19. What is your opinion of the ongoing I-GFL project, do you think it is helping to reduce deforestation in the target provinces/ districts?

They said that it is helping to reduce deforestation.

19.1 Why or why not?

Because they have implemented forest management and they also monitor sometime.

19.2 What other benefits has the project generated?

- *Locals benefit from sustainable agricultural production by avoiding deforestation.*
- *The project has generated a stable career for locals.*
- *It helps to reduce deforestation because villagers have a stable career.*

19.3 Have you seen any barriers to participation in the project?

They have not seen any barriers.

19.3.1 What are the challenges and ideas on how they can be overcome?

- Communities in remote areas?

Communities in remote areas have faced challenges in accessing electricity, so they want some electric generators.

- Ethnic communities?

No have

- Women, and female headed households?

No have

- Landless households

Landless households have experienced challenges because they continue to seek to encroach on the forest. The majority of these people are slackers and drug addicts. As a result, in the following phase, the village authorities will assist in resolving the issue.

- The most vulnerable members of communities.

The most vulnerable members of communities have experienced challenges, depending on the village authorities.

20. Does your department/office feel that it currently has the technical capacity to support the project?

Their department/office feels that it currently has insufficient technical capacity to support the project.

20.1 If not, please specify what areas specific capacity support is needed e.g. adaptation planning and mainstreaming, monitoring, etc.

- *Specialized Academics*
- *QGIS*
- *General IT*

- M&E
- Planning

21. Do you feel that Gender equality is being practiced for project activities?

Gender equality has always been practiced for project activities.

22. Do you feel that Social inclusion of men and women from diverse ethnic groups and vulnerable groups is taking place?

Social inclusion of men and women from diverse ethnic groups and vulnerable groups is taking place.

23. The I-GFLL project is being adapted for Phase 2, including a renewed focus on climate change. Are you aware of these changes?

They said that they don't know.

24. As the project prepares to expand into new areas, what can be done to make the project more successful?

No have

25. Any other remarks:

25.1 On the project?

Additional equipment and vehicles are required.

25.2 On challenges to women's participation?

The Lao Women's Union must participate in all activities to talk about gender tasks.

25.3 On ethnic participation?

All ethnic groups participated very well.

25.4 On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

It is still difficult to resolve due to shortages of land and labor.

26. Do you have any final comments or questions?

They said they faced a shortage of equipment for project implementation, such as:

- *They want 4 GPS devices.*
- *2 computers.*
- *2 motorcycles.*

They said it would be nice if the project was able to provide all the equipment they needed as mentioned above.

- **220321D1 - Viengkham 3**

Office interview groups: District Lao Front for National Development Office, District Natural Resources and Environment Office, District Lao Women's Union Office (LWU).

District: Viengkham

Province: Luang Prabang

Date: 21/03/2022

Interview ID: LPB, Viengkham-3

Surveyor's Name (s): Sing and Kong Lor

Changing environmental and climatic conditions

1. Have you noticed changes in the weather (temperature, rain levels, natural disasters)?

They said that they have ever noticed changes in the weather.

1.1 How has (changed or bad weather) this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems?

Two of them said that if there was no rain, there would be droughts and non-seasonal rainfall, causing dehydrated crops to wither and die, while one person said that there are a lot of pests that destroy people's crops, such as locusts, caterpillars, and rats. In addition, during the past 2 or 3 years, there have been floods that have damaged crops.

1.2 Are some groups and households in your district more vulnerable to natural disasters, floods, and/or drought?

People who build houses or live near roads are at a higher risk because the road is near the mountain. When it rains, landslides often occur, which affect roads and people's houses.

1.3 Who is particularly vulnerable and why?

The poor people are particularly vulnerable, especially those who practice agricultural production like rice cultivation, due to droughts. When there is heavy rain, landslides also occur, with effects on roads, houses, and people's agricultural areas.

2. Have you noticed changes in forest areas in your district, and how does this affect local livelihoods?

They have noticed changes in forest areas in the district that affect local livelihoods, particularly people face harder time harvesting some NTFPs because forest resources are decreased.

3. Have you noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards (e.g. floods, drought, landslides)? If yes, please describe.

They have noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards. For example, there was plenty of water resources in the past, but now water supplies are scarce and insufficient for use in agricultural production.

3.1 Have these trends changed in the last 5, 15 or 30 years? Please describe how.

They said that these trends have changed similar to the last 5 years, especially as people face more difficulty in their livelihoods due to climate change. The weather gets cooler in winter and hotter in summer, and the number of pests also increases.

4. Do you consider climate change in your current planning for land use planning, agricultural management or forest management? If yes, please describe how.

They have considered climate change in your current planning for land use planning, agricultural management, or forest management. Protected areas must be managed according to laws and regulations, and some areas must be designated as protected.

Role in Forest Management and Climate Change Adaptation activities

5. What is your (office's/department's) role in forest management? (in Project 1 districts ask if there is a difference between before and now, or within the context of the project)

They said that there are differences in the role of participation because only men were involved previously, but now more women are involved.

- *The role of the District Natural Resources and Environment Office in forest management is to disseminate information to improve people's understanding of forest protection as well as raise awareness of sustainable forest management in order to ensure that forest resources are available and comfortable for people to access.*
- *The role of the Lao Women's Union Office in forest management is to educate people about participation in forest management.*
- *The role of the District Lao Front for the National Development Office in forest management is to raise awareness of forest management to locals in each village, because forests are important and beneficial to people's livelihoods.*

6. What is your office's role in climate change adaptation?

Their office plays a role in climate change adaptation, such as educating people on how to manage, as well as protecting forests and planting trees to replace them.

7. Does your office have the capacity to fulfil these roles? If no, what is needed?

Their office has the capacity to fulfil these roles, but they need to ask for funding for people to plant replacement trees and planning for people to plant fruit trees.

8. Do you think forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters? And if yes, why?

Forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters because it helps to improve a good climate, plenty of water resources for consumption, and clean air without pollution, while living and working conditions are as comfortable as ever.

9. Are there other projects or initiatives (ongoing or planned) related to land rights/ registration/ tenure in the district?

There are not any projects related to land rights/registration/tenure in Viengkham district.

Role of men and women in land use and agriculture

10. What are the roles of i) women and ii) men in forest and land use? (Please differentiate by, ethnicity, and vulnerable (= poor, disabled) groups where suitable.)

The roles of men and women in forest and land use are the same, with no discrimination based on people groups or ethnicity, because the Lao Women's Unions have disseminated gender to locals.

10.1 In forest protection?

They have equal rights in forest protection

10.2 In agricultural production?

They have equal rights in agricultural production

10.3 In agri-business?

They have equal rights in agri-business, but it depends on labor and the budget

11. How can women become more involved in forest and land use?

They said that women can become more involved in forest and land use than men in about 80% of each community.

12. How can ethnic minority groups become more involved in forest and land use?

Ethnic minority groups can be involved in forest and land use, but most men can become more involved than women.

13. Do you feel that women have the same access to benefits from forest resources as men?

They feel that women have the same access to benefits from forest resources as men.

13.1 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over forest resources?

They said that men and women have equal participation in decision-making and management over forest resources because they have discussed and made decisions together as well as expressed their opinions equally, sharing responsibilities with each other in each activity.

13.2 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over agricultural activities?

They said that men and women have equal participation in decision-making and management over agricultural activities because they have discussed and made decisions together as well as expressed their opinions equally, sharing responsibilities with each other in each activity.

14. Does the new forest law protect the rights of all community members equally?

The new forest law protects the rights of all community members equally.

14.1 Do you understand well the new Forest Law?

They did not understand the new forest law well.

14.2 Is there understanding of the new Forest Law at the village level?

Not everyone understands the new forest law.

15. Who is responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the district level? At village level?

- *The District Agriculture and Forestry Office is responsible for enforcing forestry law and providing forestry protection at the district level.*
- *The village agriculture and forestry sectors are responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the village level.*

15.1 Are women specifically involved? (village)

Women are specifically involved in forest law enforcement at the village level.

15.2 What about members of ethnic communities? (village)

Members of ethnic communities are specifically involved in forest law enforcement at the village level.

15.3 How is coordination and cooperation between villages and DOFI/ POFI? (district)

The coordination between villages and DOFI and POFI will be issued by the province and sent to the districts, and if there is an urgent need, they will call to inform directly.

15.4 What are any risks or challenges they face related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

The risks and challenges they face or face related to forest law enforcement and forest protection are many. Although people have participated in listening to forest law dissemination, they do not fully understand, or even most of them understand, some people have failed to comply with the law by deforestation. Some residents in Phalao Village, for example, are still concerned about the invasion of protected areas.

16. What are the current challenges for Land Use Planning (LUP) as relates to:

16.1 Women?

There are no current challenges for land use planning as related to women.

16.2 Ethnic people?

There are no current challenges for land use planning as related to ethnic people.

16.3 The poorest members of communities?

There are no current challenges for land use planning as related to the poorest members of communities.

16.4 Land use conflicts?

There are current challenges for land use planning as related to land use conflicts, such as marital property and separate property, that some people still do not understand what it means. There are also marked boundaries by creating concrete pillars to occupy other people's lands, and these have become challenges that are unable to be solved.

16.5 Issues with land allocation and titling?

There are current challenges for land use planning as related to issues with land allocation and titling because many people want to include both names of a couple on the land title deeds, even though the land will be separate property that is occupied by the wife or husband and unable to be named by both.

16.6 Others?

There are no other current challenges for land use planning.

17. There is ongoing work on a Provincial Deforestation Monitoring Systems, with systems in place in Houaphan, Xayaboury and Luang Prabang.

17.1 How is this being implemented (if interviewing within these 3 provinces)?

It is not yet being implemented.

17.2 Who is involved? Please discuss the involvement of women, ethnic people, disabled persons, poor households, among others.

They are unknown yet.

17.3 What are i) opportunities and ii) challenges/ barriers of the PDMS?

They are unknown yet.

18. Access to markets is important for supporting deforestation free agriculture. What challenges in accessing markets do villagers have?

They said that the challenge for villagers in accessing markets is price pressure by middlemen. The district is located far away from other districts, and people don't have their own vehicles to transport their products for sale, so there are middlemen to buy their products for resale at higher prices than they buy them from them.

18.1 Where possible differentiate between the challenges faced by:

- 1, Women and women-owned or -led businesses.

Women owned businesses have faced difficulties. For example, as seen in the past, one husband's family died and the entire business went bankrupt.

- 2, Different ethnic groups.

Ethnic communities feel embarrassed to express themselves, and their spoken language is difficult to comprehend.

- 3, Other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, among others).

Vulnerable households lack vehicles to transport their products for sale, or they want to practice livestock raising but can't find the funds to do so.

Overall perspectives on the project:

19. What is your opinion of the ongoing I-GFLL project, do you think it is helping to reduce deforestation in the target provinces/ districts?

They think that the ongoing I-GFLL project is able to help reduce deforestation in the target provinces and districts.

19.1 Why or why not?

Because of the I-GFLL project, forest types are being reviewed, regulations for village forest management are being developed, and people are being assigned to practice agricultural production in one location.

19.2 What other benefits has the project generated?

This project has generated several benefits, such as providing funding for agricultural seeds and providing financing for cultivating and animal husbandry.

19.3 Have you seen any barriers to participation in the project?

The barriers to participation in the project, include: there are no vehicles for teams to work in the field, and they mostly use their own vehicles, but the long distance makes travelling difficult, especially since they don't have budget to repair their vehicles when they get damaged; while teams to work in the field are unable to access electricity, as well as lack of LCD and power generators. The district level faces a shortage of computers and printers, so they need assistance from the project if possible.

19.3.1 What are the challenges and ideas on how they can be overcome?

The challenges and ideas on how they can be overcome include: they have used photo posters to show locals to understand, especially in the villages that are unable to access electricity, and they are required to rent buggies to travel to the target villages during the rainy season because the road is poor. They also rent some power generators and there is only one GPS in the district.

- Communities in remote areas?

The challenge was that it was hard to understand the locals' language and the village chief needed to explain or translate.

- Ethnic communities?

The challenge was that it was hard to understand the locals' language and the village chief needed to explain or translate.

- Women, and female headed households?

There are no challenges for women, and female headed households.

- Landless households

The relevant sectors will have a way to advise them on leasing other people's land for agricultural production in order to provide families with income.

- The most vulnerable members of communities.

There are no challenges for the most vulnerable members of communities.

20. Does your department/office feel that it currently has the technical capacity to support the project?

He feels that their office currently has the technical capacity to support the project.

20.1 If not, please specify what areas specific capacity support is needed e.g. adaptation planning and mainstreaming, monitoring, etc.

There is no answer.

21. Do you feel that Gender equality is being practiced for project activities?

Gender equality has always been practiced for project activities.

22. Do you feel that Social inclusion of men and women from diverse ethnic groups and vulnerable groups is taking place?

They said that Social inclusion of men and women from diverse ethnic groups and vulnerable groups is taking place.

23. The I-GFLL project is being adapted for Phase 2, including a renewed focus on climate change. Are you aware of these changes?

He said that he is not aware of these changes.

24. As the project prepares to expand into new areas, what can be done to make the project more successful?

While the project is preparing to expand into new areas, he would like to see villages, as well as districts and provinces, accept the project. He also wants the project to disseminate information about the benefits of forests and make people aware of the advantages and disadvantages of the project.

25. Any other remarks:

25.1 On the project?

- *There should be an exchange of opinions as well as additional training on some of the project activities to be implemented or training to be organized in the villages and districts about the project activities.*
- *He would like to ask for motorcycles, as well as power generators, and he wants some cars, if possible, because requesting to use cars from the agriculture office requires a lot of paperwork.*

25.2 On challenges to women's participation?

They want women to be more involved than men.

25.3 On ethnic participation?

Ethnic participation is communication in a language that is not understood.

25.4 On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

He wants these groups to participate and wants them to get funding to improve their lives.

26. Do you have any final comments or questions?

If the project can meet the above requirements, it will be good for their office.

B. Village level: Donekhoun

• 220321V1 - DoneKhoun 1

Village name: DoneKhoun
District: Viengkham District
Province: Luang Prabang Province
Interview: Interview group of Village authorities.
Interview by: Khamphao, 21/03/2022
Interview ID: DoneKhoun (1)

Village demographic & forest/land governance questions (For village leadership group only)

1. What is the village population?

DoneKhoun Village has a population of 318 people.

2. Number of Women?

There are 157 females, 53 households and 58 families.

3. Different ethnic groups present in the village? (And numbers)

There is only one ethnic group like Khmu in the village.

4. What kind of forest resources does the village have?

According to the village chief, there are four types of forests in the village, such as the used forest, protection forest, production forest, and conservation forest.

5. How long has it been in place?

The village was allocated land and forests in 2022.

6. How is forest resource management coordinated between the district and the village?

Coordination has occurred on a regular basis between the village and the district, particularly in the agriculture and forestry sectors, and the relevant authorities in disseminating various policies regarding land use. The district authorities have allocated both land and forest areas and have assigned each kind of forest boundary to residents' acknowledgment in the previous months. They sometimes publish the regulations as well as the forest law. In general, the district has coordinated with the village, for example, issuing the notice on prohibiting deforestation and burning forest. If anyone has failed to comply with the notice, the district has assigned the village to take action.

7. What are the challenges related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

The village has faced challenges related to forest law enforcement. The first challenge is that because of the poverty of the people, most of them rely on forests to make a living, such as slash and burn agriculture and harvesting some NTFPs for consumption and sale to earn money for their families. Meanwhile,

practicing slash and burn forest for shifting cultivation or harvesting some NTFPs is against the law and it is difficult to forest law enforcement. The second challenge is that the public perception of the law is not as good as it could be.

8. How are decisions made about forest and land management?

Forest and land management depend on socio-economic development plans and sustainable livelihood improvement plans, such as the reduction of slash and burn forest for shifting cultivation and switching to settled cultivation for sustainable agriculture.

- The agricultural and residential land management in this village depends on the terrain of the village and the decisions or resolutions of the people and the law on forest and land management.

9. Are these decisions made in village meetings, or by village committee?

Usually, if there is an activity, whether it is a government activity or any project, the village will hold a village meeting to discuss and agree before beginning on implementation.

10. Are women involved in these decisions?

Women have the right to be involved in discussions, make decisions, and present their work equally to men.

11. One of the project goals is to help women and the poorest and most vulnerable villagers to take part in making decisions about forest and land resources. Is this possible?

It is possible for the project goals to be to help women and the poorest and most vulnerable villagers to take part in making decisions about forest and land resources.

12. What are the barriers to participation?

Most of them had no barriers to participation, but there are still some groups that may have difficulty participating in the project, such as elderly families who do not have a primary labor force, as well as poor families with many children and landless for agricultural production. These people were hired to work on slash and burn agriculture or construction in the towns, or some people have harvested NTFPs for sale for their survival, all of which can be barriers to implementing project.

13. Does the village benefit from commercialization of sustainably managed village forests?

The village will benefit from the commercialization of sustainably managed village forests because the forest has been protected, resulting in an improvement in the climate as well as an increase in a wide variety of small and large animals, more forest products, and biodiversity, while agricultural production will be sustainable due to the lack of deforestation.

- There are many benefits for the villagers when the forest is fertile. For example, locals are able to harvest some non-timber forest products for sale, and they will have money. In addition to selling non-timber forest

products, people also use bamboo to make handicrafts, such as baskets, sticky rice baskets, and mats, among others.

14. How are forest products distributed within the village? Are people satisfied with the forest product distribution system?

Forest products that villagers harvest from the forest include seasonal plants; wood; bamboo; firewood; rattan; tiger grass; cardamoms; bamboo shoots; mushrooms; herbs; wild vegetables; and terrestrial or aquatic animals, such as birds, rats, crabs, fishes, and insects. These are all products that can be sold in the market or used for household consumption.

- People are satisfied with the forest product distribution system.

15. How are complaints about land or forest management systems dealt with?

In the past, when technical officials from the agriculture and forestry office have worked on land and forest management in the village, locals have asked for permission if they were able to use bamboo and membranous bamboo in this forest because some of the bamboo has been kept as private property for a long time.

- However, the authorities who are responsible for zoning land and forest have not yet responded to the people's request till now.

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

The main occupation of the villagers is practicing agricultural production, especially upland rice cultivation and animal husbandry for their livelihoods, while some people make handicrafts, such as make sticky rice baskets, baskets, mats, and weaving, for use within their families or sale.

- Besides practicing agricultural production, men who have skills are able to search for jobs in construction or work as laborers within the village or other places, depending on the condition of each individual.

- Most women go into the forest to harvest some tiger grass, bamboo shoots, and natural vegetables for sale in markets, and they also produce some handicrafts, such as making wooden mats to use for themselves.

- This village has only one ethnic group, so the lifestyles as well as the living conditions are the same.

- Poor people and elderly families without children have lived like everyone else, and the village has given priority on policy rights to these groups more than others. For example, if there is any activity that involves

collecting large amounts of money from locals in the village, then the village has a policy of not collecting the full amount like other individuals in the village. If there is any project, whether government or individual, to donate things to the people, the village authorities will discuss giving priority to these groups. Or if there is working together at the village level, the village will have a policy to allow elderly families or people with disabilities to stay at home.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

In this village, rice is the main crop for cultivation, followed by corn, millets, chilies, beans, sesames, cucumbers, and other crops.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

There are about 10 households in the village that face rice insufficiency for 4 months a year. These people have tried to survive by harvesting some NTFPs for sale or exchanging rice with others, while some people are hired to work on slash and burn agriculture or work as laborers to construct houses for other villagers to earn money to buy rice.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

Some crops are commercially cultivated, such as cassava, corn, millets, sesames, cardamoms, and tiger grass.

2.4 What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.).

The main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production are a lack of agricultural land; most areas are mountainous and suitable only for upland cultivation, while shifting cultivation has rotated in the old areas. Soil conditions now deteriorate dramatically, resulting in reduced yields each year. The climate has also changed. There is heavy rain or plenty of rainfall some years, but some years there are droughts and strong winds, and landslides also impact people's crops. These result in poor yields and problems with pests that destroy people's crops, such as birds, rats, and caterpillars.

- It is convenient to access the markets because the village is not far from the town. Villagers can sell their products at their homes because middlemen come to buy them in the village.

- The influence of other changes is that sometimes middlemen have pressed the prices when they buy villagers' products, as well as to take advantage and be unfair. He said that if people wish to sell their products in a place where they can get reasonable prices, but they face challenges on transportation due to their lack of vehicles, or they may be unable to avoid inspection by authorities if they transport their

products to sell to other people or other districts, because if the tax officials find their products, they will be fined or not allowed to travel, and these cases have already happened to many people.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

Farmers get information about agricultural crop cultivation from middlemen, friends, and markets.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

The road is inconvenient and a long distance, while people also face challenges with transporting their products. Because they don't have their own vehicles, they have to hire someone else to transport them, which will increase the cost; if sold to the middlemen in the village, they also buy them at lower prices than the markets.

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

In the agricultural production between women and men in this village, men are an important part of the main decision-making process in agricultural production or other businesses in which men tend to be managers. Women often go into the forest to harvest non-timber forest products for sale.

- Vulnerable groups or poor families can also practice agricultural production as well. If they are landless for agriculture or have a shortage of labor, they are hired to work on slash and burn agriculture or other seasonal work.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

Villagers practice shifting cultivation to plant rice and corn. The change in the rotation period is for 5 years of shifting cultivation before people have returned to cultivating in the same area again, but only once due to changes in soil quality and deteriorating, which makes the yields less effective each year. If they experience drought some years, it will cause even lower yields.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals? Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health? Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying? Where do they access these materials?

The village chief said that the farmers did not use any agrochemicals and did not use any pesticides, but they were planting naturally.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

The agriculture and forestry sectors have provided information and planting methods to adapt to climate change, as well as advising and finding plant varieties for farmers to experiment with cultivating to make sure if they suit the soil conditions. Villagers also learned from other people or from other villages,

especially those who were successful in agricultural production. They followed their lead, such as growing sesame and cardamom, etc.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

People did not practice agroforestry in this village.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

They have attended agricultural training and learned on how to sow seeds and maintain methods from the District Agriculture and Forestry Office in 2021.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

Villagers have often shared ideas and thoughts. For example, during the pre-planting period, they discussed what sorts of rice and crops they should plant this year to adjust to the weather conditions and what crops to cultivate for excellent yields, or what crops they should plant in order to meet the market demand.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

There are various forests surrounding the village, such as the village forest, the conservation forest, the protection forest and the production forest.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

Each species of forest is beneficial because it helps to cover the area that is green. Forests have been the food source of locals for a long time. If there is a rich forest, people may utilize it. For example, bamboo, cardamoms, and tiger grass can be used in handicrafts to generate more income for the communities.

- They said that nobody is allowed to engage in any activity or invade the protected areas.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

Forests are now dwindling due to long-term human deforestation, and droughts and wildfires are increasing every year. It affects the growth of forests and plant species. He thinks everything, whether it's non-timber forest products or forest resources, is insufficient to meet people's needs.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

Women are more likely to enter the forest than men to harvest non-timber forest products for sale and consumption. Non-timber forest products include firewood, bamboo for making handicrafts, bamboo shoots, vegetables, rattan, Boon shoots, cardamom, and tiger grass for sale and consumption like men.

- *Most of the men worked hard, looking for wood to build houses, fences, fish, and hunt some unprotected wildlife such as rats, frogs, squirrels, fishing, and birds.*
- *The NTFPs mentioned above have changed a lot from the previous years. While the number of animals is reduced and very rare, such as birds and squirrels, which were plentiful in the past, it is now rather hard to see them. The number of fishes has also decreased, and some species are extinct.*
- *This village has only one ethnic group, so the lifestyle is the same.*

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them? Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

The main products they harvest, as mentioned above, or the whole available forest resources, benefit the community's livelihoods. For example, tiger grass can be harvested to be sold to the merchants, while bamboo can be used to make handicrafts, good wood can build houses, and bamboo shoots can be used as people's food.

- *Forest products that used to exist in the past have changed from the original conditions, such as trees, have decreased, while some NTFPs, as well as terrestrial and aquatic animals, have also been lost or extinct.*

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are no differences in the use of forest resources between ethnic groups.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

They have managed forest resources, especially through monitoring and patrolling of the village forestry team and district forestry when they find forest encroachment or when someone is illegally deforesting; if a forest fire occurs, both forestry authorities and locals will help to extinguish it.

- *The villagers have paid their attention to being cautious; if a forest fire occurs, they must build the firebreaks to prevent the fire spread and inform the relevant authorities.*
- *Women and men are involved in forest protection and management as well, especially to help keep an eye and monitor when there is an incident, then inform the head of the village. Women, for example, tend to go into the forest to harvest non-timber forest products, and if they see signs of deforestation or forest fires, they will notify the villagers or village head.*

3.5.1 How are women and men involved in forest protection and management? Are there differences in the roles of men and women? What are challenges they face? Do they have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

- *There are no differences in the roles of men and women, but the main difference is that men can work hard.*

- *The challenges they face include deforestation and forest fires. People will help each other to build firebreaks when a forest fire occurs to prevent the fire from spreading.*
- *To overcome these challenges, village authorities will initially inform the villagers that there has been a forest fire or deforestation in the village. Therefore, all villagers must be cautious and keep an eye for safety; if the offender is known, they will be taken for educated and issued a warning or fined according to forest management regulations.*

3.5.2 What about members of ethnic communities?

- *Members of ethnic communities are involved in forest protection and management equally because there is only one ethnic group in the village.*
- *There is no difference in the role of ethnic groups.*
- *They have no problem dealing with it.*

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

The poorest families benefit from village forest management by participating in the project's planned activities, but the project has not yet been implemented.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing). If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

He thinks that the small number of the village members is more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use, especially those who have practiced traditional agriculture for a long time. For example, people who conserved some membranous bamboos and tiger grass naturally a long time ago or who own grazing areas. In the past, the village authorities had asked the relevant authorities when they worked in land management to consider if it was possible for those who had ever conserved these plants in the areas mentioned above to own these places due to the fact that they had protected them for a long time. Meanwhile, the government sectors have yet to respond to the request they submitted.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

The village already has a land-use plan and forest management.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

Most of the conflicts between families and families in the village are regarding agricultural land and grazing areas. While each family has expanded their fence to cover other land because the lands do not have title deeds to mark the correct border, the majority of agricultural areas along by the locals are the

original land, and they use it as traditional. Some land lots simply mark the border by using the creeks as well as large trees or anthills to block it. When the large trees were cut down, or anthills gone, there was a problem with boundary memory, which led to conflicts between adjoining landowners.

- To resolve these conflicts, the village head has invited the conflicting families to meet and talk; if the issue cannot be resolved at the village level, it will be forwarded to the relevant government sectors to address and educate these people on land use.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land use within the village, but women are more likely to go to the forest to harvest some wild vegetables than men, while men go to the forest to hunt, or find wood to build the house, but infrequently.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

Men and women from different ethnic groups have equal access to land use within the village.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

Villagers can easily access land within the village boundaries due to everyone's having their own land and they all have the right to use the land, except the protected areas.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

They have noticed climate change dramatically compared to the previous years.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

They have noticed changes, such as the temperature is higher, non-seasonal rainfall, with occasional heavy rains causing landslides that hit the roads and agricultural areas, and some roads were eroded by water. Meanwhile, some areas face severe drought, making it difficult to practice agricultural production; while it is extremely hot during the summer season, the winter is too cool.

- When it rains, there are often strong winds and lightning. Sometimes it is extremely hot and becomes extremely dry, and subsequent wildfires occur each year.

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

The forest has changed, especially since the number of forests is dwindling, and what was once a great forest has become a bald mountain, while the forests that used to have bamboo no longer exist. Most replacement plants are prickly grasses and vines, and some places have no plants at all, leaving the ground empty. Droughts occur every year due to low rainfall.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

The agricultural land is deteriorated and unable to produce good yields, probably because the soil is very hard and dry. They notice that the productivity is decreasing every year. It may be due to climate change, which affects agricultural productivity, resulting in reduced yields and rice insufficiency.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

The communities have experienced natural disasters such as landslides that have hit roads and damaged people's crops, especially the crops that have not yet been harvested. When landslides hit roads, it makes it difficult for communities to travel.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

Compared to the last 5–10 years, not much has changed, while landslides or droughts now occur as before but are not as severe. When it rains, there is often wind and lightning in this mountainous area.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

It has affected people's livelihoods and ecosystems as people's lives become more difficult, the crops are severely damaged and low yields result in insufficient rice. It also affects ecosystems as a result of degraded soil, forests being destroyed, some creeks having their negative changed, water sources drying up, and a loss of forest balance.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).

All members of the community or other individuals are particularly impacted by these disasters.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)

Villages usually do not have any other activities or methods related to preparing for natural disasters. The village authorities have only advised and announced through the loudspeakers of the village to warn locals to be more cautious. The drought has only been warned to be cautious when using both indoor and outdoor fires.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?

The district and village have implemented it independently with support from the district level.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

The main cause of deforestation is shifting cultivation, while some people are landless for sustainable agricultural production, plus family economic problems and poverty.

- Because there is no agricultural land for people who have just moved to live in the village, and the newly married couples have cut down trees to build their homes.

- Some merchants and capitalists have taken advantage of the purchase of logs and persuaded the villagers to find the wood to sell for them.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

Deforestation has decreased significantly, most likely because there are no large trees for people to cut down, and now only a few small trees with unvalued in the forest remain, making people less interested.

Another reason is the allocation of land and village management. People in the previous years have practiced deforestation for shifting cultivation, but they have stopped in the present, and it has not been managed seriously in the past, so everyone can do what they want. Nowadays, there are forest management systems, resulting in a decrease in deforestation for cultivation and be sustainability.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

It has an impact on forest cover reduction, and where upland cultivation is practiced, there will be a shortage of water. Higher temperatures cause animal disease, river water to dry up, and the number of terrestrial and aquatic animals to decrease.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

It affects local people's livelihoods in ways such as low-yield rice cultivation, difficult to harvest non-timber forest products and firewood, the number of non-wood forest products decreased. There were some animals that used to be in the forest, but now they're decreasing, such as jungle fowl, squirrels, and bats, due to deforestation and population growth.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

The way to reduce deforestation is through the forest law, as well as appointment and occasional security patrols; if found in invasion of protected forests, the offenders will be taken to be issued a warning or fined in accordance with the law and regulations.

- People who practice shifting cultivation are prohibited. Families who engage in felling to take wood for sale or shifting cultivation will be encouraged to turn to sustainable agriculture and animal husbandry practices.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe.

What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

Deforestation and forest degradation have had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters, and they worsen every year. For example, forest fires and landslides occur every year, and when there are issues like this, it affects the environment and deteriorates the forest.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project

7.1 Do you know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village?

They know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village because the project has planned on land allocation and forest management.

7.2 What are some of the I-GFLL activities that have taken place here?

The I-GFLL project's activities include:

- Forest protection and improve the well-being of the community.*
- Land allocation and forest management, and zoning of land and forest areas.*

7.3 Have you been involved in any I-GFLL project activities here? Or someone you know?

All people in the village are involved in the I-GFLL project activities.

7.4 What was that experience like?

The project has just begun to be implemented in the village in 2022. They have worked on planning on activities and participation or consensus but have not yet begun to implement the actual activity.

7.5 Was it easy to learn about the activities (to find out about the activities?)

By hearing from the Agriculture and Forestry Sector or the project, they have explained the activities. He thinks anyone can learn easily and believes that the community in this village can do it.

7.6 The project has tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins?

The project and government sectors have organized the meeting, as well as disseminated information and talked with the villagers already.

7.6.1 Have you been part of the consultation process? or someone in your household?

They all and the people in the village have attended a meeting to discuss and reach a consensus.

7.6.2 How could this have been made easier?

There was no difficult discussion because everyone understood the purpose of the project.

7.6.3 What were the things that made participation difficult?

There was not a thing that made participation difficult.

7.7 One of the project aims is to support participatory land-use planning – has that happened here?

The support for participatory land-use planning has happened in this village.

7.7.1 Can you tell us more about this?

Participatory land use planning requires the consensus of all parties to enable implementation.

7.8 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

The village has been promoting sustainable agriculture, but it has not yet been implemented.

7.8.1 Can you tell us more about this?

Sustainable agriculture depends on implementing the right practices, continuously reducing forest invasion and making the transition from deforestation to permanent cultivation. Families who received funds should continue to protect forests, as well as cultivate crops and raise livestock more efficiently.

7.9 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

They think that the project will be able to help, as the project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change.

7.9.1 Why or why not?

Because the project has funding to support people to implement their activities, they also have planned on allocating and managing land through a process of consensus from various parties.

7.10 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

According to the project plan, there are plans to help villagers with forest management, such as assistance in planning, consensus, helping women and vulnerable groups, planting, rehabilitation, monitoring, and including patrols. These activities are available in the village.

7.11 For the projects that have happened, have all members of the community been able to participate? Have special methods been taken to get women's participation? What about participation of ethnic people?

All members, regardless of whether they are men or women or ethnic groups, are playing the role and participating in the implementation. Women join the committee with men and help to spread the laws and other regulations.

7.11.1 Can you tell us more about this?

Women and ethnic women join the committee with men and help to spread the laws and other regulations to ensure acknowledgement for all.

Any other remarks:

- On the project?

People have consistent opinions on the project.

- On challenges to women's participation?

Working in forest patrols can be difficult for women's participation because they are responsible for more household chores than men.

- On ethnic participation?

There is no challenge on ethnic participation.

- On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

The participation of other vulnerable people, poor households, and disabled people may not be as good as they should be because these groups lack readiness in many ways, such as life problems, health problems, and hunger.

- Others

People want the project to provide some tree fruit seeds to them.

They want the government and the project to consider preserving some membranous bamboo, which the villagers have protected for use on their own, with the aim of having it located outside of the allocation areas and outside the project management areas.

- **220321V1 - DoneKhoun 2**

Village name: DoneKhoun
 District: Viengkham District
 Province: Luang Prabang Province
 Interview: Interview group of women in the village.
 Date: 21/03/2022
 Interview by: Khamphao, 21/03/2022
 Interview ID: DoneKhoun (2)

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

There is a difference that most of the hard work is done by men, while most of the chores and soft work are done by women.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

People in the village cultivated some crops, such as upland rice cultivation, as well as galangal and tiger grass.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

People face rice insufficiency for about 3 or 4 months a year.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

Some crops are commercially cultivated, such as galangal and tiger grass.

2.4 What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.).

The main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production are the following:

- *The challenge people face with upland cultivation is the poor yields. This is due to the crops' being damaged by some pests, such as rats and boars, causing post-harvest losses.*
- *The second challenge is accessing markets; there is no market to support people's produce because the village is located far away from the main town, and people don't have their own vehicles to transport their produce for sale, and no one wants to buy their produce in the district.*

- *The third challenge is the one that middlemen take advantage of because some groups of investors have bought people's produce from time to time, causing price pressure to fall from middlemen, but people have decided to sell to them.*

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

Farmers do not get market information anywhere because there is no certain market to buy their products, so they rely on middlemen and need to sell at the prices the merchants offer.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

The challenges they face in accessing markets include:

- *It is difficult to travel because the village is far from the main town.*
- *There are no vehicles for transportation.*
- *There is no certain market to support people's products.*

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

There is no difference between different groups in the village.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

They practice shifting cultivation, and they have seen changes in each year's yield being reduced and the soil not being as good quality as before.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

People did not use agrochemicals because they cultivated naturally and practiced for a long time.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

People get information from the district agriculture and forestry office, and they also share knowledge by word of mouth within the village.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

People did not practice agroforestry.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

They received information from the Office of Agriculture and Forestry when they disseminated information in the village before the beginning of the cultivating season.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

Farmers share knowledge from their experience that has only been done in the village.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

There are various forests, such as the National Protected Area, the protection forest, the use forest, and the production forest.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

Each type of forest can help preserve the forest ecosystem as well as prevent landslides, maintain water sources, and provide forest products for people's livelihoods.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

The forest provides sufficient products for people's needs in the village in each season.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

Men and women have equal rights in searching forest products and using forest resources.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them?

The main products that are harvested include galangal, bamboo shoots, mushrooms, wild fruits, some wildlife and tiger grass. People harvest tiger grass and galangal for sale, while other products are for consumption. They have noticed that the forest products are decreasing every year due to people using them carelessly, and it may be caused by the weather conditions because if some years there are droughts, the forest products will not grow up.

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are no differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

Each type of village forest resource is managed by the village authorities, with the issuing of some rules to fine offenders if there is any invasion of forest areas under the village's responsibility, and is inspected twice a year.

3.5.1 How are women and men involved in forest protection and management?

Women and men are involved in forest protection and management. Especially women have helped to keep an eye if they find the signal of forest invasion when they go into the forest to harvest NTFPs. They then inform the village authorities, but men may have more rights than women, both in terms of monitoring and preventing illegal felling.

- Are there differences in the roles of men and women?

There are no differences in the roles of men and women.

- What are challenges they face?

The challenge they face is that there are some people from other villages felling illegally in the village's forest areas.

- Do you have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

People simply keep an eye out, and offenders are fined if they are found felling illegally.

3.5.2 What about members of ethnic communities?

Members of ethnic communities are involved in forest protection and management like other groups.

- *There is no difference in the role of ethnic groups.*

- *The challenges they faced are just like any other group.*

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

The poorest families benefited from the village forest management like other families.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing). If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

No one in the village is more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

The community has a land use plan because the District Agriculture and Forestry Office is the one who decides it and has just been implementing it for 3 months.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

They have never experienced this issue.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land within the village.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

Men and women from different ethnic groups have equal access to land within the village like other groups.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

The villagers were able to easily access land within the village boundaries due to the detailed zoning, and everyone was aware of their land boundaries to avoid disputes for families with adjacent land.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

They are aware of climate change.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

They have noticed changes in that temperatures are higher in the dry season and rainfall is heavier in the rainy season, which is causing landslides.

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

There have been changes in their forests as heavy rain in some years has caused landslides and many trees have been eroded and gone with the soil surface. Another common problem is that there are a number of trees that have been felled to build houses and make firewood.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

They have noticed changes in agricultural lands where the soil has deteriorated, which decreases yields. One person said that she has noticed the high temperatures have hardened the soil, as well as insufficient rainfall, causing their crops to be damaged.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

Their community faces natural disasters such as drought, landslides, and heavy rain.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

The landslides occurred in 2015 and 2018, and they have noticed that its frequency is starting to increase every year.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

It has affected people's livelihoods and ecosystems. For example, landslides occurred in 2015 that killed 1 person, and landslides occurred again in 2018, affecting several households, and their crops were under the soil. In addition, it was also destroying the forest ecosystem of the village.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).

One of these disasters killed an old woman in the village in 2015, and there were about 20 or 30 households affected by landslides in 2018.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)

There are not any activities related to preparing for natural disasters in the village. However, when it rains, families with homes near the foot of the mountain are required to move to a safer area.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?

There is no answer.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

The main causes of community deforestation are slash and burn agriculture and felling for housing.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

They have noticed trends increasing in forested deforestation due to population growth, which leads to felling for housing.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

This has effects on ecosystems and forests, such as reducing the number of forests as well as losses of available water resources; without water, there are no fish and other aquatic life.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

It has an effect on local people's livelihoods since it makes it harder to find aquatic animals in water sources and people must travel further than before to collect firewood.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

There are ways to reduce deforestation, such as decreasing the number of trees felled to build houses and replacing them with steel and cement, but there is a barrier that most people do not have the money to buy these materials.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe. What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

It has had an impact on the frequency of natural disasters, such as if there is a lot of felling every year, there will be landslides in the area where felling occurs because it causes an imbalance in soil surface.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project

7.1 Do you know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village?

They know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village.

7.2 What are some of the I-GFLL activities that have taken place here?

The I-GFLL project activities include FPIC and VFAG.

7.3 Have you been involved in any I-GFLL project activities here? Or someone you know?

They have been involved in the I-GFLL project activities from time to time.

7.4 What was that experience like?

They think it will help people live better.

7.5 Was it easy to learn about the activities (to find out about the activities?)

It was easy to learn about the activities.

7.6 The project has tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins?

The project has tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins implementation.

7.6.1 Have you been part of the consultation process? or someone in your household?

They have been part of the consultation process.

7.6.2 How could this have been made easier?

It's easy to be part of the consultation process because there has been prior notice from the village.

7.7 One of the project aims is to support participatory land-use planning – has that happened here?

One of the project aims is to support participatory land-use planning, but it has not yet happened in the village.

7.7.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They are unable to say more about this because it has not yet been implemented.

7.8 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture, but it has not yet happened in the village.

7.8.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They are unable to say more about this because it has not yet been implemented.

7.9 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

They think that the project will be able to help.

7.9.1 Why or why not?

This is because the project has sufficient funds for implementation and they also have knowledge capacity.

7.10 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

The project has disseminated some parts of the information.

7.11 For the projects that have happened, have all members of the community been able to participate?

All members of the community have been able to participate in the projects that have happened.

7.11.1 Can you tell us more about this?

Women and ethnic women have been able to participate like other groups in the village.

Any other remarks:

- On the project?

1, they want the project to provide funds for sustainable agriculture; 2, they want some markets to support their products; 3, they want to have a guarantee of certain productivity in sales; and 4, they want the project to promote the handicrafts of the village.

- On challenges to women's participation?

There is no challenge to women's participation.

- On ethnic participation?

There is no challenge on ethnic participation.

- On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

The participation of other vulnerable people and poor households may be limited because they rarely attend meetings because they are focused on their livelihood.

- **220321V1 - DoneKhoun 3**

Interview: Interview poor groups in the village

Village name: DoneKhoun Village

District: Viengkham District

Province: Luang Prabang Province

Date: 21/03/2022

Interview ID: DoneKhoun-3

Surveyor's Name (s): Sing

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

There are no differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups. Most of them practice upland cultivation, as well as paddy farming and gardening.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

People in DoneKhoun village cultivated some crops, such as rice, as well as tiger grass and cardamom.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

- *Many said that they face rice insufficiency for two to three months a year.*
- *Some said that they face rice insufficiency for about six month a year.*

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

People produce cash crops such as tiger grass and cardamom, while rice is grown for consumption.

2.4 What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.).

The main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production are their upland rice cultivation being damaged by some pests, such as rats, birds, grasshoppers, and boars, while drought causes post-harvest losses on people's agricultural production.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

Farmers in DoneKhoun Village get market information from middlemen who buy the people's products in the village.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

The challenge they face in accessing markets is low produce prices because middlemen are pushing prices down to resell them to larger traders.

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

They said that there are no different challenges for agricultural activities.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

People in the village practice shifting cultivation, and some families plant grass to raise livestock as a supplementary occupation because they are unable to cultivate on upland due to drought. They also have seen changes in rotation periods as well, especially the poor land quality (soil degradation), so they are unable to get good yields.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

People did not use agrochemicals.

- Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health?

There is no answer.

- Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying? Where do they access these materials?

There is no answer.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

People did not get information from anyone on the best practices to improve yields and adapt to climate change.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

People did not practice agroforestry.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

They have attended an agricultural training course in the last 4 or 5 years about agriculture and livestock, which was organized by the District Agriculture and Forestry Office.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

The people of the village shared their knowledge with each other by talking about the real experiences they had faced in the past.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

The types of forests near villages include the village forest, the village protected area, the production forest, and the protection forest.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

Forest resources benefit the community since people are able to harvest NTFPs for consumption and make some handicrafts for sale; they are also the source of food for villagers and the forest helps maintain water sources because people in the village use gravity-fed water.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

The forest provides sufficient products for community needs.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

Men and women use forest resources in the same way, such as finding food and harvesting other NTFPs.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them?

The main products that are harvested include bamboo shoots, herbal medicine, cardamom, galangal roots, and other NTFPs that can be used as food or for sale.

- Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

The availability of these products has greatly changed over the years because forest resources are decreasing and partly depend on the weather, while forest resources are abundant some years and scarce some years.

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are no differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups in DoneKhoun Village.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

Locals in the village manage forest resources together in accordance with the laws. Violators will be fined according to district regulations.

3.5.1 How are women and men involved in forest protection and management?

Women and men were equally involved in forest protection and management, and they had a shared schedule of activities, especially monitoring and patrolling as planned.

- Are there differences in the roles of men and women?

There are no differences in the roles of men and women.

- What are challenges they face?

They are not facing any challenges.

- Do you have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

They don't have any recommendations to overcome these challenges because there haven't been any challenges yet.

3.5.2 What about members of ethnic communities?

The members of ethnic communities are involved in forest protection and management by preventing people from overusing forest resources.

- Are there differences in the roles of ethnic communities?

Ethnic communities play an equal role in forest management.

- What are challenges they face?

They are not facing any challenges.

- Do you have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

They don't have any recommendations to overcome these challenges because there haven't been any challenges yet.

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

Poor families benefit from village forest management in that they can use the timber to build houses and earn a living in the forest.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing)?

They said that no one in the village is more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest.

- If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

There is no answer.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

Their community has a land use plan because the District Agriculture and Forestry Office is the one who decides it and has just started implementing it in the last few months.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

They have never experienced any land use conflicts with neighboring villages or outsiders.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land within the village because they have been discussed and have the same land use rights.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

Men and women from different ethnic groups have equal access to land within the village because they have been discussed and have the same land use rights.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

It is easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries because the village has allocated the land to the people to practice agricultural production and build houses without trading, while poor households are also able to access land use.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

They are aware of climate change.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

They have noticed changes in temperatures, especially when it is extremely hot in the dry season, causing drought, while the landslides occur when there is heavy rain in the rainy season.

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

They said that the forest had changed dramatically, while bamboo flowers bloom in the dry season or die. In the past, forests were rich, but now they have been greatly reduced and have changed from being a rainforest to being a dry dipterocarp forest.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

They have noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature, such as agricultural lands now being of poor quality (soil deteriorated and nutrient deficiencies in the soil), drought, lower yields, and non-seasonal rainfall.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

People's livelihoods faced natural disasters such as droughts and landslides that hit roads and people's agricultural areas.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

The climate has changed in the last 5 years, causing non-seasonal rainfall or heavy rain in the rainy season, followed by landslides that have devastated people's houses during the past 5 or 6 years.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

People's livelihoods and ecosystems have been affected. For example, people's houses were damaged, while the landslide has hit roads and people's agricultural areas.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).

Almost all community members are particularly impacted by these disasters.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)

There are not any activities related to preparing for natural disasters in the village. However, if anyone is at risk of natural disasters, they are required to be prepare to evacuate.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?

There is no answer.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

The main cause of community deforestation is landslides, and when there is a strong wind, the trees will break or fall. That is one of the reasons.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

There is no change or trend in deforestation.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

There is no effect on ecosystems and forests; it only makes them richer.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

It affects local people's livelihoods. For example, it makes it harder to harvest non-timber forest products, as well as firewood and timber to build houses.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

The way to reduce deforestation is to encourage people to stop deforestation and look for other non-timber forest products to replace them.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe.

There is no answer.

What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

There is no answer.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project

7.1 Do you know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village?

They don't know about the I-GFLL project activities.

7.2 What are some of the I-GFLL activities that have taken place here?

They don't know.

7.3 Have you been involved in any I-GFLL project activities here? Or someone you know?

They have not been involved in any I-GFLL project activities.

7.4 What was that experience like?

They have not been involved in any I-GFLL project activities.

7.5 Was it easy to learn about the activities (to find out about the activities?)

They don't know.

7.6 The project has tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins?

The project has tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins implementation.

7.6.1 Have you been part of the consultation process? or someone in your household?

Many people have been part of the consultation process, while someone has not.

7.6.2 How could this have been made easier?

It's easy to have participated in the consultation process.

7.6.3 What were the things that made participation difficult?

There is no answer.

7.7 One of the project aims is to support participatory land-use planning – has that happened here?

It has happened in this village because one person in the village has attended a meeting with the District Agriculture and Forestry Office for 7 days, which aims to participate in planning and land management for the villagers.

7.7.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They are unable to provide more about this.

7.8 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

It has not happened yet in the village.

7.8.1 Can you tell us more about this?

There is no answer.

7.9 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

They think that the project will be able to help, but fear that the project will not.

7.9.1 Why or why not?

They believe that the project is able to implement since they have already been implemented in many villages and districts.

7.10 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

They said there was disseminated about the project plan and project approval.

7.11 For the projects that have happened, have all members of the community been able to participate?
All members of the community have been able to participate.

Have special methods been taken to get women's participation? What about participation of ethnic people?

There is no answer.

7.11.1 Can you tell us more about this?

No have

Any other remarks:

- On the project?

The villagers of DoneKhoun want a project to provide funds to the people, and they don't want the project to be delayed because the project has only disseminated information but has not yet been implemented.

- On challenges to women's participation?

There is no answer.

- On ethnic participation?

There is no answer.

- On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

The poor families wanted the project to support funds for agriculture and livestock; if there is support for practicing livestock, they also need some veterinarians from the district to monitor the health care and vaccinate the animals.

- **220321V1 - DoneKhoun 4**

Interview: Interview ethnic groups in the village
 Village name: DoneKhoun Village
 District: Viengkham District
 Province: Luang Prabang Province
 Date: 21/03/2022
 Interview ID: DoneKhoun-(4)
 Surveyor's Name (s): Kong Lor

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

There are no differences between poor people, landless, disabled, and female-headed households. Most of them practice upland cultivation, as well as gardening and harvesting some forest products within the village.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

People in DoneKhoun village cultivated some crops, such as rice, as well as tiger grass, galangal, and cardamom as their family's occupation.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

People did not face rice insufficiency some years, but some years they did, for two to three months a year, while some people had rice insufficiency for roughly five or six months a year, due to climatic change that is unfavorable to people's agricultural production.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

People produce cash crops such as tiger grass and cardamom.

2.4 What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.).

The main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production include pests and natural disasters such as rodents, birds, and caterpillars that have developed in recent years, as well as people's crops being destroyed by boars, particularly during harvesting season. Another issue they face is drought, which prevents some rice plants from growing.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

Farmers get market information from middlemen who buy the people's products in the village, but merchants have limited purchases.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

The challenges they face in accessing marketplaces arise when certain merchants offer auctions to purchase products in the district, preventing other merchants from purchasing, causing price fluctuations.

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

The people of DoneKhoun Village, whether men, women, the poor, or various ethnic groups, are similar in agricultural activities.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

They practice shifting cultivation, and some families plant grass to raise livestock as a supplementary occupation. This is because some households are limited on agricultural land, so they practice cultivation in the old place without rotation for 2 or 3 years, leaving that land plot free of fertilizer and soil degradation.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

People in the village did not use agrochemicals.

- Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health?

There is no answer.

- Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying? Where do they access these materials?

There is no answer.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

They practice like they've done before and get information from friends in nearby villages on the best practices to improve yields and adapt to climate change.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

People in the village did not practice agroforestry.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

People have attended agricultural and livestock training in the last 4 or 5 years, organized by the District Agriculture and Forestry Office.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

They said that people of the village shared their knowledge with each other by talking about the real experiences they had faced in the past and did not know any good information about the practice from other sources.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

The types of forests near villages include the village forest, the village protected area, the protection forest, and the production forest.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

Forest resources benefit the community since people are able to fell trees to build their houses, as well as bamboo to make mats for sale. People are also able to harvest some tiger grass, as well as bamboo shoots, rattans, and other items for sale.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

The forest provides sufficient products for community needs, whether for sale or consumption.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

Men and women use forest resources in the same way, such as harvesting non-timber forest products for use as food or sale.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them?

The main products that are harvested include bamboo shoots, mushrooms, herbal medicine, galangal roots, and cardamom that are used as food or for sale.

- Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

The availability of these products has greatly changed due to inclement weather causing forest resources to decrease, which in some years can be harvested in large quantities and be available for sale, while in other years it can be harvested in small quantities for consumption only.

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are no differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

The District Agriculture and Forestry Office has issued a notice on forest regulations to the village chief in order to increase local understanding and cooperation in preserving forests and preventing deforestation to avoid natural disasters.

3.5.1 How are women and men involved in forest protection and management?

The village forest team has divided the planning of patrols for women and men to participate in forest protection and management.

- Are there differences in the roles of men and women?

There are no differences in the roles of men and women.

- What are challenges they face?

They are not facing any challenges.

- Do you have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

They don't have any recommendations to overcome these challenges.

3.5.2 What about members of ethnic communities?

Members of ethnic communities are involved in forest protection and management as well.

- Are there differences in the roles of ethnic communities?

There are no differences in the roles of Ethnic communities.

- What are challenges they face?

They are not facing any challenges.

- Do you have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

They don't have any recommendations to overcome these challenges.

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

Poor families benefit from village forest management in that they can use the timber to build houses and easily access non-timber forest products from the protected forests.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing).

No one in the village is more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest.

- If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

There is no answer.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

The village community has a land use plan.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

They have never experienced any land use conflicts with neighboring villages or outsiders.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land within the village because they have discussed before beginning any agricultural production.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

Men and women from different ethnic groups have equal access to land within the village like other groups.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

It is easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries, and the village has also allocated residential land, including agricultural land, to the poor households.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

They are aware of climate change.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

They have noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, droughts, and landslides due to the changing weather conditions, especially non-seasonal rainfall and heavy rain in the rainy season, causing landslides to occur, while it is extremely hot in the summer season and very cold in winter.

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

There have been changes in the forests, particularly now that there are no green forests as there once were, leaving only a few dry bamboo trees, and some have transitioned from rainforest to dry dipterocarp forest. Droughts and extreme heat also have an impact on people's crops.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

People's agricultural lands have changed because people are landless for practicing agricultural production and they have rotated cultivation in the same places for years, causing the soil to deteriorate while the weather conditions are not conducive to their crops, so their productivities are low.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

People have faced natural disasters such as heavy rain for several days, which causes landslides that hit roads and people's agricultural areas, while drought also occurs.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

This change caused storms to hit the village in the last 4 or 5 years, which damaged several houses.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

People's livelihoods are affected by natural disasters, such as the loss of houses, buildings being damaged, landslides hitting the roads, making it harder for merchants to travel to buy products in the village. It is also destroying people's crops.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).

There are almost all members of the community who are particularly impacted by these disasters because the village is located on the roadside and on the hills that are at risk of natural disasters, especially landslides.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)

They don't know about activities related to preparing for these natural disasters, but when they experience heavy rain, they will go to help families who live near the mountain pack their stuff and move out to avoid being hit by a landslide.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?

There is no answer.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

The main causes of community deforestation are landslides, bamboo trees becoming withered and dying, and when there is a strong wind, the trees will break or fall, causing some roofs to be damaged.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

There was no tendency for deforestation because people felt afraid of the rules issued by the village chief to prevent deforestation.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

They said that they don't know.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

It affects local people's livelihoods. For example, it makes it harder to harvest non-timber forest products, as well as firewood and wood for use.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

They don't know how to reduce deforestation, but they have a barrier with funds to engage in extra work.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe.

Deforestation and forest degradation have had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters, such as non-seasonal rainfall, severe landslides, and droughts, due to the fact that there is no method for forest protection.

What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

There is no answer.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project

7.1 Do you know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village?

They don't know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village.

7.2 What are some of the I-GFLL activities that have taken place here?

They don't know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village.

7.3 Have you been involved in any I-GFLL project activities here? Or someone you know?

They have not been involved in any I-GFLL project activities.

7.4 What was that experience like?

They have not yet gotten any experience in participating in activities related to this project.

7.5 Was it easy to learn about the activities (to find out about the activities?)

They said that they don't know.

7.6 The project has tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins?

They said that the project has tried to speak to everyone in the village about the work before it begins implementation.

7.6.1 Have you been part of the consultation process? or someone in your household?

They have been part of the consultation process at that time.

7.6.2 How could this have been made easier?

They said that it's easy to have participated in the consultation process.

7.6.3 What were the things that made participation difficult?

There is no answer.

7.7 One of the project aims is to support participatory land-use planning – has that happened here?

They said that one of the project aims is to support participatory land-use planning. It has happened in the village, but it has not implemented it yet.

7.7.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They are unable to say more about this.

7.8 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

They said that it has not happened yet in the village.

7.8.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They are unable to say more about this.

7.9 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

People said that it depends on the current situation. If the project can do it, then they will be able to help, but if the project can't do it, that means they are unable to help.

7.9.1 Why or why not?

There is no answer.

7.10 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

They said that these activities have happened in this village.

7.11 For the projects that have happened, have all members of the community been able to participate?

They said that the project had not yet been implemented.

Have special methods been taken to get women's participation? What about participation of ethnic people?

They said that there had not been special methods taken to get women's participation and the participation of ethnic people.

7.11.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They are unable to talk more about women's participation and the participation of ethnic people.

Any other remarks:

- On the project?

One person said that if the project has already talked about the project activities, he/she wants it to have implementation soon and should not be delayed for many years.

One woman wants the project to build a house for her because she has no husband and no children.

The other three people want the project to provide funds for livestock because they are old and unable to do hard work, so they want to get support on livestock and build the houses.

- On challenges to women's participation?

They said that there were no challenges to women's participation.

- On ethnic participation?

There were no challenges on ethnic participation.

- On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

There were no challenges on the participation of other vulnerable persons, poor households, disabled persons.

4 Consultations in Oudomxay Province

4.4 Consultations in Xay District

A. District level: Xay

• 220323D2 - Xay 1

Office: Xay District Governor's Office.

District: Xay District

Province: Oudomxay

Date: 23.03.2022

Changing environmental and climatic conditions

1. Have you noticed changes in the weather (temperature, rain levels, natural disasters)?

He said that they have noticed changes in the weather.

1.1 How has (changed or bad weather) this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems?

Rising temperatures, droughts, and landslides have affected people's livelihoods, particularly in areas prone to natural catastrophes, as well as farmers who primarily practice agricultural production. It also has an impact on the ecosystems because it kills small plants, and it also has an impact on the aquatic ecosystem as the temperature increases.

1.2 Are some groups and households in your district more vulnerable to natural disasters, floods, and/or drought?

Almost all are affected, but the people most affected are farmers who rely primarily on agriculture and animal husbandry.

1.3 Who is particularly vulnerable and why?

- *Farmer groups*
- *Business groups*

2. Have you noticed changes in forest areas in your district, and how does this affect local livelihoods?

He said that he has noticed changes in forest areas in the district due to the forest's decreasing cover, which affects local livelihoods, especially those who rely on the forest for their livelihoods. For example, they face more difficulty harvesting some non-timber forest products, while some wildlife has become extinct due to the reduction of forests.

3. Have you noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards (e.g. floods, drought, landslides)? If yes, please describe.

He said that he has noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards such as landslides, floods, and droughts. It is because deforestation has increased, resulting in a loss of maintaining the balance between soil surfaces; when it rains, the soil may erode because there are no trees to prevent it. He has also noticed changes in droughts due to water resources that used to exist in the forests having dried up and being gone during the dry season. In addition, the agricultural lands have also been found to change as droughts cause soil to freeze, and sometimes crops have died.

3.1 Have these trends changed in the last 5, 15 or 30 years? Please describe how.

He has noticed that these trends have changed similar to the last 10 years due to heavy deforestation, which has led to the occurrence of the phenomenon over and over again and the fact that it is becoming more and more severe.

4. Do you consider climate change in your current planning for land use planning, agricultural management or forest management? If yes, please describe how.

Of course, all relevant sectors have thought and considered before taking any action, noting that at present, there is deforestation, and temperatures have been higher due to natural factors. Therefore, authorities have issued orders to all sectors to reduce deforestation as well as reduce the destruction of the ecosystem and the environment.

Role in Forest Management and Climate Change Adaptation activities

5. What is your (office's/department's) role in forest management? (in Project 1 districts ask if there is a difference between before and now, or within the context of the project)

The role of the office is to disseminate other regulations on forest management to relevant sectors in order to ensure their successful implementation.

6. What is your office's role in climate change adaptation?

The office's role is to mobilize all members of the office to minimize deforestation and turn to tree planting to bring green space to the district and offices as an example for all other offices in the area.

7. Does your office have the capacity to fulfil these roles? If no, what is needed?

He said that the office has the capacity to fulfil these roles because there are academicians in many fields in the District Governor's Office, and in addition to collaborating with business sectors, the project has also requested funds to support project implementation in affected areas, especially the Flood and Drought Prevention Project.

8. Do you think forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters? And if yes, why?

He thinks that forest management is very important because if there is a rich forest, it can improve the ecosystem of the forest, which can reduce the occurrence of natural disasters such as landslides, droughts, and rising temperatures.

9. Are there other projects or initiatives (ongoing or planned) related to land rights/ registration/ tenure in the district?

There are government projects that issue title deeds.

Role of men and women in land use and agriculture

10. What are the roles of i) women and ii) men in forest and land use? (Please differentiate by, ethnicity, and vulnerable (= poor, disabled) groups where suitable.)

10.1 In forest protection?

There are no equal rights for women because the majority of decisions are still made by men. Men have the ability to make high-level decisions because of old beliefs passed down from generation to generation.

10.2 In agricultural production?

There are no equal rights for women because they have to listen to men when making decisions about any agricultural production. There are no equal rights because men think that all decisions must be made by husbands, who are the head of the family and live according to old traditions.

10.3 In agri-business?

They have equal rights in agri-business

11. How can women become more involved in forest and land use?

Women can be involved in forest and land use like men.

12. How can ethnic minority groups become more involved in forest and land use?

Ethnic minority groups can be involved in forest and land use like other groups.

13. Do you feel that women have the same access to benefits from forest resources as men?

Women and men have equal access to the benefits of forest resources.

13.1 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over forest resources?

Men and women have equal participation in the decision-making and management of forest resources.

13.2 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over agricultural activities?

Men and women have equal participation in decision-making and management over agricultural activities.

14. Does the new forest law protect the rights of all community members equally?

The new forest law protects the rights of all community members equally.

14.1 Do you understand well the new Forest Law?

He understands, but not in enough detail.

14.2 Is there understanding of the new Forest Law at the village level?

Most villagers probably understand, but it is still not widely understood because some people missed the participation in the meeting on the new forest law dissemination.

15. Who is responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the district level? At village level?

- *The District Agriculture and Forestry Office is responsible for enforcing forestry law and providing forestry protection at the district level.*
- *The village agriculture and forestry sectors are responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the village level.*

15.1 Are women specifically involved? (village)

Women are specifically involved.

15.2 What about members of ethnic communities? (village)

Member of ethnic communities are specifically involved.

15.3 How is coordination and cooperation between villages and DOFI/ POFI? (district)

Coordinating between the village and the DOFI is often done via phone because it is more convenient and faster. As for coordinating with the POFI, the district office must submit the proposal letters.

15.4 What are any risks or challenges they face related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

The challenges they face related to forest law enforcement are that some people who are aware of the law and regulations have still failed to comply, resulting in illegal deforestation.

16. What are the current challenges for Land Use Planning (LUP) as relates to:

16.1 Women?

There are no current challenges for LUP that relate to women.

16.2 Ethnic people?

There are no current challenges for LUP that relate to ethnic people.

16.3 The poorest members of communities?

There are current challenges for LUP that relate to the poorest members of communities because people depend on forests for their livelihood.

16.4 Land use conflicts?

There are current challenges for LUP that relate to land use conflicts.

16.5 Issues with land allocation and titling?

There are no current challenges for LUP that relate to issues with land allocation and titling.

16.6 Others?

There is no answer.

17. Access to markets is important for supporting deforestation free agriculture. What challenges in accessing markets do villagers have?

The major challenges in accessing markets that villagers have faced include a lack of vehicles due to the fact that most agricultural production villages are located far from the towns, and the markets are constructed in the towns, making it difficult to transport products for sale in the city because most of them don't have vehicles, while the roads leading to them are also poor, so the villagers have decided to sell their products to middlemen and accept the low prices.

17.1 Where possible differentiate between the challenges faced by:

1, Women and women-owned or -led businesses.

Women who are family leaders have faced a challenge as a result of the shortage of men as the main labor force.

2, Different ethnic groups.

There are no differences between the challenges faced by different ethnic groups.

3, Other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, among others).

Other vulnerable people/households have faced difficulties as a result of insufficient labor and a limited agricultural production area.

Overall perspectives on the project

18. What is your opinion of the ongoing I-GFLL project, do you think it is helping to reduce deforestation in the target provinces/ districts?

He thinks that the ongoing I-GFLL project is unable to help.

18.1 Why or why not?

Most villagers have relied on the forest for their livelihood, and there are also some capitalists who hire people to cut trees illegally to sell to them. In addition, another challenge was found: there were projects that were already implemented, and after the end of the projects, villagers continued to encroach and use forest resources as before.

18.2 What other benefits has the project generated?

He said that he is unable to provide information as details are still unknown.

18.3 Have you seen any barriers to participation in the project?

The major barrier was that some people were poorly educated and may not be able to realize the project, which makes it difficult to implement the project.

18.3.1 What are the challenges and ideas on how they can be overcome?

- Communities in remote areas?

Inconvenient roads can make access difficult; if there is a project, funding should be provided to improve access roads, especially during the rainy season.

- Ethnic communities?

The challenge with communication is that you need someone who understands the local language to be able to communicate easily.

- Women, and female headed households?

No have any challenge.

- Landless households

No have any challenge.

- The most vulnerable members of communities.

No have any challenge.

19. Does your department/office feel that it currently has the technical capacity to support the project?

He thinks yes because their office has sufficient technical capacity to support the project because most of the staff are local.

19.1 If not, please specify what areas specific capacity support is needed e.g. adaptation planning and mainstreaming, monitoring, etc.

There is no answer.

20. The project has a focus on gender and social inclusion of ethnic people and the poorest people. Do you think that is important?

Of course, this is especially important for ethnic groups who notice that they continue to live according to their traditional beliefs.

21. Any other remarks:

21.1 On the project?

- *He wants the project to create sustainable careers for families who rely on forests to reduce deforestation.*
- *Strengthen capacity for the marketing and guarantee of farmers' produce.*
- *Create stable careers.*

21.2 On challenges to women's participation?

There is no any challenge.

21.3 On ethnic participation?

He would like to highlight this group as a key component of the project implementation.

21.4 On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

There is no any challenge.

22. Do you have any final comments or questions?

There is no answer.

- **220323D2 - Xay 2**

Office: District Agriculture and Forestry Office

District: Xay District

Province: Oudomxay

Date: 23/03/2022

Interview ID: Xay-2

Surveyor's Name (s): Thammanoon and Kong Lor

Changing environmental and climatic conditions

1. Have you noticed changes in the weather (temperature, rain levels, natural disasters)?

They have noticed changes in the weather.

1.1 How has (changed or bad weather) this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems?

Changes have affected people's livelihoods and ecosystems. For example, there has been non-seasonal rainfall in the past 4 or 5 years, as well as unusually hot weather and drought in many areas, killing some crops. Some areas are located along rivers that have been affected, but not really badly, but several streams have dried up in the present.

1.2 Are some groups and households in your district more vulnerable to natural disasters, floods, and/or drought?

They said that droughts were occurring across the district because there was a lot of deforestation in Xay District and there were more pests.

1.3 Who is particularly vulnerable and why?

Farmers are particularly vulnerable.

2. Have you noticed changes in forest areas in your district, and how does this affect local livelihoods?

They have noticed changes in forest areas in their district. The forest has remained available in the last 4 or 5 years, but now the forest has been destroyed due to people clearing forest to cultivate commercial corn, causing more invasions of the forest.

3. Have you noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards (e.g. floods, drought, landslides)? If yes, please describe.

They have noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards such as droughts and several species of pests.

3.1 Have these trends changed in the last 5, 15 or 30 years? Please describe how.

These trends have changed and are likely in the last 2 or 3 years that drought has occurred. While there has never been a problem with pests in the past, there are several species of pests at present, and some types of natural disasters have also occurred in the last 2 or 3 years, but now there are more natural disasters occurring.

4. Do you consider climate change in your current planning for land use planning, agricultural management or forest management? If yes, please describe how.

They said that they had already allocated and managed the lands and forests in 97 villages in Xay District, such as the three types of forests and agricultural lands, but they were unable to handle them because some people had deforested in the management areas in each village. Meanwhile, they mainly considered the upper parts of creeks and protection of water resources.

Role in Forest Management and Climate Change Adaptation activities

5. What is your (office's/department's) role in forest management? (in Project 1 districts ask if there is a difference between before and now, or within the context of the project)

The role of their offices or departments in forest management in the past, such as conservation forests at the village level, as well as national protected forests at the province level, production forests, and protection forests, are under the responsibilities directly of the District Agriculture and Forestry Office.

6. What is your office's role in climate change adaptation?

Their offices are planning to cultivate alternative crops for climate change adaptation, but they have faced insufficient budget to complete the plans.

7. Does your office have the capacity to fulfil these roles? If no, what is needed?

Planning for the restoration of forests where they have been encroached upon, especially upstream areas to recover from encroachment, must allocate land for families who practice deforestation and manage new lands for them, but authorities have faced insufficient budgets. They believed that if they were successful in relocating people who were encroaching on forests in upstream areas, climate change would recover on its own.

8. Do you think forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters? And if yes, why?

They said that forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters, especially if we are able to restore forests. They have seen the spread of pests, though it has never happened before because in the past there were rich forests, which meant all pests and wildlife could live in forests, but now the forests have reduced, causing pests to leave forests and destroy the crops of people. There are now numerous bald mountains, which contribute to natural disasters, particularly floods; increasing forest cover can impede the flow of water in streams and rivers.

9. Are there other projects or initiatives (ongoing or planned) related to land rights/ registration/ tenure in the district?

There is no project related to land rights; the issuance of land title deeds to people in the past was the responsibility of the government sector.

Role of men and women in land use and agriculture

10. What are the roles of i) women and ii) men in forest and land use? (Please differentiate by, ethnicity, and vulnerable (= poor, disabled) groups where suitable.)

10.1 In forest protection?

Females don't have equal rights in forest protection.

10.2 In agricultural production?

There are no equal rights because men have about 60% of the decision-making.

10.3 In agri-business?

They have equal rights in agri-business

11. How can women become more involved in forest and land use?

Women can become more involved in forest and land use because they are more likely to go into forests to harvest NTFPs than men.

12. How can ethnic minority groups become more involved in forest and land use?

Ethnic minority groups can be involved in forest and land use like other groups.

13. Do you feel that women have the same access to benefits from forest resources as men?

Women and men have equal access to the benefits of forest resources.

13.1 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over forest resources?

There are no equal rights because men have more decision-making than women to participate in decision-making and management of forest resources.

13.2 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over agricultural activities?

There are no equal rights because women are more involved than men in decision-making and management of agricultural activities.

14. Does the new forest law protect the rights of all community members equally?

The new forest law protects the rights of all community members equally.

14.1 Do you understand well the new Forest Law?

Other sectors understand the new forest law by about 50-60%.

14.2 Is there understanding of the new Forest Law at the village level?

Locals' understanding of the new forest law at the village level is less than 20%.

15. Who is responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the district level? At village level?

The District Agriculture and Forestry Office is responsible for enforcing forestry law and providing forestry protection at the district level; while the village agriculture and forestry sectors are responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the village level.

15.1 Are women specifically involved? (village)

Women are not specifically involved in enforcing forestry laws and forestry protection.

15.2 What about members of ethnic communities? (village)

Member of ethnic communities are specifically involved in enforcing forestry laws and forestry protection.

15.3 How is coordination and cooperation between villages and DOFI/ POFI? (district)

The coordination between the villages and the DOFI is as follows:

- *Villagers or the forest sector in the villages have called directly by phone to the district.*
- *Write letters on the papers and take photos of them and send them to the district.*

15.4 What are any risks or challenges they face related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

The risks and challenges they face in forest law enforcement and forest protection include an increasing number of people who practice agricultural production, causing more forest invasion; it is difficult to use law enforcement due to how it may affect people in the future; and authorities have tried to avoid making enemies with them.

16. What are the current challenges for Land Use Planning (LUP) as relates to:

16.1 Women?

In the past, women were a challenge because if authorities discussed with the husband and he agreed, but the wife disagreed, then the authorities were unable to do anything, and because women have the right to make decisions, that's a challenge.

16.2 Ethnic people?

Ethnic people are different, such as the Khmu, who are easy to talk to, but the Hmong, who are hard to talk to in land use planning.

16.3 The poorest members of communities?

Some of the poorest members of communities had limited access to land. This made it a challenge for them to carry out the activities of the government.

16.4 Land use conflicts?

In the past, some people cleared the land for shifting cultivation. Years later, the area became a dry dipterocarp forest, and other people continued to clear the land for cultivating or gardening on that land, causing land use conflicts and bringing the problem to the district level.

16.5 Issues with land allocation and titling?

There were no challenges in the past, but they are occurring more in the present.

16.6 Others?

The challenge is how to encourage people who practice deforestation to change their minds about protecting the upstream areas and how to plan to manage for people who have many land plots because they will continue clearing forest over and over again.

17. Access to markets is important for supporting deforestation free agriculture. What challenges in accessing markets do villagers have?

The challenges in accessing the local markets are that most people have faced a shortage of vehicles for transporting their products to the factories or markets, but relying on middlemen to buy their products, even though middlemen will press down on prices and market prices fluctuate.

17.1 Where possible differentiate between the challenges faced by:

1, Women and women-owned or -led businesses.

They have faced the same challenges that depend on the people who practice more or less.

2, Different ethnic groups.

They have faced the same challenges that depend on the people who practice more or less.

3, Other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, among others).

They have faced the same challenges that depend on the people who practice more or less.

Overall perspectives on the project:

18. What is your opinion of the ongoing I-GFLL project, do you think it is helping to reduce deforestation in the target provinces/ districts?

They think that the ongoing I-GFLL project is able to help reduce deforestation in the target provinces/districts.

18.1 Why or why not?

Because the project will have funding to support those who stopped the forest invasion to create stable careers.

18.2 What other benefits has the project generated?

The project has assisted the government sectors to significantly reduce their budgets for forest restoration and natural disaster relief.

18.3 Have you seen any barriers to participation in the project?

They have seen some barriers to participation in the project, especially how to implement forest restoration. For example, if they have budgets to restore forest cover in the upstream areas, how much would you pay the local gardeners who practice cultivation around there to encourage them to protect the forest? It is possible or not to encourage those people to get involved in forest protection? and if they want to allocate people who trespass in the target upstream areas, they are required to seek new activities to satisfy them.

18.3.1 What are the challenges and ideas on how they can be overcome?

- Communities in remote areas?

To overcome challenges, it is necessary to construct markets for locals in remote areas and roads for middlemen to buy the produce of those areas.

- Ethnic communities?

Currently, the best approach is to contact the heads of the families for activities, but if you want to perform genuine activities, call both spouses to discuss it.

- Women, and female headed households?

There is no challenge for female-headed households.

- Landless households

Landless households will be promoted through other activities instead of allocating land for them, and most will encourage middle-income families to set an example for others to follow.

- The most vulnerable members of communities.

Authorities are unable to handle poor families with several children due to insufficient agricultural land.

19. Does your department/office feel that it currently has the technical capacity to support the project?

Their offices currently have the technical capacity to support the project, but there is no plan or any form of planning to support the project. They rely on the project to plan and then be able to follow it, and before starting the project, they would like the project to organize further training on IT, GIS, and QGIS.

19.1 If not, please specify what areas specific capacity support is needed e.g. adaptation planning and mainstreaming, monitoring, etc.

There is no answer.

20. The project has a focus on gender and social inclusion of ethnic people and the poorest people. Do you think that is important?

They think that is important if grouping is possible. For example, poor family groups are provided with some activities, and middle-income families may get different activities. If grouped like this, it will work well, and if included together, it will be difficult to discuss with each other.

21. Any other remarks:

21.1 On the project?

They would like the project to mobilize people to understand the project activities.

21.2 On challenges to women's participation?

Women's participation is good for publicity and to get more women involved.

21.3 On ethnic participation?

It is required to have language translation to help the project save their time. The project also needs to consider how to propagate the project activities to make sure that more locals participate. They may have placed some posters in each area, as well as villages or other blackboards to make people aware of the project activities that have been implemented, including the benefits that the project has generated. This is a suggestion for the project in order to attract the attention of ethnic people.

21.4 On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

It should be designed for people to understand or feel it is easier to understand.

22. Do you have any final comments or questions?

- *How many sectors of the office personnel are involved in the project?*
- *Other offices and departments want the project to provide more details.*
- *How many years will the new project in three provinces take?*

- **220323D2 - Xay 3**

Office: District Natural Resources and Environment Office, District Lao Women's Union Office (LWU), District Lao Front for National Development Office

District: Xay District

Province: Oudomxay

Date: 23/03/2022

Interview ID: Xay-3

Surveyor's Name (s): Sing

Changing environmental and climatic conditions

1. Have you noticed changes in the weather (temperature, rain levels, natural disasters)?

They have noticed changes in the weather in this district.

1.1 How has (changed or bad weather) this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems?

The change is that there is non-seasonal rainfall and it is extremely hot during the dry season, causing rivers to dry up rapidly and droughts to occur, which affects people's livelihoods because there is no water for agricultural production.

1.2 Are some groups and households in your district more vulnerable to natural disasters, floods, and/or drought?

They said that people in the district are more vulnerable to natural disasters such as flooding if heavy rains and droughts occur.

1.3 Who is particularly vulnerable and why?

They said that those who are particularly vulnerable are farmers because the floods hit agricultural production areas in the rainy season, damaging crops. While droughts occur during the dry season, people are deprived of water for production.

2. Have you noticed changes in forest areas in your district, and how does this affect local livelihoods?

They have noticed changes in the forests in the district, which result in droughts and forest fires, while people's productivity is not as good as it should be.

3. Have you noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards (e.g. floods, drought, landslides)? If yes, please describe.

They have noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards, which are the causes of natural disasters that alter the ecosystem of the district.

3.1 Have these trends changed in the last 5, 15 or 30 years? Please describe how.

These trends have changed similar in the last 15 years as the number of people has increased and there has been more demand, thus causing these changes.

4. Do you consider climate change in your current planning for land use planning, agricultural management or forest management? If yes, please describe how.

They have considered climate change in their current plans for land use planning, agricultural management, or forest management, because the District Agriculture and Forestry Office is in charge of zoning land for people to practice agricultural production, especially those who practice shifting cultivation, while the District Natural Resources and Environment Office is responsible for managing water resources and others.

Role in Forest Management and Climate Change Adaptation activities

5. What is your (office's/department's) role in forest management?

- The role of the Lao Women's Union Office in forest management is to mobilize females to help protect the forest and encourage people to plant alternative trees if the forest is used because most women in rural areas rely on natural resources as their main source of livelihood.

- The role of the District Lao Front for National Development Office in forest management is to disseminate information to locals on the laws and other regulations on forest use and forest management.

- The role of the District Natural Resources and Environment Office in forest management is to disseminate regulations, laws, and other notices regarding areas allocated by the District Agriculture and Forestry Office as conservation forests and to restore forests... with the intention of encouraging people to protect the environment. There will be publicity regarding land and environmental laws as well as areas where a title deed can be issued, or in any area where a title deed cannot be issued, the boundaries must be clearly defined.

6. What is your office's role in climate change adaptation?

The District Lao Women's Union Office (LWU) and the District Lao Front for National Development Office play no role in climate change adaptation, but they have mobilized locals to cultivate crops and raise livestock. While the District Natural Resources and Environment Office plays a role in climate change adaptation, because they have four flood alert machines that sound alert when flooding occurs.

7. Does your office have the capacity to fulfil these roles? If no, what is needed?

- The District Natural Resources and Environment Office has the capacity to fulfil these roles because there are some flood warning systems. But they face a shortage of some equipment to provide services such as vehicles and water quality monitors, so they need assistance if there are some projects to be implemented because the staff are ready.

- The District Lao Women's Union Office has only participated, but the main roles are responsible for implementation by the District Agriculture and Forestry Office and the District Natural Resources and Environment Office, but the LWU is pleased to participate if there are some projects available.

8. Do you think forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters? And if yes, why?

They said that forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters. Because forests are dams that absorb or store water. Therefore, the water does not flow too strongly and only provides enough water to meet the needs of the people.

9. Are there other projects or initiatives (ongoing or planned) related to land rights/ registration/ tenure in the district?

There are no other projects or initiatives related to land rights and issuing land title deeds.

Role of men and women in land use and agriculture

10. What are the roles of i) women and ii) men in forest and land use? (Please differentiate by, ethnicity, and vulnerable (= poor, disabled) groups where suitable.)

Roles of women and men in forest and land use equally. In the Hmong ethnic group, women have worked harder and used more forests than men.

10.1 In forest protection?

They have equal rights in forest protection.

10.2 In agricultural production?

They have equal rights in agricultural production.

10.3 In agri-business?

They have equal rights in agri-business

11. How can women become more involved in forest and land use?

Women can become more involved in forest and land use like men.

12. How can ethnic minority groups become more involved in forest and land use?

Ethnic minority groups can be involved in forest and land use like other groups.

13. Do you feel that women have the same access to benefits from forest resources as men?

They said that women have the same access to benefits from forest resources as men.

13.1 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over forest resources?

They said that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over forest resources.

13.2 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over agricultural activities?

They said that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over agricultural activities.

14. Does the new forest law protect the rights of all community members equally?

They replied that the new forest law protects the rights of all community members equally.

14.1 Do you understand well the new Forest Law?

They understand well the new forest law but are unable to remember all the articles.

14.2 Is there understanding of the new Forest Law at the village level?

They said that villagers understand the new forest law because the Office of Agriculture and Forestry officials have disseminated the law to people who live in nearby conservation forests, as well as production forests and protection forests. There will be authorities from the Agriculture and Forestry Office to disseminate information about the law to the public in each village.

15. Who is responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the district level? At village level?

- The District Agriculture and Forestry Office is responsible for enforcing forestry law and providing forestry protection at the district level.

-The village agriculture and forestry sectors are responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the village level.

15.1 Are women specifically involved? (village)

Women are specifically involved in forest law enforcement and forestry protection at the village level, and they have worked to mediate or address problems within the village.

15.2 What about members of ethnic communities? (village)

Member of ethnic communities are specifically involved in enforcing forestry laws and forestry protection.

15.3 How is coordination and cooperation between villages and DOFI/ POFI? (district)

The coordination and cooperation between villages and DOFI will be done via phone because it will be fast and timely. If it is not urgent, they will submit the notice for preparing first, but they will submit reports to the province only if there is coordination and cooperation between DOFI and POFI.

15.4 What are any risks or challenges they face related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

The risks and challenges they see or face related to forest law enforcement and forest protection include that most people are aware of and understand the law, but they have failed to comply with it because they don't have agricultural production areas. As a result, people want space for agricultural production, which necessitates deforestation and encroachment on managed areas.

16. What are the current challenges for Land Use Planning (LUP) as relates to:

16.1 Women?

There is no answer.

16.2 Ethnic people?

People understand the law but don't want to follow the rules, making it difficult for authorities to implement it.

16.3 The poorest members of communities?

People understand the law but don't want to follow the rules, making it difficult for authorities to implement it.

16.4 Land use conflicts?

There is no answer.

16.5 Issues with land allocation and titling?

There is no answer.

16.6 Others?

There are some challenges they have faced due to some people's having realized a little of the forest law, but they were found to be the same challenge in some villages. People have land title deeds for their agricultural lands and they pay tax every year, but the reservation forests have some issues due to their being formed as reservation forests after people have already practiced cultivation in those areas.

17. Access to markets is important for supporting deforestation free agriculture. What challenges in accessing markets do villagers have?

They replied that the challenge in accessing markets for most villagers was that the agricultural production area was far away, accessing to markets was difficult, and only the middlemen came to buy from the villagers, but they were unable to sell at reasonable prices due to inconvenient roads and long distances.

17.1 Where possible differentiate between the challenges faced by:

1, Women and women-owned or -led businesses.

They said that they didn't know.

2, Different ethnic groups.

Accessing to markets was difficult, and only the middlemen came to buy from the villagers, but they were unable to sell at reasonable prices due to inconvenient roads and long distances.

3, Other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, among others).

Accessing to markets was difficult, and only the middlemen came to buy from the villagers, but they were unable to sell at reasonable prices due to inconvenient roads and long distances.

Overall perspectives on the project:

18. What is your opinion of the ongoing I-GFLL project, do you think it is helping to reduce deforestation in the target provinces/ districts?

They think that the ongoing I-GFLL project is able to help reduce deforestation in the target provinces/districts.

18.1 Why or why not?

Because the project has funds to protect forests and improve people's livelihoods, and the project also has an action plan. If the project begins to assist, the wildfires won't happen, the forest will abate and people will get clean air without pollution.

18.2 What other benefits has the project generated?

They said they didn't know because the project has not yet been implemented in Xay District. So, they want the project available as soon as possible to implement and assist locals to create stable careers to stop them practicing shifting cultivation. If people had suspended on-shift cultivation, the forest would be restored and abundant again, while people would live easier because they would know how to use resources properly.

18.3 Have you seen any barriers to participation in the project?

They said they didn't know because the project has not yet been implemented in Xay District.

18.3.1 What are the challenges and ideas on how they can be overcome?

They said they didn't know.

19. Does your department/office feel that it currently has the technical capacity to support the project?

They said that their offices currently have the technical capacity to support the project.

19.1 If not, please specify what areas specific capacity support is needed e.g. adaptation planning and mainstreaming, monitoring, etc.

There is no answer.

20. The project has a focus on gender and social inclusion of ethnic people and the poorest people. Do you think that is important?

The project has a focus on gender and social inclusion of ethnic people and the poorest people, and they think that is important because it will promote the role of the ethnic groups in unity.

21. Any other remarks:

21.1 On the project?

They said that they don't know yet, but they want the project to develop for the people of Xay District just like in other districts where it has been carried out in the past. They also suggest that the project should be implemented and collect data so that action can be taken in order to protect the forest.

21.2 On challenges to women's participation?

They would like women to participate in the project if the project is actually implemented.

21.3 On ethnic participation?

There is no recommendation, but they want the project to consult with the villagers to ensure they understand and accept the project.

21.4 On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

On the participation of other vulnerable people, poor households, and disabled people, they want the project to help these people to promote good careers and be able to generate income for their livelihoods in order to overcome poverty.

22. Do you have any final comments or questions?

They said that they had no comment, but they were looking forward to the project beginning to be implemented, so they will recommend on what they don't understand.

B. Village level: Mokok

• 220323V2 - Mokok 1

Village name: Mokok Village
District: Xay District
Province: Oudomxay Province
Date: 23/03/2022
Interview ID: Mokok (1)
Surveyor's Name (s): Phao
Interview: Interview Leadership group

Village demographic & forest and land governance questions (For village leadership group only)

1. What is the village population?

There are 503 people in the village.

2. Number of Women and men?

There are 199 females, 62 households and 81 families.

3. Different ethnic groups present in village? (and numbers)

There is one ethnic group present in the village, namely Hmong.

4. What kind of forest resources does the village have?

There are five kinds of forest resources in this village, namely: conservation forest, protection forest, production forest, used forest, and sacred forest.

5. How long has it been in place?

The district's authorities began zoning lands and forests in the village in 1996, except for the sacred forest.

6. How is forest resource management coordinated between the district and the village?

- Forest resource management coordinated between the village and the district takes place on a regular basis, especially when the agriculture and forestry sectors and related sectors have disseminated laws and other policies on land use and forest protection. District officials have allocated zoning land and forests to determine the boundaries of each forest for the public to know. Forest laws and regulations are sometimes disseminated and warn against deforestation, as well as burning forests, harvesting some protected NTFPs and hunting protected species are prohibited.

- If anyone has failed to comply with the laws and warnings, the district authorities have assigned the village to take action against offenders by educating and fining them in accordance with the laws.

- In 2015, a group of people engaged in illegal deforestation and agricultural production in the NPA, while the village informed the district forestry authorities to investigate, issued a warning to offenders, as well as educated and fined them.

- In 2018, some villagers broke the rules by cutting down trees in protected areas illegally to sell to merchants, then the village forestry authorities found and reported it to the district's forest, which issued a warning and fined them.

7. What are the challenges related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

- The challenges related to forest law enforcement are that most villagers are ethnic people with low education, and many families still face economic hardship, as well as poverty and landlessness for sufficient and sustainable agricultural production.

- Most people rely on forests as a source of livelihoods. They always clear forests for rice cultivation, as well as harvest some NTFPs for consumption and sale to earn money for their families. They also practice shifting cultivation or find food in forests, which is contrary to the laws and regulations. These are the challenges related to forest law enforcement.

8. How are decisions made about forest and land management?

Forest and land management is based on a village land and forest management diagram. People's decisions and consent are based on land and forest management laws.

9. Are these decisions made in village meetings, or by village committee?

These decisions and consent are made in village meetings to discuss and vote together.

10. Are women involved in these decisions?

Women are involved in discussion, decisions and are able to present some activities as men, but there is a limited number of women involved in decision making. Hmong people, particularly women, are more likely to prioritize housework and rarely stay at home because they spend the majority of their time in agricultural production and livestock raising in the fields. Therefore, when there are meetings in the village, they are rarely attended, so most of them are men, and they decide instead of women.

11. One of the project goals is to help women and the poorest and most vulnerable villagers to take part in making decisions about forest and land resources. Is this possible?

He thinks this project is possible to help women, as well as the poorest and most vulnerable villagers, take part in making decisions about forest and land resources.

11.1 What are the barriers to participation?

- There are certain groups of people who may have difficulty participating in the project, such as elderly families who lack primary laborers, the poorest families with many children, and landless for agriculture. These people were hired to work in the fields, garden, and construction in the towns or go into the forest to harvest some non-timber forest products for sale for their survival.

- Most of the Hmong people are engaged in upland cultivation, or paddy farming and animal husbandry. Some of them spend most of their time in the gardens or fields, and return home once a month. These may be the barriers to participation and implementation.

12. Does the village benefit from commercialization of sustainably managed village forests?

- Villages benefit from systematic forest management, increasing the green forest area as well as the numbers of terrestrial and aquatic animals, non-timber forest products and biodiversity, while people are more practiced in sustainable agricultural production because there is no permanent deforestation and rice planting.

- Locals benefit from harvesting some NTFPs for sale, and they are also able to cultivate cardamom under trees and get good productivity. It also benefits them to earn a good income by selling forest products that improve their well-being.

13. How are forest products distributed within the village? Are people satisfied with the forest product distribution system?

- Forest products are distributed within the village and include a variety of seasonal plants, as well as wood, bamboo, firewood, rattan, tiger grass, cardamom, bamboo shoots, red mushrooms, herbs, vegetables, and terrestrial and aquatic animals, such as birds, rats, crabs, fishes, and insects. These resources are not taken from the NPA but from other commonly used forest areas.

- These resources are products that can be distributed in the market or used for household consumption.

- People are satisfied with the forest product distribution system, but now these resources are products that can be distributed in the market or used for household consumption.

- Nowadays, the number of forest products is decreasing and getting worse every year. It may be caused by the growth of the population and an increase in natural disasters such as wildfires and droughts, which damage crops.

14. How are complaints about land or forest management systems dealt with?

- If there are some complaints, they will be dealt with in accordance with the policies and laws of Laos. In the past, there was a complaint regarding some villagers who planted tea for household consumption and sold it for many years. Later, the district army allocated the land for tea planting to be a military base, which covers most of the production area. The villagers therefore submitted a letter to the District Governor to consider compensating the villagers for their lost property before the District Governor and relevant authorities have investigated the actual situation.

- However, the issue was solved, and the villagers were also commendably compensated.

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

- The main occupations of the villagers are practicing agricultural production, such as paddy farming, rice upland planting, and animal husbandry. In addition, some families have grocery stores in the villages.

- Men and teenagers in the village in addition to practicing agricultural production, some skilled workers seek jobs in construction or are hired as laborers in the towns because the village is not far away from the

main town and is close to the 13th North Road, which makes it convenient to travel and trade along the main road. In the past, for example, when the railway began construction, many villagers were hired as laborers to work with Chinese people.

- Most Hmong women are engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry, and some even go into the forest to harvest non-timber forest products for sale and family consumption, especially herbs and vegetables.

- Poor people and elderly families without children have lived like everyone else. But most of the poor families did not have enough land for agricultural production and the landless for sustainable agricultural production. They often practiced shifting cultivation and used forests as a source of livelihood, such as hunting wildlife and harvesting some NTFPs for sale and family consumption.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

Villagers mainly cultivate rice, as well as millets, cardamoms, and cassavas.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

They face rice insufficiency for about 3 months a year due to flooding on their paddy fields, while their rice upland fields are killed by droughts.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

They produce cash crops such as millets, cardamom, cassava, and tea for drinking and sale. As for the tea, they have factories of Chinese tea to buy in the village.

2.4. What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.). What factors are driving or influencing these changes?

- People face some pests in terms of agricultural production. Such pests as rats, birds, and locusts have damaged people's crops. In addition to pests, there are also natural disasters such as droughts and floods. Heavy rain floods the rice fields, causing post-harvest losses, while there is drought in some years and the water dries up for a long time, causing the rice to die or not yield good results.

- There are no markets to support, and prices are not good because some middlemen take advantage of lower prices.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

Farmers receive market information from middlemen who buy goods and products in the village and from experienced villagers from other villages.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

The challenges people face in accessing markets include price pressure from middlemen, especially from middlemen who reduce the price of tea. Another challenge was that the COVID-19 outbreak caused prices to drop and no merchants to buy products from the villagers.

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

- In agricultural production between women and men in this village, men are an important part of the main decision-making process in agricultural production or other businesses in which men tend to be managers.

- Women do the same agricultural production and household chores as men, but they are not strong enough to make decisions in other activities. Hmong women typically work in agriculture and animal husbandry, as well as embroidering in various patterns according to Hmong tradition.

- Hmong women, besides practicing agricultural production and animal husbandry, also often go into the forest to harvest non-timber forest products for sale and consumption within the family.

- For those who are poor and landless for agriculture or rice insufficiency each year, they have to seek jobs to earn money. Some people have harvested some vegetables in the forest, as well as bamboo shoots and other NTFPs for sale to meet consumer demand.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

Villagers practice paddy farming and rice upland cultivation, but some practice shifting cultivation because they are landless for agriculture in the village, or if they have, it is limited.

The change in the rotation period of shifting cultivation is that people are shifting to new places for cultivation every year within the allocation areas, and after 3- or 4-years pass, they return to cultivating in the same area. The reason for the annual rotation is that the soil is dry and deteriorating, which makes the crops less effective.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

People in this village are required to use chemicals for agricultural production; if there are no chemicals or pesticides, they won't be able to get good yields.

- Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health?

They are aware that the chemicals they use have had negative impacts on the environment or people's health, but they still need to be used to increase productivity.

- Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying? Where do they access these materials?

Those who have used agrochemicals know very well about other chemicals, and they buy chemicals from the markets in Oudomxay.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

- Farmers receive information about agricultural production from their neighbors, as well as people in the same village and the academic staff of the District Agriculture and Forestry Office.

- Villagers have the opportunity to talk with each other according to tradition, especially about what kind of rice species or crops they should plant to ensure that they are suitable for the year's climate. Some people who have experience and have seen other villages get good productivity and good prices are also sharing each other.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

People practice agroforestry, such as tea and cardamom, in the free space between the large trees.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

In 2004, they attended in an agricultural training as well as studied and exchanged experiences as part of the GA project in Luang Namtha, which was organized by the District Agriculture and Forestry Office.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

Farmers share their knowledge in the village by talking about their experiences. Most of the information on best practices comes from the villagers themselves and from neighbors who have had great success in agricultural production.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

There is a protection forest, a production forest, a conservation forest, a restoration forest, and a sacred forest in the village.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

Forest resources benefit the community because the forests have been the source of people's livelihoods for a long time. If there are rich forests, people have the opportunity to take advantage. For example, bamboo shoots, bamboo, cardamoms, tiger grass, herbs or other NTFPs are useful for consumption and sale, which can generate a lot of income for the community.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

Forests are now dwindling due to long-term human deforestation, and droughts and wildfires are increasing every year. It affects the growth of forests and plant species. He thinks everything, whether it's non-timber forest products or forest resources, is insufficient to meet people's needs while the population is also increasing every year.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

- Women are more likely to enter the forest than men to harvest non-timber forest products for sale and consumption. Non-timber forest products include firewood, mushrooms, bamboo shoots, vegetables, rattan, boon shoots, cardamom, and tiger grass for sale and consumption.

- Men go into the forests to harvest huge amounts of wood to build their houses or hunt some wild animals for food and sale if they are found.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them?

They use wood to build houses, collect herbal medicines, hunt wildlife, and harvest mushrooms and other plants that can be used as food and other non-timber forest products.

- Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

The products they've used have changed a lot due to the depletion of natural resources, because people who burn forests for cultivation without fire control, causing forest fires that will reduce natural resources.

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There is only one ethnic group in Mokok Village, namely the Hmong. So there are no differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

The village's forest resources are managed in accordance with the laws issued by the government, while deforestation in the protected area is prohibited. If there are violations, the authorities will take action against the offenders by educating them and issuing a warning. If there is a second violation, there will be a fine in accordance with the laws.

3.5.1 How are women and men involved in forest protection and management?

Women and men are also involved in forest protection and management. For example, if a forest fire occurs or if they are found deforesting in the protected forest areas for their own benefit, villagers or those who found out can inform the village authorities.

- Are there differences in the roles of men and women?

There are no differences in the roles of men and women. In general, forest management plans have not yet been established, and now forest management is based on the dissemination of regulations by government officials with public relations as the basis for people's perception, especially in law disseminating.

- What are challenges they face?

- The challenge was that some people from other villages had deforested in the conservation forest areas. There are certain groups of people who see more personal benefit than the public. They are stubborn and do what they want to do.

- The second challenge is that some people are landless for sustainable agricultural production, so they trespass in the forests to practice shifting cultivation or cut down trees to build houses.

- Do they have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

When the village forestry authorities were found, they informed the village authorities as well as the District Forestry Inspection sector and have issued a warning to offenders and fined them in accordance with the laws.

3.5.2 What about members of ethnic communities?

There is only one Hmong ethnic group in the village, while forest management is implemented for all village members, it is illegal to invade or practice agricultural production on the lands that have been allocated and managed. If there is any violation of the laws, village authorities or district officials should be informed.

- Are there differences in the roles of ethnic communities?

There are no differences in the roles of ethnic communities because there is only one ethnic group in the village.

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

- *The poorest families can benefit from village forest management as well. They can also attend village-level consultations and use the forest like everyone else.*
- *One person said that the poorest families benefit more from village forest management than the general population. These people often go into the forests to harvest forest resources for sale and consumption in their families.*

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing)?

They said that some village members are more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest. Before land allocation, also known as forest and land zoning, people could use the forest as they liked, and the land could be used to make grazing for livestock of villagers as they liked. When forest management and land use are restricted, people lose their benefits. For example, they face challenges without land for agriculture and livestock.

- If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?
- *The disadvantaged groups are the general population that relies on the forests for their livelihoods and grazing.*
- *Solution: In the past, village authorities allocated public land to landless groups for agricultural production.*

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

The village already has a land-use plan and forest management.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

They have never experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land within the village. For example, when a couple buys land, by law, they can be named together on the land title deed.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

Men and women from different ethnic groups have equal access to land within the village, but women are often indecisive about any activity. Most of the time, men are involved in planning or making decisions because Hmong women may be afraid that they can't speak Lao properly. Also, the Hmong women are

always very busy, and they don't have time to participate. Some people like to go stay overnight in their fields for agriculture and livestock.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

It is easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

They are aware of a lot of climate change compared to the past.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

- They have noticed changes, especially droughts and non-seasonal rainfall. There was a drought some years ago, causing gravity-fed water in the village to dry up, but this year there was heavy rain.

- The temperature is higher, with occasional heavy rains causing landslides and hitting the route to access the fields as well as agricultural areas, making it difficult to practice agricultural production, and some roads were eroded by water, while it is extremely hot during the summer season, and the winter is too cool.

- When it rains, there are often strong winds and lightning. Sometimes it is extremely hot and becomes extremely dry, and subsequent wildfires occur each year.

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

- The number of forests is dwindling, and where was once a great forest has become a bald mountain, while the forests that used to have bamboo no longer exist. Most replacement plants are prickly grasses and vines, and some places have no plants at all, leaving the ground empty.

- Droughts occur every year due to low rainfall.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

The agricultural land is deteriorated and unable to produce good yields, probably because the soil is very hard and dry. They notice that the productivity is decreasing every year. It may be due to climate change, which affects agricultural productivity, resulting in reduced yields and rice insufficiency.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

They have experienced droughts; landslides have hit roads to access the fields and damaged crops, especially the people's crops that have not yet been harvested. While landslides hit roads, they make it difficult for communities to travel to their fields. Sometimes heavy rains and flash floods hit the rice fields for days.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

- They have noticed that this change happens more frequently each year, but droughts and landslides have worsened.

- There were rarely droughts that occurred in the past, but nowadays, droughts and forest fires happen every year. The cause of forest fires is people harvesting some forest products. They may burn or create smoke to hunt some animals that hide under stones or wooden holes, and these people may leave after finishing without consideration of wildfires. Some people smoke and throw out their cigarette butts all over the place, causing a fire and spreading in a wide area.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

It has affected people's livelihoods and ecosystems as people's lives become more difficult, the crops are severely damaged and low yields result in insufficient rice. It also affects ecosystems as a result of degraded soil, forests being destroyed, some creeks having their negative changed, water sources drying up, and a loss of forest balance.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).

All members of the community are particularly impacted by these disasters.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)

Some activities related to preparing for natural disasters include managing conservation forests, as well as protecting existing forests and allocating sustainable agricultural land for locals.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?

- The village forestry sector organizes these activities, supported by the District Agriculture and Forestry Office, which gets information from the village forestry sector.

- To cope with natural disasters, the village authorities have warned through the village loudspeaker to all villagers in order to be more careful. For droughts, caution should be exercised when using fire, both indoors and outdoors.

- In the past, forest fires nearby the village have occurred and spread to the NPA, but the village authorities as well as locals have assisted each other to extinguish forest fires and create a firebreak to prevent the fire from widely spreading.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

The main causes of community deforestation are the smuggling of wood for sale and the building of houses. In addition, there is also clear forest for upland rice cultivation and other crops.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

- The main causes of deforestation are shifting cultivation, due to people are landless for sustainable agricultural production, as well as their families' economic crisis and poverty.

- Due to there being no land for agricultural production, people who have just moved to live in the village or new married couples are required to cut down trees to repair or build houses.

- Currently, deforestation has greatly reduced due to the value of trees for commercial purposes no longer existing, while the remaining commercial timber exists in protected areas where deforestation and encroachment are prohibited. Most of the villagers switched from shifting cultivation to more permanent upland cultivation. The reason for the suspension of shifting cultivation was that the government had banned deforestation for the purpose of shifting cultivation; if there is deforestation in any village, that village must be responsible in accordance with the law.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

This affects ecosystems and forests, including streams that have dried up, extremely hot weather, droughts, and forests being reduced, while some terrestrial and aquatic animals are extinct or move to live in other areas. For example, in the past, there were water spangles, cabomba carolinianas, and freshwater algae along the rivers, but now some species have disappeared or dwindled.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

It affects local people's livelihoods in ways such as making it difficult to harvest non-timber forest products and firewood, while rivers dry up and people face a shortage of water for agricultural production.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

They have found a way to reduce deforestation, which is to encourage those who cleared forests to shift cultivation to replacement by practicing sustainable agricultural production. In addition, village authorities have been disseminated with the forest protection regulations.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe.

They think that deforestation and forest degradation have had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters, and that they worsen every year. For example, droughts, forest fires, and landslides occur every year, and when there are issues like this, it affects the environment and deteriorates the forest.

What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

There is no answer.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project – NEW PROJECT VILLAGES

7. Do you know about the planned I-GFLL project activities that might take place in this village?

They do not yet know about the planned I-GFLL project activities that might take place in the village.

7.1 If the project works in this village, what are the best ways to inform community members about a meeting? Or about another kind of opportunity?

If the project is implemented in this village, they need to coordinate as well as organize the meetings in order to have discussion and agreement by all members of the village. The people who missed the meeting will be informed through the village loudspeakers, and the unit leaders will further inform their own members.

7.2 The I-GFLL project will try to speak to as many people in the community as possible before it begins. How can they do that?

Consultation between the project and the village level is important and must be done before implementation. The project must be coordinated through the relevant sectors of the government or meet locals to coordinate the notification of the project objectives on their own. It is important to organize the village meeting in advance.

7.3 Are there some parts of the community that are more difficult to talk to? Who are they and why? (prompt for poverty, ethnicity/language barriers, disability/access, female headed households) – are there any other ways the project can use to talk to these people?

They don't think it will be an issue to reach out to different groups in the village because most people, if there are some projects to help or some development activity in the village, are happy and willing to support it fully.

7.4 One of the project aims is to support participatory land use planning – has that happened here?

They said that there have been similar activities that happened in the village for years, but the project has focused on promoting agriculture and animal husbandry alongside nutrition and sanitation. Unfortunately, they can't remember the name of the project.

7.4.1 Can you tell us more about this?

There is no answer.

7.5 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

There used to be a collaborative project with the government to improve agricultural and animal husbandry.

7.5.1 Can you tell us more about this?

- They can provide additional information about activities to promote sustainable agriculture, especially since the project has encouraged villagers to cultivate vegetables and raise animals sustainably.

- The Agriculture and Livestock Promotion Project that the district authorities and project have provided land for agricultural crop cultivation as well as rubber plantations on the deteriorated land of the village, and they have switched from shifting cultivation to permanent crop cultivation.

7.6 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

They think that the project will be able to help.

7.6.1 Why or why not?

- As the project will provide funding to help people manage forests and engage in other careers that do not involve deforestation for shifting cultivation. Today, most people have changed from deforestation for shifting cultivation to more sustainable agricultural production and livestock for commercial purposes.

- If there is a project implementation in the village, it will be very helpful in reducing natural disasters.

7.7 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

They think that this project will be able to help villagers with forest management because people can conserve forests where there are already forest management activities. If the project wants to develop a participatory land-use plan, the village can be consulted and recommend areas that are important or sensitive to invasion that deserve special attention.

Any other remarks:

- On the project?

They would like to propose a project to promote agricultural production and animal husbandry and want the project to provide seeds and fruit trees. They also want to get grass species for planting.

- On challenges to women's participation?

They think it's no challenge to women's participation, but there must be a gathering of female members. If the project is implemented in this village and if they want women to participate, the village women's union plays a key role in mobilizing the community in the village to participate.

- On ethnic participation?

There is only one Hmong ethnic group in this village. Ethnic people's participation in project activities, especially the Hmong people, shows that they are paying attention and dedicated to the work fully. If compared to other ethnic groups, the Hmong people are more diligent and work harder every day.

- On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

- The participation of other vulnerable people, poor households, and disabled people is important; they would like the project to invite them to participate and inform them in advance on animal husbandry and harvesting some NTFPs for sale.

- The participation of other vulnerable people, poor households, and disabled people may not be as good as it should be due to the fact that these groups are not fully prepared to cope with many issues such as well-being, health problems, and rice insufficiency.

- **220323V2 - Mokok 2**

Village name: Mokok
District: Xay
Province: OudomXay
Interview: Interview group of women in the village
Date: 23.03.2022

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

There are not differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups. villagers' agricultural production is for consumption and sell. The only difference is poor families are less likely to have labor and women are likely to go to work in the fields than men.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

People in the village have cultivated some jobs tear, rice, cassava, cardamom, tea and corn.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

They have been experiencing a rice shortage every year in the past. For example, in the past some families did not get enough rice for about six months, but now they are getting enough.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

They produce cash crops such as cassava, cardamom, tea and corn.

2.4 What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.).

The main challenges people face in terms of agricultural production are market access, price pressures from middlemen and lower price. Productivity is damaged from the pests such as insects' rates.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (Price of crops, where and when to sell....)

Farmers get market information from middlemen and mainly sell their products to middlemen during harvest different time such as jobs tear sell out in October, cardamom sell out in August and Tea was sold between March and October. Apart from tea products, the other price of products are pressures from middlemen and lower price in the rainy season and there will be no solution.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

The shortage of transportation vehicles is the most significant challenge to market access, price pressures from middlemen and lower price, low quality of production especially the tea, the leaves turn an ugly red. Other problem is that the outbreak of Covid-19 has caused crop to fall.

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

There is no problem for agricultural work because there is only one ethnic group in this village.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

They have practiced shifting cultivation and seen changes during the rotation season of cultivation, especially that productivity has been decreased.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

Villagers have not used chemicals such as for their agricultures.

- Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health?

N/A

- Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying? Where do they access these materials?

N/A

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

They said that they didn't know because there was no information on good farming was disseminated to them.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

They practice agroforestry, such as cardamom cultivation. After harvesting these crop and then sowing grass seeds to feed the cattles.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

They attended agricultural training in last 5years ago, trained at DAFO and trained by Agricultural officers.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

Farmers share of knowledge between farmers and sharing experienced of learning from others who has been successful and who have practiced in the past.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

There are national protected areas, protection forests, and production forests.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

Different types of forest resources benefit the community by having a place to find food and all NTFP for consumption and sale.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

The forest provide sufficient products for people needs in the village.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

The women like to get into forest for collecting the bamboo shoots, the men gets in forest for hunting wildlife for consumption and sale.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them?

The main products they harvest from the forest consist of timbers for construction, traditional medicine, herbs, vegetables and wild animals.

- Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

They have noticed some changes in its composition due to some products having decreased as the population increases. In the past, non-timber forest products were plentiful, enough to be sold, but now there is a decline due to reforestation, upland fires and forest fires, which are affecting NTFPs.

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are no differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

The village forest resources are managed by stopping logging for sale and reducing deforestation and involvement in protecting area.

- How are women and men involved in forest protection and management?

Women and men were equally involved in forest protection and management. For example, if there is a forest fire, or women will be there for to help the men put out the fire, or if someone is seen cutting down the trees, they will inform the village chief.

- Are there differences in the roles of men and women?

There are no differences in the roles of men and women.

- What are challenges they face?

The challenges they face are someone from other village came to illegally cut down the trees in their forest area in the village.

- Do you have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

To overcome these challenges, they do not yet have a solution to this problem.

3.5.1 What about members of ethnic communities?

Members of ethnic communities are involved in forest protection and management just like other individuals. Example, if there is a forest fire, they will be there for to help each other to put out the fire, or if someone is seen cutting down the trees, they will inform the village chief.

- *There was no difference in the role of members of ethnic communities.*

- *There was challenge as someone from other village come and illegally cut the trees down*

- *they do not yet have a solution to this problem.*

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

The poorest families benefit from village forest management in the same way as other general families.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing).

They said that there are some villagers are losing more because of restrictions on forest use within the village.

- If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

People who rely on forests for their livelihood make up the bulk of those who are particularly affected. The villagers used to farm and raise livestock in this protection area before to have the demarcation of the NPA. The protected area is restricted to forest use, thus affecting the families and the affected households are not compensated.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

The community has a land-use plan.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

No problems conflicts of land use were found in this village and the neighboring.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land within the village.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

Men and women from different ethnic groups have equal access to land within the village as other individuals.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

Villagers can access the land in the village more easily after land allocation.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

They said that they are aware of climate change it was rained less last year and it rained more for this year.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

They said that they have noticed changes in temperatures from year to year, which continue to increase, and in last ten year ago landslide occurred and

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

There has been a big of change, villagers faced droughts and landslides in last 3 years ago. Reforestation from last year`s wildfires cause a lot of damage the trees and other crops. Currently, there was not enough water for consumption due to the Lao- China railway construction project. In the past, there was water available all year round, but after construction of railway to the water conservation area, there was no running water.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

They said they have noticed changes in agricultural lands and productions due to warming conditions that have made the soil harder and drier as a result of the weather.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

The community faces droughts and landslides.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

It is more severe than it was 5 years ago since it was noticed that people not have had forests protected and they have been clearing the forests for shifting cultivation As a results there was a drought, crops would be damaged and production would suffer.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

It has affected people's livelihoods, such as rising temperatures, which make it difficult to sustain life and unable to produce them fully, damaging crops and resulting in reduced productivity. It is possible that the paddy will not be planted, the crop will die and the trees or other the plants will die due the lack of water.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).
All families are particularly impacted by these disasters as droughts.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management). If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?
People have the way of helping each other to protect the existing forests and reserves in order to cope with future for natural disasters. Village chief implements and supporting the activities from District level. They received information from the village forestry unit.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

The main causes of community deforestation are felling for houses building, illegally cutting down the trees for selling and firewood.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.
They said that they have noticed on the felling is increasing as more new married couples have moved to their own houses, increase of population and resulting in more wood being used to build houses, while the number of trees has begun to decrease.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

It has the effect of reducing the number of small and large trees and damaging the ecosystem, such as reducing the number of wildlife living in the area.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

This affects local people's livelihoods. For example, water sources are reduced each year, while finding firewood is harder, and some non-timber forest products have been decreased.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

Cutting down some huge trees to build houses is prohibited. If anyone wants to do it, they must inform the village authorities, but it remains difficult because there are still some groups that have deforested illegally.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe. What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

Deforestation and forest degradation have affected the frequency of serious natural disasters: if the people do not follow the established forest protections regulations and continue to clear forests, they will face more serious natural disasters Environmental problems, declining non-timber forest products. Social challenges, people may face hardships in the future.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project

7.1 Do you know about the I-GFLL project activities that have taken place in this village?

They said they do not know any thing about the project

7.2 What are some of the I-GFLL activities that have taken place here?

Initially, the village authorities will inform the villagers about the activities of the project, may hold the meeting to disseminate the formal recognition to all so that they can be more involed.

7.3 Have you been involved in any I-GFLL project activities here? Or someone you know?

The project has not yet worked in this village.

7.4 What was that experience like?

N/A

7.5 One of the project aims is to support participatory land-use planning – has that happened here?

Yes, it has happened in the village.

7.7.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They said that they couldn't say anything else because they hadn't fully comprehended the situation.

7.8 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

Yes, it has happened in the village.

7.8.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They could not provide information on sustainable agriculture.

7.9 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

They said that they think the project will be able to help.

7.9.1 Why or why not?

This is because the project is funded for implementation and has technical leadership.

7.10 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

It has happened in the village, but they said that they cannot provide further information.

7.11 For the projects that have happened, have all members of the community been able to participate?
For the projects that have happened, all members of the community have been able to participate including women and ethnic groups.

7.11.1 Can you tell us more about this?

Both women and ethnic groups are involved in every step of the process of providing feedback and information about the project and the village.

Any other remarks:

- On the project?

They want the project supported by finance for clearing the agricultural production areas.

They want the project to be supported by finance for fish farming.

They want the project to be supported by finance for raising animals.

- On challenges to women's participation?

There are no challenges to women's participation.

- On ethnic participation?

There are no challenges to ethnic participation.

- On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

There are no challenges to the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households.

- **220323V2 - Mokok 3**

Interview: Interview Vulnerable group

Village name: Mokok Village

District: Xay District

Province: Oudomxay Province

Date: 23/03/2022

Surveyor's Name (s) Sing

Interview ID: Mokok 3

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

There is only one ethnic group in Mokok Village. The livelihood of the villagers in Mokok are different but farming is the same. The most of these people practice agricultural production for consumption. For the poorest families, they have a shortage of labor and most women go to work in the fields and garden.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

Villagers and vulnerable in Mokok have cultivated some rice, corn, cardamoms, casava, tea and jobs tear.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

In generally, villagers face rice insufficiency for about 6 or 7 months a year

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

People produce cash crops such as jobs tear and tea for sell.

2.4. What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.). What factors are driving or influencing these changes?

The main challenge that farmers face in terms of agricultural production is that they have faced poor productivity, non-seasonal rainfall, post-harvest losses by pests, the price of product is not good, rice plants do not germinate well, cause the leaves to turn yellow and die. It may be due to poor soil or soil disease and other facing is in middlemen's pressured prices.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (Price of crops, where and when to sell....)

Farmers receive market information from middlemen who come to buy their products in the village. The jobs tear harvesting season is during October, cardamom is during August, and tea harvesting season is between March and October.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

People face challenges in accessing markets, especially when harvesting crops late and not meeting market demand. If the quality of the yields is poor, they are required to sell out at low prices as results of middlemen's pressured prices.

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

There are the same challenges in agricultural production.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

People practice shifting cultivation and if rotation for 2-3 years or more, they feel that the soil quality becomes poor and causes droughts.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

Villagers didn't use agrochemicals.

- Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health?

There is no answer.

- Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying? Where do they access these materials?

There is no answer.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

They did not receive any information on best practices to improve yields that can adapt to climate change. For the rice cultivation, the office of agriculture and forestry provided the advices on how to apply fertilizer, but villagers have not implemented it.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

They practice agroforestry, such as growing some grass mixed with jobs tear for consumption and sell in the families, after the weeds are harvested and raising animals in there.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

They attended an agricultural training about 5 years ago, organized by the District Agriculture and Forestry Office.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

The village farmers share their knowledge with each other in the village by sharing their experiences.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

A village is consisted of the conservation forest, protection forest, and production forest.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

Forest resources benefit the community as a place to provide food for locals, and people can harvest several non-timber forest products for consumption and sell.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

The forest provides sufficient products for their needs, especially for food and consumption.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

Women go into the forest to harvest some non-timber forest products, while the men go into the forest to hunt some wildlife.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them?

The main products they harvest include bamboo shoots, mushrooms, rattan, palm fruits, and cardamom for consumption in their families.

- Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

These products have changed over the years. For example, NTFPs were plentiful enough to consume and sell, but now they are declining due to population growth as well as shifting cultivation that impact on NTFPs and wildlife has been reduced.

3.4.1.2 Are their differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are no differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups, there is one ethnic group in this village.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

The village forest resource is managed by the village forest sector, and villagers also help to prevent outsiders from deforestation within the protected area. If there are violators of the rules, they will be punished according to the rules.

3.5.1

- How are women and men involved in forest protection and management?

Women and men are involved in forest protection and management, such as assisting in extinguishing forest fires if they occur and reporting to the village authorities if they are found deforesting in the protected forest areas.

- Are there differences in the roles of men and women?

There are no differences in the roles of men and women.

- What are challenges they face?

The problem was that outsiders had deforested in the village territory especially in the national conservation area.

- Do they have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

There is no way to address these challenges.

3.5.2

- What about members of ethnic communities?

Ethnic communities are involved in forest protection and management, such as assisting in extinguishing forest fires if they occur and reporting to the village authorities if they are found deforesting in the protected forest areas.

- Are there differences in the roles of ethnic communities?

There are no differences in the roles of ethnic communities.

- What are challenges they face?

The problem was that outsiders had deforested in the village areas without notifying the head of the village.

- Do they have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

There is no way to address these challenges unless the head of the village is informed.

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

The poorest families benefit from village forest management, such as access to non-timber forest products in the forest.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing)?

They said that some village members were more disadvantaged because of restrictions on forest use within the village forest.

- If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

If access to NPA is restricted, they lose the benefits that NTFPs cannot harvest. Affected people will not be compensated.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

The Mokok village already has a land-use plan.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

They have had land-use conflicts with neighboring or outsiders, particularly some people have built a fence to enclose the agricultural land of others.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land within the village.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

Men and women from different ethnic groups have equal access to land within the village.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

They said that it is easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

They said that they are aware of climate change.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

They have noticed changes that include before the construction of the railway, the weather hadn't changed much, but after the railway was constructed, droughts occurred because the railway blocked the streams, and when it rained, it was heavy and there was a landslide.

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

They said that forest fires had caused alterations in their village's forest, which had led in higher temperatures and the outbreak of many locusts, which had damaged saplings. This is mainly due to climate change.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

They have noticed changes in agricultural lands and production having to do with changing weather patterns, such as severe droughts, which cause changes in agricultural land due to climate change.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

They face natural disasters, particularly droughts.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

They said the droughts were getting worse because the number of forests has decreased and the existence of the railway that has been constructed over some rivers has led to droughts.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

This has affected people's livelihoods in that the droughts affect people's crops, causing less productivity while some natural resources and non-timber forest products are reduced.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).

All member groups are particularly impacted by these disasters.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)

Activities related to preparing for natural disasters are unknown.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?

There is no answer.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

The main cause of deforestation in village communities is that people still clear forest for shifting cultivation.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

They believe that if no project is available to help, some people groups will continue to clear the forest for shifting cultivation.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

It is affected by droughts, lack of water due to the river drying up, and extreme heat weather, and forests are reduced.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

This affects local livelihoods such as droughts, lack of firewood, and a decline in non-timber forest products.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

They said that government officials or projects should be implemented to encourage activities among people in order to reduce deforestation.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe.

Deforestation and forest degradation have negatively impacted on the frequency of severe natural disasters such as droughts and forest fires, which affect the productivity of people.

What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

Environmental problems occur once in a while, and 2; social challenge is river drought.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project – NEW PROJECT VILLAGES

7. Do you know about the planned I-GFLL project activities that might take place in this village?

They do not yet know what plans for I-GFLL project activities that might take place in the village.

7.1 If the project works in this village, what are the best ways to inform community members about a meeting? Or about another kind of opportunity?

The best ways to inform community members about meetings are that they want the project to inform the head of village in advance, then the village chief to inform the unit leader, and finally, the unit leader to continue to inform members to acknowledge the project activities in order to be more involved.

7.2 The I-GFLL project will try to speak to as many people in the community as possible before it begins. How can they do that?

They said that if the I-GFLL project tries to speak to as many people in the community as possible before it begins, it is required to issue a notice to inform the village and list the objectives of the project. If people were prohibited from clearing the forest for shifting cultivation, there must be other alternative occupations for people to have better careers.

7.3 Are there some parts of the community that are more difficult to talk to? Who are they and why? (prompt for poverty, ethnicity/language barriers, disability/access, female headed households) – are there any other ways the project can use to talk to these people?

There are some families in the community that are more difficult to talk to, especially people who were drug addicts.

7.4 One of the project aims is to support participatory land use planning – has that happened here?

Land use planning has already taken place in this village.

7.4.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They often provide additional information about land use planning.

7.5 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

This activity has happened in the village.

7.5.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They can provide additional information about sustainable agriculture promotion activities.

7.6 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

They said that the project has potential.

7.6.1 Why or why not?

Because the project will provide funds to support villagers manage the forests and land management.

7.7 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

The forest management already exist. If the project would like to come up with a participatory land use plan, the villagers can share the information and can be able to suggest which area are important or which area should be development and which areas should be given special attention.

Any other remarks:

- On the project?

They would like the project to provide funding for the livestock activity and would like the project provide plants seeds for families with more women. They would like to have the traditional jobs tear seeds, rice seed and would like to get the grass to raise animals. In addition , they would like the project helps in improve the gravity water system in the village.

- On challenges to women's participation?

They want women to have more participation in training.

- On ethnic participation?

There is no recommendation because the villagers are in good harmony.

- On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

They want the project to explain to poor households about the project's activities.

4.5 Consultations in Nga District

A. District level: Nga

- **220325D2 - Nga 1**

GoL interviews – Project 2 by Phao

Survey ID: Nga (1)

Office: District Governor's Office.

District: Nga District

Province: Oudomxay

Date: 25.03.2022

Changing environmental and climatic conditions

1. Have you noticed changes in the weather (temperature, rain levels, natural disasters)?

- Overall, the current climate has changed dramatically compared to the previous years, particularly the temperatures. It is warmer, and it is not as cold as it should be in the winter. Some years it rains often, but some years it rains less or non-seasonal rainfall. When it rains, there is usually strong wind and lightning, and landslides often occur and hit the roads or agricultural production areas. In the dry season, there is also a drought that makes the soil dry, rivers and streams dry up, and there are some dry forests, causing forest fires in production forests or other restoration forests.

- At present, it can be noticed that the winter season is shorter than before due to people's feeling cold in winter for just two months compared to the past, when winter stayed longer and cooler than nowadays.

1.1 How has (changed or bad weather) this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems?

- These changes affect many people's livelihoods. For example, heavy rain causes landslides to hit roads and many people's crops, causing unharvested crops to be under soil. The landslides also affect people's travel difficulties; sometimes transport vehicles can't pass, and they need to suspend temporary travel to wait for road repairs, making people lose opportunity and travel time due to landslides.

- Droughts also cause streams used for agricultural production to dry up, as well as many trees and crops to dry up and die, or poor productivity. Water sources for human consumption in some remote villages have faced challenges because rivers have dried up.

1.2 Are some groups and households in your district more vulnerable to natural disasters, floods, and/or drought?

People who practice agricultural production and ethnic groups who live far away from the towns are the most vulnerable to natural disasters. It generally affects everyone. For example, people who used to routinely take products to markets are threatened by natural disasters that cause poor yields or damage, so they are unable to supply the product to the market and consumers.

1.3 Who is particularly vulnerable and why?

People who practice agricultural production and consumers are particularly vulnerable because they are farmers and their main occupation is practicing agriculture for livelihoods and selling it as a commodity.

2. Have you noticed changes in forest areas in your district, and how does this affect local livelihoods?

- Forest areas have changed dramatically due to illegal deforestation. People cleared forest areas for shifting cultivation; the former rich forest was cut and sold to capitalists or merchants; and non-timber forest products also decreased. Massive logging and deforestation in the past have turned it into bald mountains. In some areas around the forest, buildings have been constructed, and natural waterways have been changed.

- This has an impact on the environment and ecosystem, causing the forest to lose its natural balance. Some terrestrial and aquatic animals that live in the forest are destroyed and relocated. The streams are starting to dry up and there may be contaminants in the water, which affects people's livelihoods who live in the lower rivers.

- At present, especially in the surroundings of National Protected Areas and other invaded places, they have been improved and restored step by step.

3. Have you noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards (e.g. floods, drought, landslides)? If yes, please describe.

Climate change can be causing floods, droughts, wildfires, and landslides as mentioned above. He thinks all of this is a result of deforestation. For example, one of the more common causes of landslides is that there is no forest cover when it rains. This can make the soil more easily eroded. On the other hand, if there is no rain or little rain, there will be a drought that can kill some trees and cause soil degradation. Some years there was a severe drought. Therefore, there is a high risk of forest fires.

3.1 Have these trends changed in the last 5, 15 or 30 years? Please describe how.

These trends and changes are similar to those in the past 5 years. In the past 3-4 years, there have been heavy rains that caused landslides to hit agricultural areas of people, and flooding has damaged soil dams that were used to store water for district agricultural production.

4. Do you consider climate change in your current planning for land use planning, agricultural management or forest management? If yes, please describe how.

- The District Governor's Office is the centre of various sectors. Therefore, for the pre-operational activities, the District Governor's Office has coordinated on planning and issued the notices or appointed the relevant offices to carry out their respective areas of responsibility.

- On planning for land use planning and agricultural management, it is under the responsibility of the District Agriculture and Forestry Offices as well as DoNRE, who lead other activities implementation that will occur, whether it is a project related to infrastructure development or government tasks. They had the meetings to discuss and consider the feasibility of environmental impact issues.

Role in Forest Management and Climate Change Adaptation activities

5. What is your (office's/department's) role in forest management? (in Project 1 districts ask if there is a difference between before and now, or within the context of the project)

The District Governor's Office has been involved in the implementation and consultation with the relevant sectors in accordance with the project master plan and the rules of the District Agriculture and Forestry Office, which they have participated in zoning other boundaries. In addition, during the growing season, the District Governor's Office has planted trees in degraded forest areas to create beauty and maintain a balanced environment.

6. What is your office's role in climate change adaptation?

- Their office is still working on the existing plans, especially land and forest management, reforestation, and people's livelihood promotion. Each year, they are carried out by defining appropriate areas for improvement. The relevant sectors, as well as all parts of the government in the district and the people, have planted trees and released fish.

- As mentioned above, the District Governor's Office is at the centre of the overall direction. Therefore, the role of climate change adaptation is mainly assigned to relevant sectors such as the Office of Natural Resources and Environment and the Meteorological Office to lead the implementation.

7. Does your office have the capacity to fulfil these roles? If no, what is needed?

- He thinks all parties in the public sector have the capacity to fulfil these roles, but what they need is funding to continue development and activity implementation.

- However, if there is a project to promote the development of people's livelihoods or any form of empowerment, then there should be a training program to support government technical personnel to build their capacity.

8. Do you think forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters? And if yes, why?

- Forests are important to people's livelihoods. If a place has dense forests, people feel that it is rich in natural resources and also improves weather conditions, such as seasonal rainfall, while forest biodiversity has also increased.

- Forests help absorb and store water, and when it rains, the water flows slowly and provides sufficient water for people.

- Forests and huge trees help to adhere well to the soil surface and prevent soil erosion.

- Forests are shelters from the wind direction without affecting the yield and young trees.

- Forests help release oxygen and can reduce global warming.

9. Are there other projects or initiatives (ongoing or planned) related to land rights/ registration/ tenure in the district?

In the past, there was a project (can't remember the name) that provided the land measuring device for issuing land title deeds in Nga District. Currently, there is a project called Eunup to promote agriculture and livestock in some target villages across Nga District.

Role of men and women in land use and agriculture

10. What are the roles of i) women and ii) men in forest and land use? (Please differentiate by, ethnicity, and vulnerable (= poor, disabled) groups where suitable.)

They have equal rights in the role of men and women in land use and agriculture. In the Hmong ethnic group, women work hard and use forests more than men, and women know forests better than men because they often go into the forest to harvest non-timber forest products for sale and consumption.

10.1 In forest protection?

Gender/Groups	Ethnicity Groups	Vulnerable Groups
Females	<p><i>Forest protection is implemented in accordance with the laws.</i></p> <p><i>- Most ethnic women are likely to go into the forests to harvest some non-timber forest products and herbs for consumption and sale in the markets, such as firewood, bitter bamboo shoots, and tiger grass.</i></p>	<p><i>Forest protection for vulnerable groups is implemented in accordance with the laws like for other groups.</i></p> <p><i>- Most of these groups are landless for sustainable agricultural production, so they rely on the forest for their livelihood, such as harvesting some mushrooms, as well as bamboo shoots and other NTFPs for sale and exchange for rice.</i></p>
Males	<p><i>Forest protection for men is implemented in accordance with the laws like for women.</i></p> <p><i>- Men go into the forests to search for some wood to build their houses, as well as fences and firewood. Men have worked hard, but not very often.</i></p>	<p><i>The vulnerable groups are the same. They are often working hard, being hired to cut down the trees as well as build homes and harvest some NTFPs for sale and consumption.</i></p>

10.2 In agricultural production?

Gender/Groups	Ethnicity Groups	Vulnerable Groups
Females	<p><i>Most of the women were engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry and liked to practice upland rice and corn as their main occupations.</i></p> <p><i>During the cultivating season, they usually stayed in the fields and returned to their homes periodically.</i></p>	<p><i>Vulnerable groups are landless for sustainable agricultural production; they practice shifting cultivation.</i></p> <p><i>They like to go to forests to harvest some NTFPs for sale and consumption.</i></p>
Males	<p><i>Men and women work together in agriculture and animal husbandry.</i></p>	<p><i>Men and women work together in agriculture and animal husbandry.</i></p> <p><i>Men liked to go into the forests to harvest non-timber forest products for sale to buy rice and clothes.</i></p>

10.3 In agri-business?

Gender/Groups	Ethnicity Groups	Vulnerable Groups
Females	<p><i>Men and women practice agricultural production for consumption in their families and sell leftovers.</i></p>	<p><i>Vulnerable groups are rarely practiced in agri-business.</i></p>

Males	<i>Men and women practice agricultural production for consumption in their families and sell leftovers.</i>	<i>Vulnerable groups are rarely practiced in agri-business.</i>
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11. How can women become more involved in forest and land use?

Women are involved in implementation and making decisions on forest and land use; they are also involved in forestry activities, especially participating in forest surveys, as are men. In the past, there was a project to promote the strengthening of women and vulnerable people. As a result, women's understanding and participation gradually became stronger and more self-confident.

12. How can ethnic minority groups become more involved in forest and land use?

Ethnic minority groups can become more involved in forest and land use as well, due to the government's focus on supporting and empowering people equally.

13. Do you feel that women have the same access to benefits from forest resources as men?

Women and men have equal access to the benefits of forest resources.

13.1 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over forest resources?

Men and women have equal participation in the decision-making and management of forest resources, but there are some women who have low self-confidence.

13.2 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over agricultural activities?

- Men and women have equal participation in decision-making and management over agricultural activities.

- The roles of women and men in forest use and agriculture management are less effective for ethnic groups because there is still discrimination in some families due to most women rely on men to make decisions.

14. Does the new forest law protect the rights of all community members equally?

The new forest law protects the rights of all community members equally.

14.1 Do you understand well the new Forest Law?

He thinks he understands well because he has read and studied the key points.

14.2 Is there understanding of the new Forest Law at the village level?

He thinks that village-level residents already understand the new forest law because the DAFO and the Lao Front, along with over 20 relevant offices, have disseminated the law and given people the opportunity to

ask questions directly to the staff. In addition, the district administration has provided each hamlet with a copy of the law manual to read and distribute.

15. Who is responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the district level? At village level?

- The District Agriculture and Forestry Office is responsible for enforcing forestry law and providing forestry protection at the district level.

- The village agriculture and forestry sectors are responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the village level.

15.1 Are women specifically involved? (village)

Women are specifically involved in forest law enforcement and forestry protection at the village level. They will work to mediate or resolve issues within the village.

15.2 What about members of ethnic communities? (village)

Member of ethnic communities are specifically involved in forest law enforcement and forestry protection at the village level.

15.3 How is coordination and cooperation between villages and DOFI/ POFI? (district)

Coordinating between the village and the DOFI is often done via phone because it is more convenient and faster, or if it is not urgent, it will be submitted letter for preparation in advance. As for coordinating with the POFI, the district office must submit the proposal letters.

15.4 What are any risks or challenges they face related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

- Most people are aware of and understand the forest law, but it is difficult to implement because they are landless for agricultural production. As a result, people require some agricultural land, resulting in deforestation and the invasion of protected areas for shifting cultivation.

- Some people groups have previously broken the law through deforestation for shifting cultivation in protected areas, after which village authorities discovered and educated them. If they fail or violate the law again, authorities may fine them according to the law.

16. What are the current challenges for Land Use Planning (LUP) as relates to:

16.1 Women?

The women's group had a good understanding of land use planning.

16.2 Ethnic people?

Most people understand the laws but have failed to comply with them. This makes implementation difficult for village leaders and government officials.

16.3 The poorest members of communities?

Some of the poorest members of communities are not only poor but also create problems for society, such as theft, drug addiction, and the beating of children and wives. These people always fail to comply with the law.

16.4 Land use conflicts?

Land use conflicts are rarely common because everyone has their own land boundaries. In the past, work was not completed on zoning land and forest, and there were land use conflicts on a regular basis due to villagers' traditional land use practical. While everyone could choose and occupy the land as they wanted, sometimes there was land overlap, causing dissatisfaction and land use conflicts. Meanwhile, the incident has been resolved by the villages.

16.5 Issues with land allocation and titling?

Most villagers want to issue title deeds, but they are unable to afford it because issuing land title deeds is expensive.

16.6 Others?

There is no answer.

17. Access to markets is important for supporting deforestation free agriculture. What challenges in accessing markets do villagers have?

Villagers have faced difficulties and challenges in accessing markets due to the fact that most agricultural production villages are located far from the towns, making it difficult to transport products for sale in markets, with only middlemen buying their products in the villages, but the price of goods may not be high due to difficult roads and long distances.

17.1 Where possible differentiate between the challenges faced by:

1, Women and women-owned or -led businesses.

The majority of the people in the district has not big business women, but if they were, they would work along with their families, such as assisting husbands and wives. It works in the same way as setting up stores and restaurants.

2, Different ethnic groups.

Different ethnic groups are able to access the same markets as other groups.

3, Other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, among others).

Poor people are able to access the same markets as other groups, but sometimes they are taken advantage of by buyers by pushing prices lower. They are also exploited on justice, as well as on knowledge and dishonesty.

Overall perspectives on the project:

18. What is your opinion of the ongoing I-GFLL project, do you think it is helping to reduce deforestation in the target provinces/ districts?

He said that as he heard from the staff in the discussion this morning. He thinks the activities mentioned above are beneficial and can greatly reduce deforestation.

18.1 Why or why not?

Because the project has planning, they also have funding to support forest protection and promote people's livelihoods.

18.2 What other benefits has the project generated?

Wherever possible, the project would generate benefits by reducing deforestation for shifting cultivation. Forests will be restored, the degraded forest will become a green forest, the land will be allocated and managed well, and community life will be improved.

18.3 Have you seen any barriers to participation in the project?

He thinks that there are no barriers to participation in the project.

18.3.1 What are the challenges and ideas on how they can be overcome?

There are no challenges.

- Communities in remote areas?

Some villages are inaccessible during the rainy season due to poor road conditions and steep slopes, and there are many creeks in some areas.

- Ethnic communities?

Ethnic communities who live in remote areas may face challenges in implementing projects because they still lead a traditional lifestyle and they still rely on forests as a source of livelihood.

- Women, and female headed households?

Women and female-headed households may face challenges because they have more responsibilities in the household than men.

- Landless households

He said that he had no ideas on how to address the issues confronting landless households.

- The most vulnerable members of communities.

Most of the poor families are landless for agricultural production, and they often go into the forest to harvest some NTFPs or wild animals for sale in villages and markets in the district.

19. Does your department/office feel that it currently has the technical capacity to support the project?

He thinks that their office currently has the technical capacity to support the project, but even if it does not, he requests that to understand that the Governor's Office is still be a bridge to link relevant sectors in the implementation.

19.1 If not, please specify what areas specific capacity support is needed e.g. adaptation planning and mainstreaming, monitoring, etc.

There is no answer.

20. The project has a focus on gender and social inclusion of ethnic people and the poorest people. Do you think that is important?

According to the previous questionnaire, he thinks that this project is focusing on gender roles, including many groups, and he thinks that these activities are important.

21. Any other remarks:

21.1 On the project?

There is no answer.

21.2 On challenges to women's participation?

There is no answer.

21.3 On ethnic participation?

There is no answer.

21.4 On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

There is no answer.

22. Do you have any final comments or questions?

There is no answer.

- **220325D2 - Nga 2**

Office: District Agriculture and Forestry Office

District: Nga District

Province: Oudomxay

Date: 25/03/2022

Surveyor's Name (s): Thammanoon and Kong Lor

Interview ID: Nga-2

Changing environmental and climatic conditions

1. Have you noticed changes in the weather (temperature, rain levels, natural disasters)?

They have noticed change in the weather.

1.1 How has (changed or bad weather) this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems?

Changes have affected people's livelihoods and ecosystems, such as forest and aquatic animal declines, some rivers drying up, an increasing population, extreme heat weather, and some wildlife extinctions from environmental and even more epidemics.

1.2 Are some groups and households in your district more vulnerable to natural disasters, floods, and/or drought?

In the past 2 or 3 years, there has been heavy rainfall, but the most important period was the drought. In the Nga district, there have been several landslides in the Chomphet village, and drought covers approximately 70% of the district.

1.3 Who is particularly vulnerable and why?

People are particularly vulnerable due to the harvest losses of agricultural production that are affected by droughts, causing food shortages.

2. Have you noticed changes in forest areas in your district, and how does this affect local livelihoods?

They have noticed changes in forest areas in their district, especially where there were once forests that made it easier for people's livelihoods in the past, but now forests have decreased, making it harder for people's livelihoods.

3. Have you noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards (e.g. floods, drought, landslides)? If yes, please describe.

They have noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards, which lead to droughts and cause some creeks to face shortages of water or dry up with insufficient water supply for human consumption. Some rivers have never dried before but now they are dry.

3.1 Have these trends changed in the last 5, 15 or 30 years? Please describe how.

These changes are trending more severe.

4. Do you consider climate change in your current planning for land use planning, agricultural management or forest management? If yes, please describe how.

The Nga District has allocated land to every village, but forest management remains a challenge. They have considered management of the upstream areas in planning, but some groups with limited land use still have problems with forest encroachment.

Role in Forest Management and Climate Change Adaptation activities

5. What is your (office's/department's) role in forest management? (in Project 1 districts ask if there is a difference between before and now, or within the context of the project)

The role in forest management activities is to implement, in accordance with the law of forest management. Every activity as well as every case that occurs that they have assigned for the village authorities to deal with. The village authorities will inform the District Agriculture and Forestry Office if there is some deforestation or forest fires in order to overcome the issues in time.

6. What is your office's role in climate change adaptation?

The District Agriculture and Forestry Office mainly informs people to practice sustainable cultivation in the three old forest areas and allows reforestation to replace those forests in order to restore forests.

7. Does your office have the capacity to fulfil these roles? If no, what is needed?

The District Agriculture and Forestry Office has the capacity to fulfil these roles, but they do not have the funds to provide seedlings for reforestation.

8. Do you think forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters? And if yes, why?

They said that forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters because if they are able to comply with the management and planning, they believe that will help in decreasing natural disasters.

9. Are there other projects or initiatives (ongoing or planned) related to land rights/ registration/ tenure in the district?

There are no projects related to land rights or land registration in Nga District.

Role of men and women in land use and agriculture

10. What are the roles of i) women and ii) men in forest and land use? (Please differentiate by, ethnicity, and vulnerable (= poor, disabled) groups where suitable.)

The roles of women and men in forest and land use are the same, but the working patterns are different.

10.1 In forest protection?

Gender/Groups	Ethnicity Groups	Vulnerable Groups
Females	<i>They have equal rights in forest protection, but doesn't understand much about the forest.</i>	<i>They have equal rights in forest protection, but doesn't understand much about the forest.</i>
Males	<i>They have equal rights in forest protection.</i>	<i>They have equal rights in forest protection.</i>

10.2 In agricultural production?

Gender/Groups	Ethnicity Groups	Vulnerable Groups
Females	<i>They have equal rights in agricultural production.</i>	<i>There are no equal rights in agricultural production.</i>
Males	<i>They have equal rights in agricultural production.</i>	<i>There are no equal rights in agricultural production.</i>

10.3 In agri-business?

Gender/Groups	Ethnicity Groups	Vulnerable Groups
Females	<i>They have equal rights in agri-business</i>	<i>They have equal rights in agri-business</i>
Males	<i>They have equal rights in agri-business</i>	<i>They have equal rights in agri-business</i>

11. How can women become more involved in forest and land use?

Women can be involved in forest and land use equally.

12. How can ethnic minority groups become more involved in forest and land use?

Ethnic minority groups can be involved in forest and land use equally.

13. Do you feel that women have the same access to benefits from forest resources as men?

They said that women have more access to the benefits of forest resources than men.

13.1 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over forest resources?

They said that women have not participated in the decision-making and management of forest resources because they feared making decisions about something.

13.2 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over agricultural activities?

They said that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management of agricultural activities.

14. Does the new forest law protect the rights of all community members equally?

The new forest law protects the rights of all community members equally.

14.1 Do you understand well the new Forest Law?

They understand the new forest law by about 20-30%.

14.2 Is there understanding of the new Forest Law at the village level?

Locals' understanding of the new forest law at the village level about 20%.

15. Who is responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the district level? At village level?

The District Agriculture and Forestry Office is responsible for enforcing forestry law and providing forestry protection at the district level; while the village agriculture and forestry sectors are responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the village level.

15.1 Are women specifically involved? (village)

Women are specifically involved in some villages, but most of them are men who are responsible for enforcing forestry law.

15.2 What about members of ethnic communities? (village)

Member of ethnic communities are specifically involved in enforcing forestry law.

15.3 How is coordination and cooperation between villages and DOFI/ POFI? (district)

There is coordination and cooperation between villages and DOFI and POFI; if there is illegal deforestation in the conservation forest or protected area, there will be an urgent call via phone immediately.

15.4 What are any risks or challenges they face related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

The risks or challenges they face to forest law enforcement and forest protection are related to deforestation because law enforcement is not effective. But if authorities find deforestation, the offenders will be arrested and fined.

16. What are the current challenges for Land Use Planning (LUP) as relates to:

16.1 Women?

There are no current challenges to land use planning as it relates to women, because women have specific guidelines for women in village-level land use planning.

16.2 Ethnic people?

There are no current challenges to land use planning as it relates to ethnic people due to, they did not want to participate because they did not understand the spoken language. But now that their language has improved, if the project plans to visit the villages, they should have an interpreter.

16.3 The poorest members of communities?

The poorest members of communities did not want to participate either, because some families did not understand the language and some families were addicted to drugs.

16.4 Land use conflicts?

There are many challenges related to land use planning. While the solution will depend on a person's title deed, the land that people occupy depends on the village chief, and the village authorities are aware of their people.

16.5 Issues with land allocation and titling?

Many land use planning issues remain unresolved, especially the agricultural land of the people that became the residential land.

16.6 Others?

There is no answer.

17. Access to markets is important for supporting deforestation free agriculture. What challenges in accessing markets do villagers have?

The challenges in accessing the markets of villagers include inconvenient transportation routes; the government has issued the fixed prices, but non-standard villagers' products and middlemen who press prices.

17.1 Where possible differentiate between the challenges faced by:

1, Women and women-owned or -led businesses.

It's a challenge for women and women-owned or-led businesses to access the markets.

2, Different ethnic groups.

It's a challenge for different ethnic groups to access the markets.

3, Other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, among others).

It's a challenge for vulnerable persons or households to access the markets.

Overall perspectives on the project:

18. What is your opinion of the ongoing I-GFLL project, do you think it is helping to reduce deforestation in the target provinces/ districts?

They think that the ongoing I-GFLL project is able to help reduce deforestation in the target provinces and districts.

18.1 Why or why not?

Because it is possible to solve the issues of forest encroachment and restore upstream forests and forests to be sustainable, causing the weather to return to normal and improving people's livelihoods.

18.2 What other benefits has the project generated?

The project generates many benefits, such as potentially improving the climate and seasonal rainfall, promoting people's livelihoods, and if the project actually happens, they will know how to make use of much additional equipment.

18.3 Have you seen any barriers to participation in the project?

They have not seen any barriers to participation in the project, because it has not yet been implemented.

18.3.1 What are the challenges and ideas on how they can be overcome?

- Communities in remote areas?

Communities in remote areas were challenged as some villages are located along the Mekong River and had no roads to access the villages. People could travel only by boat, and about 10 villages had no electricity, but they had only small generators with a capacity of around 200 watts.

- Ethnic communities?

The ethnic communities are challenged by many factors, especially the communication language that fewer people understand and some families are not involved.

- Women, and female headed households?

There is no challenge for female-headed households.

- Landless households

Landless households are challenging, but the solution is to coordinate with the village chief to find vacant land that is not reserved for landless families.

- The most vulnerable members of communities.

The most vulnerable members of communities have faced few challenges due to the dissemination of knowledge about livelihoods for survival.

19. Does your department/office feel that it currently has the technical capacity to support the project?

Their office currently has the technical capacity to support the project.

19.1 If not, please specify what areas specific capacity support is needed e.g. adaptation planning and mainstreaming, monitoring, etc.

The office wants the project to support some activities, such as strengthening capacity, as well as some further training, including IT, GIS, and QGIS.

20. The project has a focus on gender and social inclusion of ethnic people and the poorest people. Do you think that is important?

It is important for women to be more involved and to focus on poor families in order to improve their well-being.

21. Any other remarks:

21.1 On the project?

No answer.

21.2 On challenges to women's participation?

There should be gender roles and look for activities that are appropriate for women's participation and require approximately 30% female participation.

21.3 On ethnic participation?

First of all, it is necessary to implement all activities in order to get people's attention or allow people to be involved in activities for their satisfaction, with the aim of creating more understanding and participation. Another point is that the project must select people who are trustworthy in order to make locals more obedient.

21.4 On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

First of all, it is necessary to implement all activities in order to get people's attention or provide some activities for them to be more involved, and they also recommend that the project must select people who are trustworthy in order to make locals more obedient.

22. Do you have any final comments or questions?

- *They want to know which sectors will be involved in this project.*
- *They want to know further details about the project.*

- *They would like to know how the project will plan activities to help villages recover from natural disasters.*
- *They want the project to have plans, starting from local to high-level.*
- *How many years will the project take?*
- *There are currently about 13–15 villages in Nga District that are under the Sunford Project (ໂຄງການສູນຟູ), and if they are still considered the target villages of the project, should other villages that are located in the protected area be replaced? Or will you select the villages that used to be under the implementation of the Sunford project again?*

- **220325D2 - Nga 3**

Office: District Natural Resources and Environment Office, District Lao Women's Union Office (LWU), District Lao Front for National Development Office

District: Nga District

Province: Oudomxay

Date: 25/03/2022

Interview ID: Nga-3

Surveyor's Name (s): Sing

Changing environmental and climatic conditions

1. Have you noticed changes in the weather (temperature, rain levels, natural disasters)?

They have noticed changes in the weather in this district. Some years there is a drought, some years there is a lot of rain, and some years there isn't much rain.

1.1 How has (changed or bad weather) this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems?

There have been no floods in the last 5 years, but it is the drought this year that is insufficient in providing water to the dam. Before the dam was built, there was sufficient water, but after the dam's construction was completed, plus with deforestation by villagers in the upstream forest areas, the water dried up.

1.2 Are some groups and households in your district more vulnerable to natural disasters, floods, and/or drought?

They said that people in the district are more vulnerable to natural disasters, such as droughts.

1.3 Who is particularly vulnerable and why?

They said that those who are particularly vulnerable are farmers because of the droughts, which cause people to face insufficient water for their agricultural production and forest fire issues.

2. Have you noticed changes in forest areas in your district, and how does this affect local livelihoods?

They have noticed changes in forest areas in their district. For example, a strong forest fire that occurred in 2019 damaged nearly 80% of municipal forests. However, forests were not dramatically reduced because there were issued the MOU and specified which areas were able to be used and which areas were not, but it affects local livelihoods because some areas remain deforested for cultivation and people face difficulty earning a living.

3. Have you noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards (e.g. floods, drought, landslides)? If yes, please describe.

They have noticed a link between deforestation and climate-related natural hazards, especially where there are no forests to absorb or store water, causing droughts and insufficient water for agricultural production. There is also the railway, with tunnels near the river and water flowing into the tunnel, causing droughts.

3.1 Have these trends changed in the last 5, 15 or 30 years? Please describe how.

These trends and changes are similar to those of the past five years, such as severe drought and insufficient water for agricultural production.

4. Do you consider climate change in your current planning for land use planning, agricultural management or forest management? If yes, please describe how.

They consider climate change in their current planning for land use planning, agricultural management or forest management. For example, when there is a severe drought, they encourage people to cultivate casava in the dry area because rice cannot be grown there.

Role in Forest Management and Climate Change Adaptation activities

5. What is your (office's/department's) role in forest management? (in Project 1 districts ask if there is a difference between before and now, or within the context of the project)

- The role of the Lao Women's Union Office in forest management is to educate the women members about politics as well as disseminate gender roles, especially when their husband goes into the forest to cut down some trees. The wife can then stop them in order to avoid committing serious crimes and imprisoning or prosecuting them. They also organized training on animal husbandry to create jobs to stop deforestation.

- The role of the District Lao Front for National Development Office in forest management is to educate people on how to protect the environment and provide access to the areas where they face some challenges in order to educate offenders, such as where people deforest in the upstream forest areas and conserve forests. The District Lao Front for the National Development Office will also be coordinator, as well as the district secretary, monitor religious management and traditional festival management.

- The role of the District Natural Resources and Environment Office in forest management is to manage land use as well as protect the environment and monitor changes in land conditions.

6. What is your office's role in climate change adaptation?

They have encouraged and mobilized people in forest protection to restore forest integrity. They also have issued a memorandum that states that if a forest fire occurs in any village, that village will be responsible due to the fact that they have some sort of monitor committee in each village group where locals have burned forest for cultivation.

7. Does your office have the capacity to fulfil these roles? If no, what is needed?

Their offices have the capacity to fulfil these roles, but they face shortages of some equipment and vehicles, such as gasoline and daily allowances when going to work in the fields. They need to use their personal vehicles. Therefore, they want to ask for some vehicles to use to travel in the villages for some activities because the road access to the village is poor and the distance is still far.

- The District Natural Resources and Environment Office has recommended the project provide policies or funding to allocate land and issue title deeds to people.
- The District Lao Women's Union Office (LWU) has asked for vehicles to comfort them on their travels to work in the target villages because they have experienced that there were some other projects that provided them with vehicles but they were unable to share them together, but they have only signed on to the project car use schedule.
- *The District Lao Front for National Development Office has asked the project to provide them with one motorcycle to use for travel to work in the target villages because the target villages of the project will be chosen in remote areas.*

8. Do you think forest management is an important aspect in decreasing natural disasters? And if yes, why?

They said that forest management is an important aspect in reducing natural disasters because forest management is as important as reducing the risk of natural disasters.

9. Are there other projects or initiatives (ongoing or planned) related to land rights/ registration/ tenure in the district?

There are no projects or initiatives related to land rights or land registration.

Role of men and women in land use and agriculture

10. What are the roles of i) women and ii) men in forest and land use? (Please differentiate by, ethnicity, and vulnerable (= poor, disabled) groups where suitable.)

The role of women and men in forest and land use is led by men in each activity, but women can talk to and make decisions with men. If any family has a husband who is addicted to drugs, the wife will be the main person to practice agricultural production. If the project has funding to support the villagers, then it should focus on animal husbandry or commerce because people don't want to practice shifting cultivation anymore.

10.1 In forest protection?

They have equal rights in forest protection.

10.2 In agricultural production?

They have equal rights in agricultural production.

10.3 In agri-business?

They have equal rights in agri-business

11. How can women become more involved in forest and land use?

Women are less likely to be involved in forest and land use than men.

12. How can ethnic minority groups become more involved in forest and land use?

Ethnic minority groups can be involved in forest and land use like other groups.

13. Do you feel that women have the same access to benefits from forest resources as men?

They said that women have the same access to benefits from forest resources as men, but that 70% of women use forests and 70% of the clearing of forest is done by men.

13.1 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over forest resources?

They said that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over forest resources.

13.2 Do you think that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over agricultural activities?

They said that men and women have equal participation in decision making and management over agricultural activities.

14. Does the new forest law protect the rights of all community members equally?

They replied that the new forest law protects the rights of all community members equally.

14.1 Do you understand well the new Forest Law?

They understand well the new forest law but are unable to remember all the articles.

14.2 Is there understanding of the new Forest Law at the village level?

They said that villagers understand the new forest law because the Office of Agriculture and Forestry officials have disseminated the law to people.

15. Who is responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the district level? At village level?

- The District Agriculture and Forestry Office is responsible for enforcing forestry law and providing forestry protection at the district level.

- The village agriculture and forestry sectors, as well as village tax and the head of village are responsible for enforcing forestry law and forestry protection at the village level.

15.1 Are women specifically involved? (village)

Women are specifically involved in forest law enforcement and forestry protection at the village level.

15.2 What about members of ethnic communities? (village)

Member of ethnic communities are specifically involved in forest law enforcement and forestry protection at the village level.

15.3 How is coordination and cooperation between villages and DOFI/ POFI? (district)

Coordination between villages and DOFI often requires the village committee to report directly to the Office of Agriculture and Forestry to appoint a Task Force to investigate the intrusion. If there is coordination between the DOFI and POFI, the report will be submitted to the province.

15.4 What are any risks or challenges they face related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

The risks and challenges they see or face in forest law enforcement and forest protection include the fact that publication or dissemination of information is not widespread in some villages or groups because some villagers may be illiterate; while Hmong ethnic groups are not involved in law dissemination due to their inability to understand the Lao language, some village heads are also illiterate, and people continue to believe in traditional ideas without development. Therefore, it is necessary to integrate and disseminate knowledge among the people.

16. What are the current challenges for Land Use Planning (LUP) as relates to:

16.1 Women?

There is no answer.

16.2 Ethnic people?

Deforestation for cultivation and the encroachment of protected areas for agricultural production by ethnic people remain the current challenges for land use planning.

16.3 The poorest members of communities?

Those without agricultural land needed to encroach for agricultural production in the protected areas of the villages.

16.4 Land use conflicts?

Some people have encroached on the forests for agricultural purposes and claim it as their land, while this problem has not been resolved.

16.5 Issues with land allocation and titling?

There is no answer.

16.6 Others?

There is no answer.

17. Access to markets is important for supporting deforestation free agriculture. What challenges in accessing markets do villagers have?

They said that one of the challenges for villagers in Nga District in accessing markets is that the roads are difficult to travel on both entering and exiting the district. There are a few merchants who buy people's products, and they could have the opportunity to push the prices of those products lower.

17.1 Where possible differentiate between the challenges faced by:

1, Women and women-owned or -led businesses.

The challenges in accessing the markets of women and women-owned or-led businesses are the same as mentioned above.

2, Different ethnic groups.

The challenges in accessing the markets of different ethnic groups are the same as mentioned above

3, Other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, among others).

The challenges in accessing the markets of vulnerable persons or households are the same as mentioned above.

Overall perspectives on the project:

18. What is your opinion of the ongoing I-GFLL project, do you think it is helping to reduce deforestation in the target provinces/ districts?

They think that the ongoing I-GFLL project is able to help reduce deforestation in the target provinces and districts.

18.1 Why or why not?

Because there will be clear zoning of the protected areas and areas that can be used, that will help to reduce deforestation gradually.

18.2 What other benefits has the project generated?

They said that they did not know the details of how it would benefit the locals, but they believed that the project would help with forest management and improve people's livelihoods.

18.3 Have you seen any barriers to participation in the project?

They said they didn't know because the project has not yet been implemented in Nga District.

18.3.1 What are the challenges and ideas on how they can be overcome?

They said they didn't know.

19. Does your department/office feel that it currently has the technical capacity to support the project?

They said that their offices currently have the technical capacity to support the project because employees have worked on many projects before.

19.1 If not, please specify what areas specific capacity support is needed e.g. adaptation planning and mainstreaming, monitoring, etc.

There is no answer.

20. The project has a focus on gender and social inclusion of ethnic people and the poorest people. Do you think that is important?

The project has a focus on gender and social inclusion of ethnic people and the poorest people, so they think those things are important and indispensable, but everything must be implemented with respect to the traditional.

21. Any other remarks:

21.1 On the project?

They want the project to be implemented in their district to reduce people's deforestation and provide academic staff, as well as construct new offices for work and provide some vehicles for employees.

21.2 On challenges to women's participation?

They would like women to participate in the project if the project is actually implemented.

21.3 On ethnic participation?

There is no comment, but they were looking forward to the project beginning to be implemented and they will offer further recommended.

21.4 On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

There is no comment, but they were looking forward to the project beginning to be implemented and they will offer further recommended.

22. Do you have any final comments or questions?

They said that they had no comment, but they were looking forward to the project beginning to be implemented, so they will recommend on what they don't understand.

B. Village level: Houay Kham

• 220325V2 - Houaykhan 1

Village name: Houaykhan Village
District: Nga District
Province: Oudomxay Province
Date: 25/03/2022
Interview ID: Houaykhan-1
Surveyor's Name (s): Phao and Pou
Interview: Interview leadership group

Village demographic & forest and land governance questions (For village leadership group only)

1. What is the village population?

There are 434 people in the village.

2. Number of Women and men?

There are 229 females and 205 males.

3. Different ethnic groups present in village? (and numbers)

There is one ethnic group present in the village, called Khmu

4. What kind of forest resources does the village have?

The village's forest resources include conservation forest, as well as protection forest, production forest, and usage forest.

5. How long has it been in place?

It has been in place in 2004.

6. How is forest resource management coordinated between the district and the village?

Help each other with protection in order to minimize destruction and forest invasion, and the community is responsible for publishing the regulations and assisting with keeping an eye on things.

7. What are the challenges related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

There are still some families who don't understand the law and are still deforesting illegally, but there are only five families since they are landless for agricultural production.

8. How are decisions made about forest and land management?

All villagers are involved in decision-making.

9. Are these decisions made in village meetings, or by village committee?

These decisions are made in village meetings.

10. Are women involved in these decisions?

Women are involved in these decisions as well.

11. One of the project goals is to help women and the poorest and most vulnerable villagers to take part in making decisions about forest and land resources. Is this possible?

They are able to take part in making decisions because the village has unity.

12. What are the barriers to participation?

They have noticed that many families have stayed at their rice farms that are located far away from the village, which is a barrier to participation.

13. Does the village benefit from commercialization of sustainably managed village forests?

The village benefits from a lot of things, such as bitter bamboo shoots, cardamoms, rattan, and other wild plants.

14. How are forest products distributed within the village? Are people satisfied with the forest product distribution system?

There are some forest products distributed within the village, such as galangal roots, cardamoms, and bamboo shoots, and people are satisfied.

15. How are complaints about land or forest management systems dealt with?

They have deals within the village. If any family has some issues in the village, it will be discussed and resolved.

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

There is one ethnic group in Houaykhan village. There are different livelihoods in the village. Some families have access to many agricultural lands, but many farmers prefer upland cultivation rather than paddy farming, while some landless families will earn their living by seeking work and harvesting some non-timber forest products for sale.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

Several crops are cultivated in the village, such as corn, cardamoms, rice, and tiger grass.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

They face rice insufficiency for about two months a year.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

People produce cash crops such as cardamom, corn, and tiger grass.

2.4. What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.). What factors are driving or influencing these changes?

The main challenges people face in terms of agricultural production are the invasion by pests and wildlife, such as boars and rats, that destroy people's crops, resulting in post-harvest losses.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

Most farmers get market information from middlemen.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

The challenge they face in accessing markets is that there is a shortage of vehicles to transport products and the markets are far away from the village. The middleman therefore presses prices lower because of the long road distance and lack of vehicles.

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

There are no challenges different groups in the village.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

They practice shifting cultivation and have seen changes in rotation periods, such as the first year of upland planting was good productivity, but the second year was poor productivity due to the deteriorated soil and dried.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

People in the village use agrochemicals.

- Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health?

There have been negative impacts that can be noticed when some cattle grazing in areas where the chemical is applied are prone to intoxication and blisters.

- Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying? Where do they access these materials?

People access the different chemicals from the markets.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

They did not receive any information on best practices to improve yields.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

Only a few families practice agroforestry, such as teak and rubber tree planting.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

They attended an agricultural training in Vang Vieng about 3 years ago with the GAA project.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

Farmers share their knowledge within the village by sharing their experiences and exchanging them with each other.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

There is protection forest, production forest, conservation forest, and used of forest.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

Forest resources benefit the community as follows:

- *Maintain the abundance of the environment.*
- *Maintain the ecosystem in the forests.*
- *It's easy to find food for life.*
- *It's easy to find products for sale.*

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

They said that the forest provides insufficient products for the needs of the villagers because most of the NTFPs are harvested for sale.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

Women use forest resources the same as men, such as harvesting some non-timber forest products for sale and consumption.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them?

The main products they harvest include bamboo shoots, mushrooms, rattan, palm fruits, solitary palms, and tiger grass.

- Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

They have noticed a significant decrease in the demand for these products. For example, if people harvest bamboo shoots in the same place for a long time, it may hinder the growth of bamboo trees. People from many villages are harvesting NTFPs in the village area. As for the wildlife, it is said to be almost non-existent compared to before.

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are no differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups, because there is only one ethnic group in the village.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

The village forest resources are managed by helping to keep an eye in order to prevent deforestation illegally.

3.5.1

- How are women and men involved in forest protection and management?

Women and men are involved in forest protection and management, such as assisting in extinguishing forest fires if they occur and reporting to the village forest sector or DAFO if they are found deforesting in the protected forest areas.

- Are there differences in the roles of men and women?

There are no differences in the roles of men and women.

- What are challenges they face?

If they find illegal deforestation, they can't talk to those people directly, but they can inform the village because they are concerned that it will harm their own.

- Do they have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

They have reported to the Village Forest sector to investigate those who cause deforestation to educate and fine them in accordance with the regulations.

3.5.2 What about members of ethnic communities?

There is only one ethnic group in the village.

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

The poorest families benefit from the same village forest management as other families.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing). If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

They said that some village members are more disadvantaged because of their zoning lands and forests, but some of them cover the agricultural land of some families and are resolved within the village by the village authorities.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

The community already has a land-use plan.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

They have had land-use conflicts with neighboring or outsiders, particularly with certain families that own adjacent property, and they have built a fence to enclose the agricultural land of others.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land within the village.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

Men and women from different ethnic groups have equal access to land within the village.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

They said that it is easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

They said that they are aware of climate change.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

They have noticed changes that include before the construction of the railway, the weather hadn't changed much, but after the railway was constructed, droughts occurred because the railway blocked the streams, and when it rained, it was heavy and there was a landslide.

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

They have noticed changes that include high temperatures during the dry season that killed many trees and replaced them with invasive species. The second change is that after the forest fires, the number of trees was also reduced.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

They have noticed that the productivity has decreased due to drought, causing a shortage of water for agricultural production and the soil also deteriorating.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

They face natural disasters, particularly severe droughts like the one that killed the rice plant.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

Since 2013, natural disasters have occurred more often.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

This has affected people's livelihoods in that the number of non-timber forest products has decreased, the water has dried up, and farmers face poor productivity.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).

All member groups are particularly impacted by these disasters.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)

There are no activities.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?

There is no answer.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

The main causes of deforestation are building homes, animal coops, and firewood.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

They have noticed changes in the decrease in deforestation due to the drought in the village.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

Of course, if too much deforestation results in droughts and the drying up of water sources, ecosystems will be destroyed as well.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

This has the effect of making it more difficult to harvest forest resources and non-timber forest products.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

Limit the scope of deforestation and reduce shifting cultivation and replacement by raising livestock.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe.

They have noticed that it's started to happen more frequently and that it occurs every year.

What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

Part 2: Perspectives on the project – NEW PROJECT VILLAGES

7.1 Do you know about the planned I-GFLL project activities that might take place in this village?

It was announced at the village meeting.

7.2 If the project works in this village, what are the best ways to inform community members about a meeting? Or about another kind of opportunity?

Announcements will be made to the public through the village loudspeakers, and the unit leaders will notify their members, but the project must inform the village one day in advance.

7.3 The project will try to speak to as many people in the community as possible before it begins. How can they do that?

Yes, because everyone in the village was in harmony.

7.4 Are there some parts of the community that are more difficult to talk to? Who are they and why? (prompt for poverty, ethnicity/language barriers, disability/access, female headed households) – are there any other ways the project can use to talk to these people?

There is not anybody in the community that is more difficult to talk to.

7.5 One of the project aims is to support participatory land use planning – has that happened here?

There have been similar activities happening in the village, namely the Poverty Reduction Fund project and the GAA.

7.6 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

The GAA project has happened in the village.

7.6.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They used to recommend paddy farming and animal husbandry as substitutes.

7.7 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

They think that the project will be able to help.

7.7.1 Why or why not?

This is because the project has sufficient funding and technical skills.

7.8 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

This project will be able to help villagers with village forest management because people can conserve forests where there are already forest management activities. If the project wants to develop a participatory land-use plan, the village can fully cooperate.

Any other remarks:

- On the project?

There are some other remarks on the project as followed:

- *They want the project to promote livestock raising.*

- *There should be some academics to train people in the best agricultural and livestock practices.*
- *They want to receive assistance with irrigation.*

- On challenges to women's participation?

There are no challenges to women's participation.

- On ethnic participation?

There are no challenges to ethnic participation, due to there is only one ethnic group.

- On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

There are no challenges to the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households.

- **220325V2 - Houaykhan 2**

Interview: Interview women group
 Village name: Houaykhan Village
 District: Nga District
 Province: Oudomxay Province
 Date: 25/03/2022
 Surveyor's Name (s): Kong Lor
 Interview ID: Houaykhan-2

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

There is only one ethnic group in Houaykhan Village. There are differences between men and women, or the most vulnerable groups, because some of them practice paddy farming, while some practice upland farming, but most of these people practice agricultural production for consumption. Meanwhile, the poorest families will practice upland farming far away from the village where the village authorities manage for them.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

Villagers in Houaykhan have cultivated some corn, cardamoms, tiger grass, and rice.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

Villagers face rice insufficiency for about 6 or 7 months a year.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

People produce cash crops such as corn, cardamom, and tiger grass.

2.4. What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.). What factors are driving or influencing these changes?

The main challenge that farmers face in terms of agricultural production is that in some years they face poor productivity, non-seasonal rainfall, post-harvest losses by pests and long distances between their farms, which results in middlemen's pressured prices.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

Farmers receive market information from middlemen who come to buy their products at Houaykhan Village. The corn harvesting season is between September and October, the tiger grass is between January and February, and the cardamom harvesting season is between September and October.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

People face challenges in accessing markets, especially when harvesting crops late and not meeting market demand. If the quality of the yields is poor, they are required to sell out at low prices.

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

There are the same challenges in agricultural production.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

People practice shifting cultivation and if rotation for 2-3 years or more, they feel that the soil quality becomes poor and causes droughts.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

Villagers didn't use agrochemicals.

- Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health?

There is no answer.

- Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying? Where do they access these materials?

There is no answer.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

They did not receive any information on best practices to improve yields.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

They practice agroforestry, such as growing some corn mixed with cucumbers for consumption in the families.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

They attended an agricultural training about 5 years ago, organized by the District Agriculture and Forestry Office.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

The village farmers share their knowledge with each other, and they do not get information from other places.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

There is village forest, national protected forest, protection forest, and production forest.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

Forest resources benefit the community as a place to provide food for locals, and people can harvest several non-timber forest products for consumption.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

The forest provides sufficient products for their needs, especially for food and consumption, but not enough for sale.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

Women go into the forest to harvest some non-timber forest products, while the men go into the forest to hunt some wildlife.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them?

The main products they harvest include bamboo shoots, mushrooms, rattan, palm fruits, and tiger grass for consumption in their families and share with others if they can harvest too much.

- Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

These products have changed over the years. For example, NTFPs were plentiful enough to consume and sell, but now they are declining due to population growth as well as shifting cultivation that impact on NTFPs and wildlife has been reduced.

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are no differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

The village forest resource is managed by the village forest sector, and villagers also help to prevent outsiders from deforestation within the protected area.

3.5.1

- How are women and men involved in forest protection and management?

Women and men are involved in forest protection and management, such as assisting in extinguishing forest fires if they occur and reporting to the village authorities if they are found deforesting in the protected forest areas.

- Are there differences in the roles of men and women?

There are no differences in the roles of men and women.

- What are challenges they face?

The problem was that outsiders had deforested in the village areas without notifying the head of the village.

- Do they have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

There is no way to address these challenges unless the head of the village is informed.

3.5.2

- What about members of ethnic communities?

Ethnic communities are involved in forest protection and management, such as assisting in extinguishing forest fires if they occur and reporting to the village authorities if they are found deforesting in the protected forest areas.

- Are there differences in the roles of ethnic communities?

There are no differences in the roles of ethnic communities.

- What are challenges they face?

The problem was that outsiders had deforested in the village areas without notifying the head of the village.

- Do they have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

There is no way to address these challenges unless the head of the village is informed.

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

The poorest families benefit from village forest management, such as access to non-timber forest products in the forest.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing)?

They said that some village members were more disadvantaged because of restrictions on forest use within the village forest.

- If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

If access to NPA is restricted, they lose the benefits that NTFPs cannot harvest. Affected people will not be compensated.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

The Houaykhan village already has a land-use plan.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

They have had land-use conflicts with neighboring or outsiders, particularly some people have built a fence to enclose the agricultural land of others.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land within the village.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

Men and women from different ethnic groups have equal access to land within the village.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

They said that it is easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

They said that they are aware of climate change.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

They have noticed changes that include before the construction of the railway, the weather hadn't changed much, but after the railway was constructed, droughts occurred because the railway blocked the streams, and when it rained, it was heavy and there was a landslide.

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

They said that forest fires had caused alterations in their village's forest, which had led in higher temperatures and the outbreak of many locusts, which had damaged saplings. This is mainly due to climate change.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

They have noticed changes in agricultural lands and production having to do with changing weather patterns, such as severe droughts, which cause changes in agricultural land due to climate change.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

They face natural disasters, particularly droughts.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

They said the droughts were getting worse because the number of forests has decreased and the existence of the railway that has been constructed over some rivers has led to droughts.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

This has affected people's livelihoods in that the droughts affect people's crops, causing less productivity while some natural resources and non-timber forest products are reduced.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).

All member groups are particularly impacted by these disasters.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)

Activities related to preparing for natural disasters are unknown.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?

There is no answer.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

The main cause of deforestation in village communities is that people still clear forest for shifting cultivation.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

They believe that if no project is available to help, some people groups will continue to clear the forest for shifting cultivation.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

It is affected by droughts, lack of water due to the river drying up, and extreme heat weather, and forests are reduced.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

This affects local livelihoods such as droughts, lack of firewood, and a decline in non-timber forest products.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

They said that government officials or projects should be implemented to encourage activities among people in order to reduce deforestation.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe.

Deforestation and forest degradation have negatively impacted on the frequency of severe natural disasters such as droughts and forest fires, which affect the productivity of people.

What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

Environmental problems occur once in a while, and 2; social challenge is river drought.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project – NEW PROJECT VILLAGES

7. Do you know about the planned I-GFLL project activities that might take place in this village?

They do not yet know what plans for I-GFLL project activities that might take place in the village.

7.1 If the project works in this village, what are the best ways to inform community members about a meeting? Or about another kind of opportunity?

The best ways to inform community members about meetings are that they want the project to inform the head of village in advance, then the village chief to inform the unit leader, and finally, the unit leader to continue to inform members to acknowledge the project activities in order to be more involved.

7.2 The I-GFLL project will try to speak to as many people in the community as possible before it begins. How can they do that?

They said that if the I-GFLL project tries to speak to as many people in the community as possible before it begins, it is required to issue a notice to inform the village and list the objectives of the project. If people were prohibited from clearing the forest for shifting cultivation, there must be other alternative occupations for people to have better careers.

7.3 Are there some parts of the community that are more difficult to talk to? Who are they and why? (prompt for poverty, ethnicity/language barriers, disability/access, female headed households) – are there any other ways the project can use to talk to these people?

There are some families in the community that are more difficult to talk to, especially if they are not involved in activities. The way to address it is that they will try to talk to these families to ensure that they understand the project activities because many families have already agreed.

7.4 One of the project aims is to support participatory land use planning – has that happened here?

Land use planning has already taken place in this village.

7.4.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They often provide additional information about land use planning.

7.5 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

This activity has happened in the village.

7.5.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They can provide additional information about sustainable agriculture promotion activities.

7.6 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

They said that they didn't know.

7.6.1 Why or why not?

There is no answer.

7.7 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

The District Agriculture and Forestry Office has recommended that each family plant trees and get 200 fruit seedlings. Meanwhile, villagers may be able to share further details on the activities.

Any other remarks:

- On the project?

There is no recommendation.

- On challenges to women's participation?

They want women to have more participation in training.

- On ethnic participation?

There is no recommendation because the villagers are in good harmony.

- On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

They want the project to explain to poor households about the project's activities.

- **220325V2 - Houaykhan 3**

Village name: Houaykhan Village
 District: Nga District
 Province: Oudomxay Province
 Date: 25/03/2022
 Interview ID: Houaykhan-3
 Surveyor's Name (s): Sing
 Interview: Interview vulnerable (poorest) group

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

There is only one ethnic group in Houaykhan Village, such as the Khmu. There are differences in people's lives because some of them have paddy farming lands. Most people practice upland cultivation more than paddy farming.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

Villagers in Houaykhan have cultivated some corn, cardamoms, rice and tiger grass.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

They face rice insufficiency for about 5 or 7 months a year.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

They produce cash crops such as cardamom, corn, and tiger grass.

2.4. What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.). What factors are driving or influencing these changes?

The main challenges that farmers face in terms of agricultural production are that, depending on the season, some years there is no rain or drought and they face poor productivity, and some years there are some rats that have damaged people's crops, causing post-harvest losses.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

Farmers receive market information from village acquaintances. For example, corn is sold during September and October, while tiger grass and cardamom are sold in September.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

The challenges they face in accessing markets are price pressure from middlemen because of the long distance, and they face a shortage of vehicles to transport products to markets, while the harvest is also not on time due to insufficient labor.

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

They said that there are no different challenges in agricultural production.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

People practice shifting cultivation and they have seen changes in rotation periods, especially when they get good yields in the first year. When they have rotated at their old place, they feel that they get poor productivity because the soil quality becomes poor and causes droughts.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

Villagers didn't use agrochemicals.

- Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health?

There is no answer.

- Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying? Where do they access these materials?

There is no answer.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

They don't get any information on best practices to improve yields, and they can adapt to climate change.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

They practice agroforestry, such as growing some corn, calabash, winter melons, cucumbers, and rice.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

They have never attended any agricultural training, but they have learned from experience and are actually practical.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

Farmers share their knowledge in the village by talking about their experiences. Particularly for growing upland rice, 3 rice seeds should be sown per one hole.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

There is a protection forest, a production forest, and a reservation forest near Houaykhan village.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

The forest resources benefit the community, especially the protection forest, which is used to prevent water sources from being used to store water for agricultural production.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

They said that the forest provides sufficient products for their needs, especially for consumption, but not enough for sale.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

Women go into the forest to harvest some non-timber forest products, while the men go into the forest to hunt some wildlife.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them?

The main products they harvest include bamboo shoots, mushrooms, rattan, palm fruits, solitary palms, and tiger grass.

- Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

They have noticed a significant decrease in the demand for these products. For example, if people harvest bamboo shoots in the same place for a long time, it may hinder the growth of bamboo trees. People from many villages are harvesting NTFPs in the village area. As for the wildlife, it is said to be almost non-existent compared to before.

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are no differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups, because there is only one ethnic group in the village.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

The village forest resource is managed by the village forest sector.

3.5.1

- How are women and men involved in forest protection and management?

Women and men are involved in forest protection and management, such as assisting in extinguishing forest fires if they occur and reporting to the village forest sector if they are found deforesting in the protected forest areas.

- Are there differences in the roles of men and women?

There are no differences in the roles of men and women.

- What are challenges they face?

The challenges they face include: if they find illegal deforestation, they can't talk to those people directly, but they can inform the village authorities.

- Do they have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

They have reported to the Village Forest sector to investigate those who are engaged in deforestation illegally.

3.5.2

- What about members of ethnic communities?

There is no answer.

- Are there differences in the roles of ethnic communities?

There is no answer.

- What are challenges they face?

There is no answer.

- Do they have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

There is no answer.

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

They said that the poorest families benefit from village forest management, such as access to non-timber forest products in the forest.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing)?

They said that some village members were more disadvantaged because of restrictions on forest use within the village forest.

- If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

If access to NPA is restricted, they lose the benefits that NTFPs cannot harvest. Affected people will not be compensated.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

The village already has a land-use plan.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

They have had land-use conflicts with neighboring or outsiders, particularly some people have built a fence to enclose the agricultural land of others.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land within the village.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

Men and women from different ethnic groups have equal access to land within the village.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

They said that it is easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

They are aware of climate change.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

They have noticed changes that include before the construction of the railway, the weather hadn't changed, but after the railway was constructed, droughts occurred because the railway blocked the streams, and when it rained, it was heavy.

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

They said that forest fires had caused alterations in their village's forest, which had led in higher temperatures and the outbreak of many locusts, which had damaged saplings. This is mainly due to climate change.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

They have noticed changes in agricultural lands and production having to do with changing weather and temperature patterns, such as the productivity has decreased due to drought, causing a shortage of water for agricultural production.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

Their community face natural disasters, particularly droughts.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

They said the droughts were getting worse because the number of forests has decreased and the existence of the railway that has been constructed over some rivers has led to droughts.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

This has affected people's livelihoods and ecosystems in that the number of non-timber forest products has decreased, the water has dried up, and farmers face poor productivity.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).

They said that all members in the community are particularly impacted by these disasters.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)

They said that there were no activities related to preparing for natural disasters.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?

There is no answer.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

The main cause of deforestation in village communities is that people still clear forest for shifting cultivation.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

They said that if there were some projects to encourage people to engage in other careers, deforestation would be reduced; but if there were no projects, deforestation might increase.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

This affects ecosystems and forests, such as where there is deforestation and there will be a drought.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

This has the effect on local livelihoods of making it more difficult to harvest forest resources and non-timber forest products.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

They have a method of decreasing deforestation, such as encouraging those who clear the forest for shifting cultivation to sow grass for animal husbandry as a replacement.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe.

They said that deforestation and forest degradation have had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters because people have deforested in the protected forest and caused droughts, while some people go to the forest and throw away their smoked tobacco in the forest, causing forest fires.

What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

There is no answer.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project – NEW PROJECT VILLAGES

7. Do you know about the planned I-GFLL project activities that might take place in this village?

They do not yet know what plans for I-GFLL project activities that might take place in the village.

7.1 If the project works in this village, what are the best ways to inform community members about a meeting? Or about another kind of opportunity?

If the project works in this village, they should have a way to inform community members about a meeting or other activities that might happen. For example, the announcements should be made to the public through the village loudspeakers, and the unit leaders will notify their members, but the project must inform the village in advance.

7.2 The I-GFLL project will try to speak to as many people in the community as possible before it begins. How can they do that?

They said that if the I-GFLL project tries to speak to as many people in the community as possible before it begins, it is required to issue a notice to inform the village and list the objectives of the project. If people were prohibited from clearing the forest for shifting cultivation, there must be other alternative occupations for people to have better careers.

7.3 Are there some parts of the community that are more difficult to talk to? Who are they and why? (prompt for poverty, ethnicity/language barriers, disability/access, female headed households) – are there any other ways the project can use to talk to these people?

They said that there are some families in the community that are more difficult to talk to, especially those who practice agricultural production for sale, and they might separate from the social group, so the project should try to talk to these families to ensure that they understand.

7.4 One of the project aims is to support participatory land use planning – has that happened here?

They said that this activity had happened in the village before.

7.4.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They can provide additional information about land use planning.

7.5 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

They said that the project has recommended people practice sustainable paddy farming, but the geographical features of the village are mostly mountainous areas, making paddy cultivation impossible.

7.5.1 Can you tell us more about this?

Locals can suggest which areas can be used for agricultural production or which areas are appropriate if the project is put into action.

7.6 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

They said that they didn't know.

7.6.1 Why or why not?

Because they do not know what the future will be.

7.7 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

They think that this project will be able to help villagers with forest management because people can conserve forests where there are already forest management activities. If the project wants to develop a participatory land-use plan, the village can fully cooperate.

Any other remarks:

- On the project?

There is no recommendation.

- On challenges to women's participation?

They want the project to educate women to understand and allow them to participate.

- On ethnic participation?

There is no recommendation because the villagers are in good harmony.

- On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

They want the project has discussed with poor households and recommend it to people who do not understand in order to allow them to participate in the project's activities.

C. Village level: Thin

- **220326V2 - Thin 1**

Village name: Thin Village

District: Nga District

Province: Oudomxay Province

Date: 26/03/2022

Interview ID: Thin (1)

Surveyor's Name (s): Phao

Interview: Interview Leadership group

Village demographic & forest and land governance questions (For village leadership group only)

1. What is the village population?

There are 1,038 people in the village.

2. Number of Women and men?

There are 458 females, 231 households and 265 families.

3. Different ethnic groups present in village? (and numbers)

There are two ethnic group presents in the village, namely Khmu and Tai Lue. There are six households of the Khmu ethnic group.

4. What kind of forest resources does the village have?

There are five kinds of forest resources in this village, namely: conservation forest, protection forest, production forest, used forest, and sacred forest.

5. How long has it been in place?

The district's authorities began zoning lands and forests in the village in 2005, except for the sacred forest.

6. How is forest resource management coordinated between the district and the village?

The forest resource management coordinated between the village and the district takes place on a regular basis, especially in the agriculture and forestry sectors, as well as the relevant sectors have disseminated land use policies to the villagers. The district authorities have zoned the lands and forests and determined the boundaries of each forest for the public to know. Forest law and regulations are occasionally published and promulgated to prevent deforestation, and it is prohibited to burn forest, harvest some protected non-timber forest products, and hunt protected wildlife. If anyone has failed to comply with the law and warning notification, the district has assigned the village to take action to educate the offenders and fine them in accordance with the law and regulations.

7. What are the challenges related to forest law enforcement and forest protection?

The challenges related to forest law enforcement are that some villagers don't have sustainable agricultural lands. Most people rely on forests for their livelihoods. They often clear forests for upland rice farming and harvest some NTFPs for consumption and sale to earn money for their families. Meanwhile, practicing shifting cultivation or foraging in the forests is a violation of laws and regulations. These are challenges related to forest law enforcement.

8. How are decisions made about forest and land management?

Allocation of agricultural land, as well as residential land and forest management, depends on the environment, geography, and land location of the village. People's decisions and consent are based on land and forest management laws.

9. Are these decisions made in village meetings, or by village committee?

These decisions and consent are made in village meetings to discuss and vote together.

10. Are women involved in these decisions?

Women are involved in counseling as well as decision-making and presenting about activities like men.

11. One of the project goals is to help women and the poorest and most vulnerable villagers to take part in making decisions about forest and land resources. Is this possible?

They think that the project goals can help women, as well as the poorest and most vulnerable villagers, take part in making decisions about forest and land resources.

11.1 What are the barriers to participation?

Certain people groups, such as elderly families without a primary laborer, as well as the poorest families with many children and no land for agricultural production, may find it difficult to participate in the project. For a living, these groups will seek jobs clearing forest for cultivation or gardening, working on construction in towns, or harvesting non-timber forest products for sale. These are the barriers to participation.

12. Does the village benefit from commercialization of sustainably managed village forests?

- Villages will benefit from systematic forest conservation, creating a better climate and greener large forests. Species of terrestrial animals and aquatics have been increased, while people practice more sustainable agricultural production due to the suspension of deforestation and practicing sustainable upland rice cultivation.

- Locals will benefit from harvesting non-timber forest products for sale to earn income, improving their standard of living.

13. How are forest products distributed within the village? Are people satisfied with the forest product distribution system?

- Forest products are distributed within the village and include a variety of seasonal plants, as well as wood, bamboo, firewood, rattan, tiger grass, bamboo shoots, mushrooms, herbs, vegetables, and terrestrial and aquatic animals, such as birds, rats, crabs, fishes, and insects.

- These are products that can be distributed in the market or used for household consumption.

- Ethnic people often go to the forests to harvest non-timber forest products to sell or to exchange for rice with others in the village.

- People are satisfied with the forest product distribution system. But nowadays, the number of forest products is decreasing and getting worse every year. It may be caused by the growth of the population and an increase in natural disasters such as wildfires and droughts, which damage crops.

14. How are complaints about land or forest management systems dealt with?

If there are complaints, the way to deal with them is to take action in accordance with the law; in the past, there have never been complaints.

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

- The main occupations of the people in this village are agricultural production, such as paddy farming, and raising livestock. Some people produce handicrafts, such as weaving, basketry, or bamboo mats, for family use and sell them to make money.

- Men and teenagers in the village in addition to practicing agricultural production, some skilled workers seek jobs in construction or house construction to earn money in other towns based on who they are. In the past, for example, when the railway began construction, many villagers were hired as laborers to work with Chinese people.

- Most of the Lue women produce handicrafts, such as bamboo mats or weaving, and some even go into the forest to harvest bamboo shoots and tiger grass to make brooms for sale in villages and markets.

- Most ethnic women go to the forest to harvest some non-timber forest products to sell and consume in their families.

- Poor people and elderly families without children have lived like everyone else. But most of the poor families did not have enough land for agricultural production and the landless were sustainable for agricultural production. They often practiced shifting cultivation and used forests as a source of livelihood, such as hunting wildlife and harvesting some NTFPs for sale and family consumption.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

- Villagers mainly cultivate rice, as well as tobacco for sale to Chinese companies. They also cultivate some millets, cardamoms, corn, chilies, egg plants, and cassavas.

- One person said that the EUNOUF project, which focuses on health and nutrition promotion, encourages people to engage in agricultural production and livestock raising. The villagers are therefore more involved in agricultural production and raising livestock.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

They face rice insufficiency for about 2 months a year, especially from September to October.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

They produce cash crops such as rice, millets, rubber, M2 grass (grass for cattle) and tobacco.

2.4. What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.). What factors are driving or influencing these changes?

- The main challenge people face in terms of agricultural production is that some pests have devastated people's crops, such as rats, birds, and locusts.

- There are no markets to support or merchants to purchase local products. They are unable to sell their products at reasonable prices, and middlemen are also putting pressure on prices.

- People face challenges in transportation due to poor roads and long distances.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

Farmers receive market information from middlemen who buy goods and products at the village each season. For example, people have sold their rice from January to February, then the merchants will appear; for tobacco, there will be some merchants who are invested or supported on finance to buy it from the farmers after it is harvested between April and May.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

The challenges people face in accessing the markets are to press the price of products from the middlemen. That is, the middlemen reduce the price of tea because the tea turns red and dries, and it is also affected by the COVID-19, causing in lower prices.

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

- In agricultural production between women and men in this village, men are an important part of the main decision-making process in agricultural production or other businesses in which men tend to be managers.

- Women do the same as men, but they are not strong enough to make decisions in other activities. Lue women, besides practicing agricultural production, also produce handicrafts such as weaving, embroidery, and basketry.

- Khmu women also work in agriculture production and animal husbandry, but they often go into the forest to harvest non-timber forest products for sale and consumption within the family.

- For those who are landless for agriculture or rice insufficiency each year, they have to seek jobs to earn money. Some people have harvested some vegetables in the forest, as well as bamboo shoots and other NTFPs for sale to meet consumer demand.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

Most of the villagers practice paddy farming, but some practice shifting cultivation because they are landless for agriculture in the village, or if they have but it is limited. They have seen changes in rotation

periods, due to people have shifting to new place for cultivation every year within the allocation areas, and after 3- or 4-years pass, they have returned to cultivate in the same area. The reason for the annual rotation is because the soil is dry, make the crops with poor effective and also to revitalize the soil quality as well.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

People in this village do not use chemicals in agriculture, such as rice and vegetable cultivation. Those who use agrochemicals are farmers who grow tobacco.

- Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health?

They think there have been negative impacts on the environment or people's health if they use agrochemicals.

- Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying? Where do they access these materials?

Those who have used agrochemicals will know very well about other chemicals. For those who grow tobacco, they either buy chemicals from the markets in Oudomxay or get them from the companies who promote them for growing tobacco, especially the Hongtha company of Chinese.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

- *Farmers receive information about agricultural production from their neighbors and villagers. For example, before starting on paddy farming or other crops cultivation, villagers have the opportunity to talk with each other according to tradition, especially about what kind of rice species or crops they should plant to ensure that they are suitable for the year's climate. Some people who have experience and have seen other villages get good productivity and good prices are also sharing each other.*

- *Most farmers search for information on their own and practice activities without advice from any government sector about the method of planting or maintenance, and villagers practice traditional nature. However, there are times when EUNEUP technicians in nutrition and agriculture support planting and maintenance.*

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

They practice agroforestry, especially before raising livestock. They plant grass in millet gardens after harvesting the millets, and they release their cattle from within the garden. Some people also grow M2 grass to feed their livestock, and some people also plant rubber.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

They attended an agricultural training program about five or six years ago, organized by the District Agriculture and Forestry Office.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

Farmers share their knowledge in the village by talking about their experiences.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

There is a protection forest, a production forest, a conservation forest, a restoration forest, and a sacred forest in the village.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

Forest resources benefit the community because the forests will help cover the green areas. Forests have also been the source of people's livelihoods for a long time. If there are rich forests, people have the opportunity to take advantage. For example, bamboo shoots, bamboo, cardamoms, and tiger grass are useful for crafts and consumption, which can generate a lot of income for the community.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

Forests are now dwindling due to long-term human deforestation, and droughts and wildfires are increasing every year. It affects the growth of forests and plant species. They think everything, whether it's non-timber forest products or forest resources, is insufficient to meet people's needs.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

- Women are more likely to enter the forest than men to harvest non-timber forest products for sale and consumption. Non-timber forest products include firewood, bamboo for handicrafts, and bamboo shoots, vegetables, rattan, boon shoots, cardamom, and tiger grass for sale and consumption.

- Men go into the forests to harvest huge amounts of wood to build their houses or hunt some wild animals for eat and sale.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them?

They use wood to build houses, collect herbal medicines, hunt wildlife, and harvest plants that can be used as food and non-timber forest products according to market demand.

- Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

The products they've used have changed a lot due to the depletion of natural resources, because people who burn forests for cultivation without fire control, causing forest fires that will reduce natural resources.

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are no differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

The village's forest resources are managed in accordance with the laws issued by the government, while deforestation in the protected area is prohibited. If there are violations, the authorities will take action in accordance with the laws.

3.5.1

- How are women and men involved in forest protection and management?

Women and men are also involved in forest protection and management. For example, if a forest fire occurs or if they are found deforesting in the protected forest areas, they can inform the village authorities.

- Are there differences in the roles of men and women?

There are no differences in the roles of men and women.

- What are challenges they face?

The challenge was that some people from other villages had deforested in the conservation forest areas.

- Do they have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

They have informed the District Forestry Inspection sector and have issued a warning to offenders and fined them in accordance with the laws of Laos.

3.5.2

- What about members of ethnic communities?

The village has a small number of ethnic groups. Forest management is the same as for the Lue ethnic group. If there is any violation regarding the laws, village authorities or district officials should be informed.

- Are there differences in the roles of ethnic communities?

There are no differences in the roles of ethnic communities.

- What are challenges they face?

It has never had any challenges before.

- Do they have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

There is no answer.

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

- They said that the poorest families can benefit from village forest management as well. They can also attend village-level consultations and use the forest like everyone else.

- One person said that the poorest families benefit more from village forest management than the general population. These people often go into the forests to harvest forest resources for sale and consumption in their families.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing)?

They said that some village members are more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest.

- If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

- *The disadvantaged groups are the poorest groups that rely on the forests for their livelihoods, as well as those that are newly married and have landless for agricultural production.*

- *Solution: In the past, village authorities allocated public land to these groups for agricultural production, but after the land became theirs, some of them sold it to others.*

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

The village already has a land-use plan and forest management.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

They have never experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land within the village.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

Men and women from different ethnic groups have equal access to land within the village.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

It is easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

They have noticed that the climate has changed a lot compared to the past.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

- *They have noticed changes, especially droughts and non-seasonal rainfall. This year there is heavy rain and drought as well, and it is expected to result from the construction of the railway. In the past, locals were able to use gravity-fed water throughout the year, but after the railway has been constructed over the water conservation area, the gravity-fed water will dry up and become unavailable.*

- *Temperature is higher, with occasional heavy rains causing landslides and damage on agricultural production areas, and some roads were eroded by water, while it is extremely hot during the summer season, and the winter is too cool.*

- *When it rains, there are often strong winds and lightning. Sometimes it is extremely hot and becomes extremely dry, and subsequent wildfires occur each year.*

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

- *The number of forests is dwindling, and where was once a great the number of forests is dwindling, and what was once a great forest has become a bald mountain, while the forests that used to have bamboo no longer exist. Most replacement plants are prickly grasses and vines, and some places have no plants at all, leaving the ground empty.*

- *Droughts occur every year due to low rainfall.*

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

The agricultural land is deteriorated and unable to produce good yields, probably because the soil is very hard and dry. They notice that the productivity is decreasing every year. It may be due to climate change, which affects agricultural productivity, resulting in reduced yields and rice insufficiency.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

They have experienced droughts; landslides have hit roads and crops, especially the people's crops that have not yet been harvested, while landslides make it difficult for communities to travel.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

They have noticed that villagers have decreased deforestation for shifting cultivation, but droughts and landslides have worsened.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

It has affected people's livelihoods and ecosystems as as people's lives become more difficult, the crops are severely damaged and low yields result in insufficient rice. It also affects ecosystems as a result of degraded soil, forests being destroyed, some creeks having their native negative changed, water sources drying up, and a loss of forest balance.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).

They said that all members of the community are particularly impacted by these disasters.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)

Some activities related to preparing for natural disasters include managing conservation forests, as well as protecting existing forests and distributing producing lands to people.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?

- *The village forestry sector organizes these activities, supported by the District Agriculture and Forestry Office, which gets information from the village forestry sector.*

- To cope with natural disasters, the village authorities have warned through the village loudspeaker to all villagers in order to be more careful. For droughts, caution should be exercised when using fire, both indoors and outdoors.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

The main cause of community deforestation is the smuggling of wood for sale. Any family that is going to cut down trees to build a house must inform the village authorities in advance.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

- *The main causes of deforestation are shifting cultivation, due to people are landless for sustainable agricultural production, as well as their families' economic crisis and poverty.*

- *Due to there being landless for agricultural production, people who have just moved to live in the village, are required to cut down trees to repair or build houses.*

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

This affects ecosystems and forests, including the streams that have been dried up, extremely hot weather, and forests are reduced, while some terrestrial and aquatic animals are extinct or move to live in other areas.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

This affects local people's livelihoods in ways such as it is difficult to find firewood, there is a shortage of water for agricultural production, and it is more difficult to harvest non-timber forest products.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

They have ways to reduce deforestation, which is to encourage those who cleared forests for shifting cultivation to replacement by practicing sustainable agricultural production.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe.

Deforestation and forest degradation have had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters and they worsen every year. For example, forest fires and landslides occur every year, and when there are issues like this, it affects the environment and deteriorates the forest.

What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

There is no answer.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project – NEW PROJECT VILLAGES

7. Do you know about the planned I-GFLL project activities that might take place in this village?

They do not yet know about the planned I-GFLL project activities that might take place in the village.

7.1 If the project works in this village, what are the best ways to inform community members about a meeting? Or about another kind of opportunity?

If the project is implemented in this village, they will have a meeting with all members of the village. The people will be informed through the village loudspeakers, and the unit leaders will further inform their own members.

7.2 The I-GFLL project will try to speak to as many people in the community as possible before it begins. How can they do that?

The project must be issued a notice to the village through the relevant sectors of the government or meet locals to coordinate the notification of the project objectives on their own. It is important to organize the village meeting in advance.

7.3 Are there some parts of the community that are more difficult to talk to? Who are they and why? (prompt for poverty, ethnicity/language barriers, disability/access, female headed households) – are there any other ways the project can use to talk to these people?

They think it will not be a problem to reach different groups of people.

7.4 One of the project aims is to support participatory land use planning – has that happened here?

They said that there was a similar activity that has happened in the village, but the project has focused on promoting agriculture and animal husbandry, along with nutrition and hygiene. Currently, there is a French project called EUNEUF Agriculture Promotion has been implemented in the village.

7.4.1 Can you tell us more about this?

There is no answer.

7.5 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

They said similar activities took place in the village and they now remain in implementation.

7.5.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They can provide additional information about activities to promote sustainable agriculture, especially since the project has encouraged villagers to cultivate vegetables and raise animals sustainably.

7.6 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

They think that the project will be able to help.

7.6.1 Why or why not?

As the project will provide funding to help people manage forests and engage in other careers that do not involve deforestation for shifting cultivation, Today, most people have changed from deforestation for shifting cultivation to more sustainable agricultural production and livestock for commercial purposes. If there is a project implementation in the village, it will be good to encourage villagers, and it will be very helpful in reducing natural disasters.

7.7 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

They think that this project will be able to help villagers with forest management because people can conserve forests where there are already forest management activities. If the project wants to develop a participatory land-use plan, the village can be consulted and recommend areas that are important or sensitive to invasion that deserve special attention.

Any other remarks:

- On the project?

They would like to propose a project to promote agricultural production and animal husbandry and want the project to provide seeds and fruit trees. They also want to get grass species for planting.

- On challenges to women's participation?

They think it's no challenge to women's participation, but there must be a gathering of female members. If the project is implemented in this village and they want women to participate, the project should inform the village women's union to further inform women in the village to participate.

- On ethnic participation?

On ethnic participation, they want to mobilize people to participate as well.

- On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

- The participation of other vulnerable people, poor households, and disabled people; they would like the project to invite them to participate and inform them in advance.

- The participation of other vulnerable people, poor households, and disabled people may not be as good as it should be due to the fact that these groups are not fully prepared to cope with many issues such as well-being, health problems, and rice insufficiency.

- **220326V2 - Thin 2**

Interview: Interview women group
 Village name: Thin Village
 District: Nga District
 Province: Oudomxay Province
 Date: 26/03/2022
 Surveyor's Name (s): Kong Lor
 Interview ID: Thin (2)

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

There are two ethnic groups in this village, namely Khmu and Lue. The Lue ethnic group are engaged in paddy farming as their main occupation, and they rarely deforest. While the Khmu ethnic group practice deforestation for shifting cultivation as their main career, some vulnerable families are landless for agriculture, and they are required to work on farms with their relatives to survive.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

The villagers cultivate rice and tobacco, while cardamom will be planted in the huge forests.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

They face rice insufficiency for about 1 or 2 months a year.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

People produce cash crops, such as tobacco, cardamom, and Mulato grass, to sell grass seeds.

2.4. What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.). What factors are driving or influencing these changes?

The main challenges people face in terms of agricultural production are that there are often fires in the cardamom gardens and that the extremely hot weather also kills cardamom trees, resulting in post-harvest losses. Meanwhile, if it was a poor product, it would have pressed the prices lower.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

Farmers receive market information from companies that support people who cultivate tobacco and purchase tobacco in the village on their own, and if the quality of tobacco is poor after baking, the prices will be lower as well.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

The challenge people face in accessing markets is that there is pressure on the prices if the quality of tobacco is poor after baking.

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

These challenges may affect other ethnic groups that they might not know about.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

They do not practice shifting cultivation.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

People in the village use agrochemicals.

- Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health?

They are aware that there have been negative impacts on the environment or on people's health.

- Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying? Where do they access these materials?

People are aware of the different chemicals, and they get the chemicals from the Lao Tobacco Company.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

They get information from the ENUFF project on best practices to improve yields and adapt to climate change.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

They don't practice agroforestry.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

They have attended agricultural training every year, and the ENUFF project just organized training for them at the end of February.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

Farmers share their knowledge in the village by talking about their experiences.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

There is a village forest, a national protected area, a protection forest, and a production forest in the village.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

The forest resources benefit the community that helps people access food in the forests. They are also able to harvest several kinds of non-timber forest products for their consumption, and the forest resources are also able to maintain water sources for use in agricultural production.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

The forests provide sufficient products for their needs, particularly for food, and there is also sufficient for sale in the markets of the Khmu ethnic people.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

Men and women use forest resources in the same way, especially when they can harvest some non-timber forest products.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them?

The main products they harvest are bamboo shoots, mushrooms, rattan, yams, etc.

- Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

The products they have ever harvested have changed over the years. For example, while these products have significantly decreased, the forests have been rich in the past, and people were able to fish along the rivers in the past, but now there is no fish available.

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

The village's forest resources are managed by the village authorities, and locals are also involved to prevent outsiders from deforesting the protected area.

3.5.1

- How are women and men involved in forest protection and management?

Women and men are also involved in forest protection and management. For example, if a forest fire occurs or if women are found deforesting in the protected forest areas, they can inform the village authorities, even though the women have not participated in the village forest management team.

- Are there differences in the roles of men and women?

They said that they don't know.

- What are challenges they face?

They said that they don't know.

- Do they have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

They don't have any recommendations to overcome these challenges.

3.5.2

- What about members of ethnic communities?

Ethnic communities are involved in forest protection and management, such as if there is a forest fire, they will help extinguish forest fires.

- Are there differences in the roles of ethnic communities?

There are no differences in the roles of ethnic communities.

- What are challenges they face?

The challenges they face are that some outsiders have deforested in the village areas without informing the head of the village.

- Do they have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

They don't have any recommendations to overcome these challenges, but they believe that the head of the village can do it.

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

They said that the poorest families benefit from village forest management in that they are able to access non-timber forest products to sell and exchange goods.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing)?

They said that some village members are more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest.

- If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

If access to NPA is restricted, they are disadvantaged because they cannot be harvested for NTFPs. People who have been affected are not being compensated.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

The village already has a land-use plan and forest management.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

They have experienced land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders due to someone else taking the land, and the head of the village has resolved the issues.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land within the village.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

Men and women from different ethnic groups have equal access to land within the village.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

It is easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

They are aware of climate change.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

They have noticed changes such as non-seasonal rainfall and people experiencing drought during their practice of agricultural production.

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

They said that most of the Hmong and Khmu people have burned their fields, causing forest fires to spread and destroy forests.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

They have noticed changes in agricultural lands and production due to changing weather and temperature, such as poor soil quality, droughts occurring and termites damaging the roots of rice trees.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

Villagers are now facing natural disasters, especially drought.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

They said that the drought was getting worse because the forest has been degraded and they have faced drought for 5 years.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

This has had an impact on people's livelihoods and ecosystems, such as flooding rice fields, which resulted in crop loss and a rice shortage, and the flood also damaged several trees, making life tough for people and destroying numerous homes.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).

They said that all members of the community are particularly impacted by these disasters.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)

They said that there were no activities related to preparing for natural disasters.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?

There is no answer.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

The main causes of community deforestation are logging for houses, as well as firewood for baking tobacco leaves and daily use.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

They have noticed changes or an increase in deforestation trends.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

This affects ecosystems and forests, such as droughts and forests, which have decreased.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

This affects local people's livelihoods, such as droughts, lack of firewood, and reduced availability of non-timber forest products.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

There are ways to reduce deforestation, such as the government or projects promoting activities for people.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe.

They said that deforestation and forest degradation have had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters.

What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

There is no answer.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project – NEW PROJECT VILLAGES

7. Do you know about the planned I-GFLL project activities that might take place in this village?

They do not yet know what plans for I-GFLL project activities that might take place in the village.

7.1 If the project works in this village, what are the best ways to inform community members about a meeting? Or about another kind of opportunity?

The best ways to inform community members about meetings are to first inform the head of village in advance, and then have the village chief inform the villagers to acknowledge the project activities in order to be more involved.

7.2 The I-GFLL project will try to speak to as many people in the community as possible before it begins. How can they do that?

They said that if the I-GFLL project tries to speak to as many people in the community as possible before it begins, it is required to issue a notice to inform the village to ensure that the village chief has time to discuss it with the villagers first.

7.3 Are there some parts of the community that are more difficult to talk to? Who are they and why? (prompt for poverty, ethnicity/language barriers, disability/access, female headed households) – are there any other ways the project can use to talk to these people?

They said that there are certain people in this village that are difficult to talk to, especially those who have money, but that these people are sometimes quite busy and unable to attend the meeting.

7.4 One of the project aims is to support participatory land use planning – has that happened here?

They said that there had never been any such activities happened in this village.

7.4.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They can provide additional information about land use planning.

7.5 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

They said that there had been such activities happening in this village.

7.5.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They can provide additional information about activities to promote sustainable agriculture.

7.6 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

They said that the project will be able to help.

7.6.1 Why or why not?

Because the project has planned land use and forest management for climate recovery.

7.7 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

They think that if the project begins to implement their village, they will be able to recommend which areas will be specially managed.

Any other remarks:

- On the project?

They want the project to encourage locals to improve their well-being, as well as solve drug problems in the village and promote the economy for the people.

- On challenges to women's participation?

They want the project to include the village women's union, which would be involved in the project's activities.

- On ethnic participation?

They have no recommendation about this, but they suggest that the project should try to talk to these groups first, and they might participate.

- On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

They want other vulnerable people, poor households, and disabled people to participate, but they suggest that the project should further try to talk with and discuss with these groups.

- **220326V2 - Thin 3**

Village name: Thin Village
 District: Nga District
 Province: Oudomxay Province
 Date: 26/03/2022
 Interview ID: Thin -3
 Surveyor's Name (s): Sing
 Interview: Interview vulnerable (poorest) group

Part 1: Village lives (for all groups)

1. Livelihoods

1.1 Tell us about your livelihoods? Are there differences in the village between men and women, or between different ethnic groups, or the most vulnerable groups (poor, landless, disabled, female headed households)

People's livelihoods are different in Thin Village. Most of the Khmu people work on shifting cultivation, while the Lue people practice paddy farming. Poor households are landless for agricultural production, so they need to seek jobs to earn a living.

2. Agriculture:

2.1 What crops are cultivated?

People in Thin Village cultivate tobacco, cardamom, rice, vegetables, and Mulato grass.

2.2 How many months a year do you face rice insufficiency?

They face rice insufficiency for about 1 or 2 months a year.

2.3 Do you produce cash crops?

People produce cash crops, such as tobacco, vegetables, and Mulato grass.

2.4. What are the main challenges they face in terms of agricultural production (e.g. yields, market access, post-harvest losses, etc.). What factors are driving or influencing these changes?

The main challenges people face in terms of agricultural production are that there are droughts that affect cardamom trees, resulting in post-harvest losses; another challenge is forest fire; and tobacco cultivation also faces challenges, especially with poor quality after baking.

2.5 Where do farmers get market information from? (price of crops, where and when to sell....)

Farmers who cultivate tobacco get market information from the Lao Tobacco Company by showing them images of tobacco leaves to help them select a good grade and set the prices. Farmers sell their tobacco products from March to April, while Mulato seeds grass will be sold from January to February.

2.6 What challenges do you face in accessing markets?

The challenge people face in accessing markets is price pressure from middlemen.

2.7 Are these challenges different for different groups in the village (men and women, poorest, different ethnic groups...)

They said that there are no different challenges in agricultural production.

2.8 Do you practice shifting cultivation? Have you seen changes in rotation periods?

They do not practice shifting cultivation.

2.9 Do people use agrochemicals?

People in the village use agrochemicals.

- Have there been any negative impacts on the environment or people's health?

They are aware that there have been negative impacts on the environment or on people's health.

- Are people aware of the different chemicals they are applying? Where do they access these materials?

People are aware of the different chemicals, and they get the chemicals from the Lao Tobacco Company.

2.10 Where do they get information from on best practices to improve yields, and adapt to climate change?

They get information from the ENUFF project on best practices to improve yields and adapt to climate change.

2.11 Do they practice agroforestry? If yes, with what types of systems?

They don't practice agroforestry.

2.12 Have they attended an agricultural training or Farmer Field School? If yes, when and who put on the training?

They have attended an agricultural training for tobacco growers every year, which organized by the Lao Tobacco Company.

2.13 How do farmers share knowledge, and where do they access information on best practices?

Farmers share their knowledge in the village by talking about their experiences.

3. Forests.

3.1 What kind of forest resources are near your village? (Village forests, national protected areas (NPAs), protection forests, production forests)

There is a protection forest, a production forest, and a conservation forest in the village.

3.2 How do your forest resources benefit the community?

The forest resources benefit the community, such as a protected forest helps to maintain river sources to store water for agricultural production, and it is also a source to provide food.

3.3 Does the forest provide sufficient products for their needs (NTFPs, timber)?

They said that the forests provide sufficient products for people's needs in this village, which is also sufficient for food and for sale.

3.4 How do men and women use forest resources?

Men and women use forest resources in the same way, especially when they can harvest some non-timber forest products.

3.4.1.1 E.g. what are the main products they harvest? How do they use them?

The main products they harvest are bamboo shoots, mushrooms, rattan, yams, etc.

- Has the availability of these products changed over the years (and if so how)

The products they have ever harvested have changed over the years. For example, while these products have significantly decreased, the forests have been rich in the past, and people were able to fish along the rivers in the past, but now there is no fish available.

3.4.1.2 Are there differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups?

There are differences in using forest resources between ethnic groups.

3.5 How is your village forest resource managed?

The village's forest resources are managed by the village forestry sector, and locals are also involved in assisting in extinguishing forest fires.

3.5.1

- How are women and men involved in forest protection and management?

Women and men are also involved in forest protection and management even though the women have not participated in the village forest management team.

- Are there differences in the roles of men and women?

They said that they don't know.

- What are challenges they face?

They said that they don't know.

- Do they have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

They don't have any recommendations to overcome these challenges.

3.5.2

- What about members of ethnic communities?

The Kumu ethnic people are united in forest protection and management.

- Are there differences in the roles of ethnic communities?

They said that they don't know.

- What are challenges they face?

They said that they don't know.

- Do they have any recommendations to overcome these challenges?

There is no answer.

3.6 How do the poorest families benefit from village forest management?

They said that the poorest families benefit from village forest management in that they are able to access non-timber forest products to sell and exchange goods.

3.7 Are some village members more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest (e.g. restricting grazing)?

They said that some village members are more disadvantaged due to restrictions on forest use within the village forest.

- If yes, who are they and how are they particularly affected. How are adversely affected households compensated?

If access to NPA is restricted, they are disadvantaged because they cannot be harvested for NTFPs. People who have been affected are not being compensated.

4. Land

4.1 Does your community have a land use plan?

The village already has a land-use plan and forest management.

4.2 Have you experienced any land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders? If yes, please explain.

They have experienced land use conflicts with neighbouring villages or outsiders due to someone else taking the land, and the head of the village has resolved the issues.

4.3 Do men and women have equal access to land within the village?

Men and women have equal access to land within the village.

4.4 What about men and women from different ethnic groups?

Men and women from different ethnic groups have equal access to land within the village.

4.5 Is it easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries?

It is easy for villagers to access land within the village boundaries.

5. Climate Change

5.1 Are you aware of climate change?

They are aware of climate change.

5.2 Have you noticed changes in temperatures, rain fall, drought and landslides? (please tell us about them)

They have noticed changes such as non-seasonal rainfall and people experiencing drought during their practice of agricultural production.

5.3 Have there been changes in your forests (e.g. invasive species, changing species composition, increasingly dry conditions, forest fires)?

They said that most of the Hmong and Khmu people have burned their fields, causing forest fires to spread and destroy forests.

5.4 Have you noticed changes in agricultural lands and production to do with changing weather and temperature? If yes, how so?

They have noticed changes in agricultural lands and production due to changing weather and temperature, such as poor soil quality, droughts occurring and termites damaging the roots of rice trees.

5.5 What natural disasters does your community face (flooding, drought, landslides, etc.)?

Villagers are now facing natural disasters, especially droughts and landslides.

5.5.1 Have you noticed changes or any trends (intensity, impact, frequency, etc.). If yes, please describe and specify since when (e.g. past 5, 10, 15 years).

They said that the drought was getting worse because the forest has been decreased and they have faced drought for 5 years.

5.5.2 How has this affected peoples' lives, livelihoods and/or ecosystems? (for example, access to water, destruction of houses, buildings, roads or fields, loss of crops, difficulty and distance to access water and other natural resources...)

This has had an impact on people's livelihoods and ecosystems, such as flooding rice fields, which resulted in crop loss and a rice shortage, and the flood also damaged several trees, making life tough for people and destroying numerous homes.

5.5.3 Are there certain members of your community who are particularly impacted by these disasters? Please describe (e.g. women, disabled persons, elderly, poor households, ethnic minorities).

They said that about 60% of the community's members are particularly impacted by these disasters, while all members are particularly impacted by droughts.

5.5.4 Are there any activities related to preparing for natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, landslides)? (E.g. Adjusting agricultural practices, or forest management)

They said that there were no activities related to preparing for natural disasters.

5.5.5 If yes, who organizes/ supports these activities? Where do they get information from?

There is no answer.

6. Deforestation

6.1 What are the main causes of deforestation in your community?

The main causes of community deforestation are logging for houses, as well as firewood for baking tobacco leaves and daily use.

6.2 Have you noticed changes/ trends in forest degradation and/ or deforestation? If yes, please describe.

They have noticed changes or an increase in deforestation trends.

6.3 How does this affect ecosystems and forests?

This affects ecosystems and forests, such as droughts and forests, which have decreased.

6.4 How does this affect local persons lives/ livelihoods? E.g. NTFP availability, fuelwood, wood, etc.

It affects the local people's livelihoods, such as making it more difficult to harvest forest resources and non-timber forest products.

6.5 How to reduce this? What is a barrier?

They have a way of reducing deforestation by finding other crops to replace tobacco cultivation.

6.6 Has deforestation and forest degradation had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters? Please describe.

They said that deforestation and forest degradation have had an impact on the frequency or intensity of natural disasters.

What other i) environmental and ii) social challenges do you face in your village?

There is no answer.

Part 2: Perspectives on the project – NEW PROJECT VILLAGES

7. Do you know about the planned I-GFLL project activities that might take place in this village?

They do not yet know what plans for I-GFLL project activities that might take place in the village.

7.1 If the project works in this village, what are the best ways to inform community members about a meeting? Or about another kind of opportunity?

If the project works in this village, the best way to inform community members is to organize a meeting. They will also be announced through the village loudspeakers to ensure that people are aware in order to be more involved.

7.2 The I-GFLL project will try to speak to as many people in the community as possible before it begins. How can they do that?

They said that if the I-GFLL project tries to speak to as many people in the community as possible before it begins, it is required to issue a notice to inform the village to ensure that the village chief has time to discuss it with the villagers first.

7.3 Are there some parts of the community that are more difficult to talk to? Who are they and why? (prompt for poverty, ethnicity/language barriers, disability/access, female headed households) – are there any other ways the project can use to talk to these people?

They said that there are some people in this village that are difficult to talk to, especially those who have money, but that these people are sometimes quite busy and unable to attend the meeting.

7.4 One of the project aims is to support participatory land use planning – has that happened here?

They said that there had never been any such activities happened in this village.

7.4.1 Can you tell us more about this?

They can provide additional information about land use planning.

7.5 Another aim of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture – has that happened here?

They said that there had been such activities happening in this village.

7.5.1 Can you tell us more about this?

If the project begins on implementation in the village, people are able to make recommendations on what areas can be carried out or which areas are appropriate.

7.6 The project wants to do more to combat the effects of climate change (extreme weather and natural disasters), do you think that the project will be able help?

They said that the project will be able to help.

7.6.1 Why or why not?

If the project comes to assist, it will be able to do so since they have funds to support the people.

7.7 The project wants to help villagers with village forest management (like planning and agreements, forest planting, restoration activities) and monitoring (including patrolling) has this happened here? Can you tell us more about it?

They think that if the project begins to implement their village, they will be able to recommend which areas will be specially managed.

Any other remarks:

- On the project?

They want the project to encourage locals to improve their well-being, as well as solve drug problems in the village and promote the economy for the people.

- On challenges to women's participation?

They said that men should participate first, followed by women, and that the Village Women's Union may discuss and mobilize later.

- On ethnic participation?

They have no recommendation about this, but they suggest that the project should try to talk to these groups first, and they might participate.

- On the participation of other vulnerable persons/ households (poor households, disabled persons, etc.)?

They said yes, and they suggest that the project should further try to talk with and discuss with these groups.
