

*Achieving emission reduction in the Central Highlands and South Central Coast of
Viet Nam to support National REDD+ Action Programme goals (RECAF)*

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PLAN

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Final Version

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Abbreviations

4P	Public–Private–Producer Partnership
ACV	Agriculture Value Chain
COVID–19	Coronavirus Disease of 2019
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
EM	Ethnic Minority
FC	Farmers’ Cooperative
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FPIC	Free, Prior, Informed Consent
Four P	Product, Place, Price, and Promotion
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GVB	Gender Based Violence
HHS	Household Survey
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IPP	Indigenous Peoples’ Plan
KII	Key Informant Interview
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
OHS	Occupation Health and Safety
OCOP	One Commune, One Product
PC	Peoples’ Committee
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SYIB	Start and Improve Your Business
PC	Peoples’ Committee
PMU	Project Management Board
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Reliable and Time-Bound Indicators
VNFOREST	Vietnam Administration of Forestry
WB	World Bank
WU	Women’s Union
YU	Youths’ Union

Executive Summary

Introduction

This section presents the key findings of the social assessment conducted through FPIC consultation with representatives of ethnic minority groups who live in the communes identified as deforestation hotspots in five project provinces (Dak Lak, Gia Lai, Lam Dong, Dak Nong and Ninh Thuan). These communes are located near the forest and are home to major ethnic groups such as Ba Na, Raglay, M'Nong, J'rai, Ede, etc. The consultations were conducted through three forms: focus group discussion (FGD), household interview, and key informant interview (KII). While the FGD and KII provide qualitative insight of community members regarding their livelihood activities, results from the household survey provide a pattern that allows understanding of larger communities which households participating in the consultation represent. Findings from these consultations shed light on the livelihoods of ethnic minorities in the project area, their social norms, farming practices, assets, farming conditions, social networks, etc. These help understand the vulnerability of ethnic minorities to the potential impacts of climate change.

Profiles of ethnic minorities in the project area

Most of the people attending the consultations are ethnic minorities (about 90%). The remainder is Kinh people (the largest ethnic group in Vietnam). 20% of participants in the household survey are female headed households (compared to about 30% in Central Highland). Youth-headed households makes up 29% (vs 31% in Central Highland). Nearly half of participants in the household survey (47%) considered their households “poor”, 10% “very poor”, and 40% “average”. Only 4.1% considered themselves “better-off”.

Nearly half of household members (45%, n=564) works in agriculture as primary labour. Regular paid worker account for only 5.4% (n=67). Temporary workers make up 3.1% (n=38) and family members who don't work account for 40% (school children, jobless and retired). All people who work in agriculture (100%, n=399) considered themselves main labor of their family. Of this total, 62.9% (n=251) are male. The remainder (37%, n=148) are female. Average age of main labor doing farming is 35 years of age. For those who do a second job, these jobs are mainly hired workers or seasonal workers. Half of survey participants (52%, n=175) said their economic status remained “unchanged” over the past two years. 17% (n=56) said they are “worse” and 29% (n=97) indicated their economic status are “better”.

75% of surveyed households (n=266) have access to production land. 47% have perennial land, followed by annual cropland (41%), production forest land (9%), and protection forest land (2%). It is noted that average area of perennial land is 1.2 ha while average residential land is 66m². Most survey participants have land use right certificate (LURC) for their perennial land and annual cropland but not for both production forest and protection forest. For perennial land and annual cropland, most landholders have both husband and wife's names in LURCs. People in the survey do not rent land for agricultural production (only two households rent land for farming as their land is too small).

Main crops in the survey are coffee, followed by casava, maize, rice, bean, pepper, and others (fruits). Survey participants said they occasionally collect forest products such as bamboo shoot, honey, dry log, mushroom and vegetable, etc. These families live about 3.7km (average) away from the forest.

People reported lack of capital, high production costs, low selling prices, lack of irrigation water, land of land as the top five constraints for their agricultural production. They also mentioned uncertain weather condition, lack of information, degraded soil quality, natural disaster and lack of labour, among other things, as key difficulties they face in agricultural production. In general, they have limited access to land and water for irrigation is mainly rain-fed and collected from springs. Most people have access to only one source of water during wet and dry season. Their production equipment are mainly cows/buffalos, motored pesticide sprayers, water pumps.

As a result, their monthly cash income (per capita) is 3,195,291 VND. Male members earn higher than female (3,778,929 VND vs 2,529,815 VND, respectively). Though average monthly cash income of male is higher than female (3,596,809 VND and 3,256,098 VND, respectively), the difference in mean income is not statistically significant. Income from cultivation was ranked the most important source for most households (62%, n=219).

75% of survey participants (n=263) have at least one outstanding loan. Most (75%, n=177) borrow for production, followed by consumption (14.1%), construction (7%). Borrowers are mainly poor economically (51%), followed by average (42%), and better off (5%). Although underreported, loan ethnic minorities taken in the form of credit-in-kind (e.g. agricultural inputs) are very common. These loans have high interest rate that may range from 20-30%. Although ethnic minorities have membership with Women Union (40%), Farmers Association (30%), Youth Union (8%), when it comes to help or needing urgent money, they turn to their siblings (41%), relatives (21%), neighbors (15%). Although a small percentage (1.6%) reported borrowing money from black credit, an estimated 60-80% of ethnic minorities borrow urgent money from people who lend them agricultural inputs with very high interest rates. Those who could not return the loan by the end of harvest have to pay much more in the next cropping season. They eventually end up being trapped in the debt that grows quickly over year and hardly escape.

In terms of labour division, women tend to undertake activities that are mostly light physically and happen within the household whereas men are involved more in interactions outside the household and are responsible for works that are heavy physically and/or hazardous. With regards to decision making as to domestic works and agricultural works, although most works are shared, female member do as much as twice male members with regarding to the number of work items that female do mainly and solely. As such female have limited chance to go outside the family for learning and updating their farming skills and general knowledge (See Section 3 for details).

Environmental and Social Risks and Mitigation Measure

The social impacts are overall positive since project activities aim to improve the livelihoods of the poor people, especially ethnic minorities, who live near forest areas. This will be achieved through improved farming skills, business development knowledge, loan access, land access (forest land allocation), etc. to improve quality and yield of the farm produce, diversify sources of income, and participate in deforestation-free value chains. Key social risks associated with project activities may include risks concerning a) labour influx (e.g. workers engaged for project construction and other activities), b) child labor, c) community health and safety.

Potential negative environmental impacts from small-scale infrastructure (e.g. construction/repair of road, irrigation channels, etc. may include: possible erosion and run-off to water bodies during earthworks; occupational health and safety; temporary traffic blockages and traffic safety during construction and operation; pollution from construction (dust, noise and vibration, wastewater from campsites, solid wastes; water pollution from sourcing aggregates/construction materials such as soil, gravels, and water consumption for the construction, etc. Most of these impacts are temporary and

reversible and could be managed by applying good construction practices and project environmental and social management plan, taking into account the territorial and environmental knowledge of ethnic minorities. There are also risks related to UXOs at infrastructure work locations which will be screened for and removal, if any, by experts as part of site clearance prior to commencing any physical, construction activities at the sites. Cumulative environmental impacts are assessed to be negligible given the project's focus on rehabilitation and construction of small-scale infrastructure. There is also risk of increased use of pesticide due to crop intensification to participate in select value chains. This will be minimized through training for farmers and promotion of good farming practices such as integrated pest management (See Section 5 for details).

Grievance Redress Mechanism

The project has designed a GRM to provide complainants with redress procedures that are accessible, easily used, and free of charge to enable affected people to raise project related concerns and grievances. The project GRMs provide information on how the complaints are lodged, including forms, channels, particularly steps and time-limit for each step, such as time-limit for acknowledging receipt of complaint, notification of resolution decision, and prescriptive period, etc. GRM takes into account the local practices of grievance redress that local ethnic minorities prefer, including the use of local ethnic minority language. During the grievance resolution progress, where necessary, dialogues will be hold between the project's designated GRM unit/personnel and the aggrieved people to promote mutual understanding and collaboration among relevant parties for effective resolution (See Section 9 for details).

Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

FPIC consultation with EM peoples who are present in the project area is an important and an integral part of the stakeholder engagement process. It is essential to informing project design and project implementation. FPIC consultation aimed to provide the concerned EM peoples with information about project objective, project's scope of work, project activities, potential social and environmental risks and impacts, and proposed approach to avoiding and managing social and environmental identified risks and impacts.

To facilitate FPIC consultation, project related information will be disclosed to the potentially EM peoples who will benefit from the project and who may be impacted by it, at early stage of project design. Later on, when project design is completed, FPIC consultation with EM peoples will be repeated to provide EM peoples with updated project information to provide a basis for the project to solicit their meaningful feedback and incorporate into project implementation. All project information have been presented in a manner that is culturally appropriate to the consulted EM people, including forms of presentation, and use of local languages, to collect their meaningful feedback. Sufficient time have be arranged – between early stage of project design and design completion to allow EM sufficient time to understand project activities, its environmental and social risks and impacts, and provide feedback throughout project cycle.

Implementation Arrangements, Monitoring and Evaluation

Since about 40% of project's beneficiary households are poor ethnic minorities, the IPP will be implemented through mainstreaming IPP approach into annual implementation plan of each of the project province. Monitoring and Evaluation will be carried as part of the overall project implementation plan based on indicators specified in the project's Logical Framework and in the Gender Action Plan (See GAP for details).

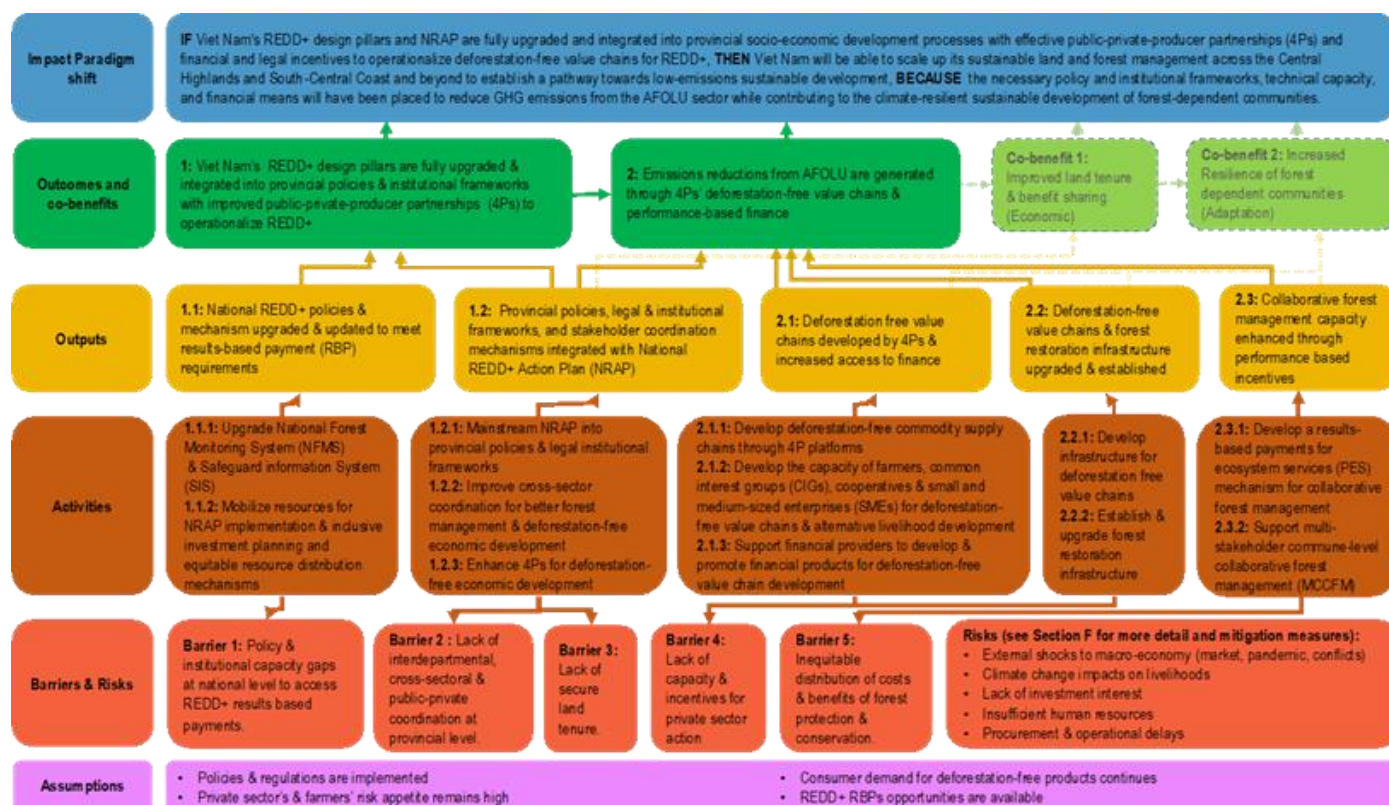
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project goal

The project is entitled “Achieving emission reduction in the Central Highlands and South Central Coast of Viet Nam to support National REDD+ Action Programme goals” (RECAF). The RECAF project’s goal is to reduce GHG emissions from AFOLU sector, contributing to the climate-resilient sustainable development of forest-dependent communities in the target provinces. To achieve this goal, the project sets out its paradigm-shifting logic predicated on the premise that:

Goal Statement: IF Viet Nam's REDD+ design pillars and NRAP are fully upgraded and integrated into provincial socio-economic development processes with effective public-private-producer partnerships (4Ps) and financial and legal incentives to operationalize deforestation-free value chains for REDD+, THEN Viet Nam will be able to scale up its sustainable land and forest management across the Central Highlands and South-Central Coast and beyond to establish a pathway towards low-emissions sustainable development, BECAUSE the necessary policy and institutional frameworks, technical capacity, and financial means will have been placed to reduce GHG emissions from the AFOLU sector while contributing to the climate-resilient sustainable development of forest-dependent communities.

The project focuses on developing deforestation-free value chains, fostering alternative livelihood options, and implementing community forest management initiatives tailored to the needs of forest-dependent communities as described further below. The Theory of Change diagram (Figure below) visually depicts these approaches and illustrates the anticipated outcomes of the project's interventions.



1.2 Project Outcomes, Outputs, and Activities

OUTCOME 1: Viet Nam's REDD+ design pillars are fully upgraded and integrated into provincial policies & institutional frameworks with improved public-private-producer partnerships (4Ps) to operationalize REDD+

Output 1.1: National REDD+ policies and mechanism upgraded to fulfill all required functions, including afforestation.

Activity 1.1.1: Upgrade National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and Safeguard information System (SIS)

- Sub-activity 1.1.1.1. Upgrade a monitoring system to report results of emissions reductions and removals
- Sub-activity 1.1.1.2. Implement the REDD+ Safeguards Information System
- Sub-activity 1.1.1.3. Promote inter-provincial coordination and knowledge management

Activity 1.1.2: Mobilize resources for NRAP implementation and inclusive investment planning and equitable resource distribution mechanisms

- Sub-activity 1.1.2.1. Prepare a Regional NRAP Investment plan
- Sub-activity 1.1.2.2. Conduct capacity building for private sector resource mobilization
- Sub-activity 1.1.2.3. Conduct national multistakeholder policy dialogue on including carbon sequestration services in PFES mechanisms and to draft MCCFM guidelines

Output 1.2: Provincial policies, legal and institutional frameworks, and stakeholder coordination mechanisms integrated with National REDD+ Action Plan (NRAP)

Activity 1.2.1: Mainstream NRAP into provincial policies and legal institutional framework

- Sub-activity 1.2.1.1. Strengthen provincial leadership, political will and commitment

- Sub-activity 1.2.1.2. Support a provincial REDD+ monitoring and information system (MIS) and participatory forest inventory surveys

Activity 1.2.2: Improve cross-sector coordination for better forest management and transition to deforestation-free economic development

- Sub-activity 1.2.2.1. Facilitate 4P platforms to provide inputs and ensure effective implementation of PRAPs
- Sub-activity 1.2.2.2. Facilitate cross-sector coordination, policy dialogue and capacity building on zoning, FLA, MCFM and PFES

Activity 1.2.3: Enhance Public-Private-Producer Partnerships (4Ps) for deforestation-free economic development

- Sub-activity 1.2.3.1. Generate baseline knowledge
- Sub-activity 1.2.3.2. Identify socially and economically viable and dense agroforestry systems adapted to agro-ecological zones
- Sub-activity 1.2.3.4. Share knowledge with the wider population and advocacy

OUTCOME 2: Emissions reductions from AFOLU consequently to 4Ps' deforestation-free value chains & performance-based finance

Output 2.1: Deforestation free value chains developed by 4Ps and increased access to finance

Activity 2.1.1: Develop deforestation-free commodity supply chains through 4P platforms

- Sub-activity 2.1.1.1. Develop deforestation-free commodity supply chains (perennial crops, acacia-based timber, bamboo)
- Sub-activity 2.1.1.2. Develop value chains for deforestation-free niche products (honey, mushrooms, medicinal plants, herbs, other NWFPS)

Activity 2.1.2: Develop the capacity of farmers, common interest groups (CIGs), cooperatives and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) for deforestation-free value chains and alternative livelihood development

- Sub-activity 2.1.2.1. Establish CIGs
- Sub-activity 2.1.2.2. Train farmers, CIGs, cooperatives and SMEs

Activity 2.1.3: Support financial providers to develop and promote financial products for deforestation-free value chain development

- Sub-activity 2.1.3.1. Strengthen WDFs and CDFs to manage funds and develop products that support investments in deforestation-free value chains
- Sub-activity 2.1.3.2. Provide access to capital for WDFs and CDFs to more rapidly scale credit activities
- Sub-activity 2.1.3.3. Build capacity of commercial banks to develop products, partnerships and application of fintech that support investments in deforestation free value chains and advance project objectives

Output 2.2: Deforestation-free value chains and forest restoration infrastructure upgraded and established

Activity 2.2.1: Develop infrastructure for deforestation free value chains

- Sub-activity 2.2.1.1. Promote sustainable agroforestry through small-scale and micro infrastructure investments, including the development of micro irrigation systems and organic fertilizer production facilities

- Sub-activity 2.2.1.2: Enhance the post-harvest facilities of selected value chains by incorporating value-added processing techniques

Activity 2.2.2: Establish and upgrade forest restoration infrastructure (IFAD Co-finance)

- Sub-activity 2.2.2.1: Strengthen forest monitoring and protection infrastructure by implementing comprehensive upgrades
- Sub-activity 2.2.2.2: Establish public nurseries dedicated to tree species cultivation, creating essential infrastructure for reforestation and afforestation initiatives

Output 2.3: Collaborative forest management capacity enhanced through performance-based incentives

Activity 2.3.1: Develop a results-based payments for ecosystem services (PES) mechanism for collaborative forest management

- Sub-activity 2.3.1.1: Support Provincial Forest Protection Development Funds (PFPDFs) to design and implement a mechanism for performance-based payments for carbon sequestration services
- Sub-activity 2.3.1.2: Build the capacity building of the PFPDFs

Activity 2.3.2: Support multi-stakeholder commune-level collaborative forest management (MCCFM)

- Sub-activity 2.3.2.1: Facilitate a participatory land use planning and mapping process
- Sub-activity 2.3.2.2: Develop fully-devolved MCCFM pilots
- Sub-activity 2.3.2.3: Develop capacity of village-level MCCFM group members
- Sub-activity 2.3.2.4: Strengthen the MCCFM support system

1.3 Project target groups

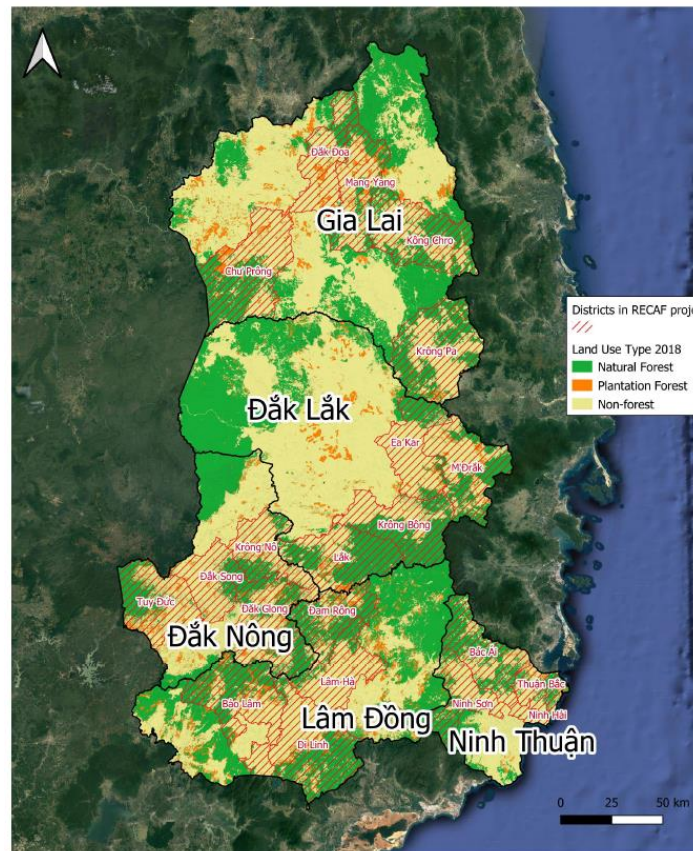
It is estimated that RECAF will reach 420,000 direct beneficiary households who are mainly smallholders and vulnerable individuals, and a total of 1,000,000 people who will indirectly benefit from the project. Specifically, the project's target groups include: (i) rural poor households with land and labourers; (ii) unskilled employed rural people; (iii) rural people lacking land for sustainable production but having business acumen and interest; and (iv) key farmers with the skills and assets to promote agroforestry/commercial agricultural production. Vulnerable households, such as the poor, near-poor and/or women-headed households, youth and others identified through local SEDP and RAP planning processes (e.g., engaged in vulnerable production systems, carrying out their production activities in vulnerable areas identified by Disaster Risk Management planning/zoning), and ethnic minority households will be prioritized among the target groups. RECAF will propose specific measures to ensure women's participation in relevant activities, including minimum participation rates (at least 40%).

In addition to above target groups, the project will also include small and medium scale enterprises/agri-businesses (SMEs), and producer organizations (cooperatives, Common Interest Groups (CIGs), savings and credit groups, and so forth, in project supported zero deforestation value chains.

1.4 Project area

The project will cover five provinces, including Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Dak Nong, and Lam Dong in Central Highlands, Ninh Thuan in the South-Central Coast (See Figure below). Within five project provinces, districts selected for project intervention have a total of 926,066 hectares of natural forest,

of which about 400,000 hectares of this area are special use forest, which are strictly protected anyway, and no project impact can be expected there. Thus, it is estimated that project activities will contribute to the protection of about 500,000 hectares of natural forest.



1.5 Objectives of the IPP

- 1) To ensure that the development process fosters full respect for the human rights, dignity, aspirations, identity, culture, and natural resource–based livelihoods of EM communities.
- 2) To avoid adverse impacts of projects on EM communities, or when avoidance is not possible, to minimize, mitigate and/or compensate for such impacts.
- 3) To promote sustainable development benefits and opportunities for EM communities in a manner that is accessible, culturally appropriate and inclusive.
- 4) To improve project design and promote local support by establishing and maintaining an ongoing relationship based on meaningful consultation with the EM communities affected by a project throughout the project’s life cycle.
- 5) To ensure Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) consultation is done with affected EM people.
- 6) To recognize, respect and preserve the culture, knowledge, and practices of EM communities, and to provide them with an opportunity to adapt to changing conditions in a manner and in a timeframe acceptable to them.

2. KEY NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK AND PROGRAMS FOR ETHNIC MINORITIES

2.1 Policies and Socioeconomic Development Program for EM Peoples

The existing legal framework indicated that the Communist Party and the Government of Vietnam has always placed the issue of ethnic minorities and ethnic affairs at a position of strategic importance. The ethnic minorities, as part of Vietnamese population are protected through provisions specified in the Constitution 2013 and relevant laws. The underlying principle of the legal framework is 'equality, unity, and mutual support for common development', with priorities given to 'ensuring sustainable development in ethnic minorities and mountainous areas'.

The Constitution 2013 strongly commits to ensuring equality for all ethnic minority groups. Article 5 proclaims all ethnic minorities to be equal. Discrimination by ethnicity is prohibited. Ethnic minorities have the right to use their own languages. It is committed that the state will implement a policy that promote comprehensive development for all ethnic minorities. Priorities are given to providing health care services and health insurance to ethnic minorities (Article 58) and education (Article 61).

In addition to the Constitution, a set of legal laws, decrees, circulars have been in place to realize the principle for supporting EM peoples set forth in the Constitution. These includes:

Policies related to Committee for Ethnic Minorities Affairs

- Decree No. 84/2012/ND-CP (dated October 12, 2012) by the Prime Minister stipulates the functions, tasks, powers and organizational structure of the Committee for Ethnic Minorities Affairs (CEMA). As a ministry, CEMA performs the function of state management of ethnic affairs, state management of public services under the jurisdiction of CEMA.
- Decree 05/2011/ND-CP (dated January 14, 2011) and Decree 84/2012/ND-CP (dated October 12, 2012) provides a legal basis for CEMA to develop guidelines and policies of the State on ethnic minorities. In particular, it helps develop and preserve the cultural identity of the peoples in the great family of ethnic groups of Vietnam.

Policies related to health care

- Decree No. 05/2011/ND-CP (dated January 14, 2011) provides guidance for activities related to EMs which include support for the maintenance of language, culture, customs and identities of every ethnic minorities.
- Decision No. 122/QĐ-TTg (dated January 10, 2013) by the Prime Minister to approve the National Strategy for Protection, Care and Improvement of Public Health for the 2011– 2020 Period, with Vision to 2030. The Strategy states the objective to “ensure that all people, especially the poor, EMs, under-six children, people entitled to preferential treatment, people living in disadvantaged and remote areas and vulnerable groups can access to quality basic healthcare services”.
- Resolution No. 20/NQ-TW (dated October 25, 2017) issued by the Central Party Committee, 12th tenure, stipulated the strengthening of the protection, care and improvement of public health in the new situation. One of the tasks is to renovate grassroots healthcare service to deliver activities to prevent and fight against non-communicable diseases (NCD), with due

attention to preventive healthcare and capacity building for screening and early detection and control of diseases as well as strengthened management and treatment of NCDs, chronic diseases and long-term care at the grassroots level.

Policies related to poverty reduction for EM and mountainous areas

- Program 135, which was approved by the Prime Minister through Decision No.135/1998/QĐ-TTg of July 31,1998 is one of the key, prominent socio-economic development program that target the most vulnerable communes in ethnic minority and mountainous areas. In the first two phases, Program 135 aims to: 1) Promote production and enhance living standard for ethnic minority households; 2) Develop infrastructure and develop public essential public service such as electricity, schools, health clinics, irrigation system, roads, and water supply; and 3) Enhance the people's awareness for better living standards and quality of life. The third phase of this program involve the following activities (a) support for infrastructure investments; (b) support for production development and livelihood diversification; and (c) strengthening the capacity for community and grassroots-level officers.
- Program 30a focuses on 64 poor and 23 near-poor districts and coastal areas with specific sub-components in district infrastructure, coastal infrastructure, production development and labor export, aiming to improve the living conditions of ethnic minorities
- Program 132 and 134 targets ethnic minorities in Central Highlands to increase access to land and improve housing conditions.

The fw

- Land Law updated in 2024 includes specific provisions regarding land policies for ethnic minorities, which entail the following: (i) Policies aim at ensuring land for community activities; (ii) Allocation and leasing of land to ethnic minorities who lack residential and productive land; (iii) Responsibilities of state agencies in developing and implementing land support policies for ethnic minorities. Land Law 2024 also addresses the following aspects: (i) Allocation of resources for policy implementation; (ii) Ensuring a land fund to implement land policies for ethnic minorities; (iii) Regulations that restrict certain rights of land users in cases of land allocation, land leasing, and conversion of land use in accordance with land support policies for ethnic minorities. c. Accordingly, Land Law 2024 outlines policies specifically designed to support residential land, agricultural production land, and non-agricultural production and business land for individuals belonging to poor and nearpoor households in ethnic minority and mountainous areas. Land Law 2024 supplements the cases to allocate land free of charge to agencies and organizations using land to implement public housing projects; and land to ethnic minorities who are eligible for the policy.

Other important documents that promote the participation of local people, including EM peoples, at grassroots level, include:

- Ordinance No. 34/2007/PL-UBTVQH11 dated April 20th, 2007 of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, of the 11th National Assembly on exercise of democracy in communes, wards and townships had provided the basis for the participation of the community in preparing the development plans and the supervision of community in Vietnam.
- Decision No.80/2005/QĐ-TTg of the Prime Minister dated April 18th, 2005 on investment supervision by the community.

Since 2016 till 2020, around 40 new legal documents have been issued that are related to support for social development of EM peoples, of which 15 documents are directly related to social development project proposals and policies for EM and mountainous areas.

2.2 Key policies related to forestry

Law on Forestry (2017). In this new Law, the State recognized, respected, and assure common rights of ethnic minority peoples. This is reflected through the fact that the state assures that ethnic minority and communities whose livelihoods depend on forest have access to land and forest for their production related to combined forestry, agriculture, and fishery. They are able to cooperate, participate in joint protection and development of with other forest owners, share forest based benefits, and practices their cultural and religious belief associated with forest (Item 6 of Article 4 of Law on Forestry 2017).

In addition, activities related to forest such as allocation of forest, conversion of forest types, change of forest use purpose, and acquisition of forest ensure transparency, disclosure of information, participation of local peoples, are done with no discrimination in religion, beliefs and gender. In particular, the living space, customs and habits of community, are respected. Forest allocation is prioritized for ethnic minority peoples, individual and community whose customs and habits, culture, religion are associated to forest, and are in line with the law (Item 8 of Article 14).

Government Decree 156/2018/ND-CP dated November 16, 2018. Decree 156 provides consolidated guidance with respect to establishment of special-use forest and protection forest, among other things, to implement part of the new Law on Forestry (2017). Decree 156 fleshes out detailed requirements to ensure the establishment of special-use forest are in line with the above. For instance, Decree 156, among other things, requires a project for establishing special-use forest to conduct socioeconomic assessment of current living activities of local people, and develop activities that ensure stable living activities of local people in the buffer zone¹. Article 16 defines how buffer zones inside and outside of a new special-use forest would be established. It emphasizes, in particular, the importance of stabilizing the livelihood of people who have already lived in the buffer zone prior to establishment of the new special-use forest. It also requires that project be developed that target the established buffer zone with a view to effectively support the community in the buffer zone in agro-forestry and aquaculture development – in a manner that is appropriate to local customs and habits. This also includes awareness-raising, education of people living in the buffer zone in forest protection and infrastructure development to reduce the pressure on forest conservation effort.

To ensure the establishment of special-use and protection forests does not cause potential adverse impact on the livelihood of forest-dependent households, Decree 156 requires the proposal for new forest need to assess the current socioeconomic status of the population living within the proposed special-use/protection forest area. This assessment is conducted in relation to the objective of the proposed forest based on which program activities, including program implementation and management, are developed to ensure livelihoods of people living in the buffer zone are stable. The program needs to propose a budget plan and investment phases to allow regular implementation of forest protection activities, conservation, and improving livelihood of people living in the buffer zone for cost-effectiveness of the proposed investment. This proposal needs to be consulted with relevant organizations and individuals prior to commencing appraisal. MARD will oversee the development of the proposal that will be developed by provincial DARD prior to submission to the Prime Minister

¹ “Buffer zone” is a forest area, land area or water surface area close to the boundary of a reserve forest which serves to prevent or reduce negative impacts on the reserve forest.

for review and approval. The proposal will also be subject to review by relevant ministries and provincial Peoples' Committees, organizations and individuals. Provincial Peoples' Committees will manage the forest within their province. In case where the forest spans across two provinces, MARD will be directly involved in organizing the management of the proposed special-use/protection forest.

2.3 Key policies related to development support for ethnic minorities

Below is a list of key national policies that may be applied to various extent by project's provinces at local level.

Year	Documents
2017	Decision No. 582/QĐ-TTg dated 28/4/2017 on approving the list of especially difficult hamlet, commune under III area, II area and I area of ethnic minority and mountainous areas in the period of 2016 - 2020
2016	Decision No. 2086/TTR-UBND dated 31/10/2016 on Approval of the Special policy to support socio-economic development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas in the period of 2017 – 2020
2016	Decision 2085/QĐ-TTg dated 31/06/2016 on Approval the Special policy to support socio-economic development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas in the period of 2017 – 2020
2016	Decision No. 12/2016/QĐ-TTg dated 11/03/2016 (On the continued implementation of Decision No 30/2012/QĐ-TTg dated 18/07/2012 on the criteria for determining particularly difficult villages, communes in ethnic minority and mountainous area in 2012-2015) and Decision No 1049/QĐ-TTg dated 26/06/2014 (Promulgating list of administrative units in disadvantaged areas)
2015	Decision No. 1557/QĐ-TTg dated 10/09/2015 of the Prime Minister on the approval of a number of indicators for the Millennium Development Goals for ethnic minority associated with sustainable development goals after 2015.
2014	Decision No. 456/QĐ-CEM dated 07/11/2014 on the issuance of the implementation plan to raise the effectiveness and efficiency of the State management of ethnic minority affairs.
2014	Directive No.28/CT-TTg dated 10/08/2014 on improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the State management of ethnic minority affairs.
2013	Joint Circular No. 05/2013-TTLT-UBND-NNPTNT-KHDT-TC-XD dated 18/11/2013 guiding the supported program 135 on investment in infrastructure, economic development for extremely difficult communes, borderline communes, social security area, and extremely difficult village and hamlets...
2013	Decision No. 2214/QĐ-TTg dated 14/11/2013 of the Prime Minister, approving the scheme for Enhancing international cooperation to support the socio-economic development of Ethnic Minorities.
2013	Decision No. 56/2013/QĐ-TTg dated 07/10/2013 on the amendment and supplement of some provisions of Decision No 18/2011/QĐ-TTg dated 18/03/2011 of the Prime Minister on the policy for prestigious people in ethnic minorities.

2013	Decision No. 29/2013/QĐ-TTg of the Prime Minister, dated 09/06/2008 on a number of policies to support resettlement land, cultivated land and jobs for ethnic minorities and difficult households in the Mekong delta region.
2013	Decision No. 551/QĐ-TTg dated 04/04/2013 of the Prime Minister, approving the program supported 135 investment in infrastructure, support for production supported program 135 on investment in infrastructure, production development for extremely difficult communes, borderline communes, social security area, and extremely difficult village and hamlets.
2012	Circular No.02/2013/TT-UBND dated 04/12/2012 guiding the implementation of some articles of Decision No. 54/2012/QĐ-TTg dated 04/12/2012 of the Prime Minister promulgating the loan policy for economic development for ethnic minority households with special difficulties
2012	Decision No. 42/2012/QĐ-TTg dated 08/10/2012 of the Prime Minister Regarding Support for organizations and units utilizing employees that are ethnic minority people in mountainous and special difficult areas
2012	Joint Circular No. 01/2012 / TTLT-BTP-CEM date on January 17, 2012 of the Ministry of Justice and the Committee for Ethnic Minorities on guidelines and legal assistance for ethnic minorities.
2010	Decision 2123/QĐ-TTg dated 22/11/2010 of the Prime Minister approving the scheme on educational development for ethnic minorities.
2010	Decree No.82/2010/ND-CP dated 15/07/2010 regulating for teaching and learning the spoken and written language of the ethnic minorities in general education and continuing education centers.
2009	Decision No. 61/QĐ-UBND on 12/03/2009 on the recognition of the communes and districts in mountainous areas and highlands due to the adjustment of administrative boundaries.
2008	Resolution No.30a/2008/NQ-CP of government, dated 27 December 2008 on the support program for rapid and sustainable poverty reduction for 61 poorest districts
2008	Decision No. 1366/QĐ-TTg dated 25/09/2008 of the Prime Minister on the amendment and supplement to Decision No. 289 / QĐ-TTg of March 18, 2008 on the issuance of a number of policies in support of EM, social policy households, poor and nearly poor households and fishermen.
2008	Resolution No. 30a / 2008 / NQ-CP dated 20/5/2013 of the government on supporting program for rapid and sustainable poverty reduction for 61 poorest districts.

3. PROFILES OF ETHNIC MINORITIES

3.1 Livelihoods of EM at National Level

- **Poverty**

Despite achievements under the national target program for sustainable poverty reduction, poverty reduction in EM and mountainous area has been slow compared to the overall national poverty reduction effort. By 2017, the poverty rate among EM compared to country poverty rate make up 52.66% (865,000 households). Some ethnic groups have high poverty rate — more than 40%, which

is 6 times higher than the average national poverty rate which is 6.7%. The average income level of EM peoples is 1.1 million VND per month, which is less than half the national average income level.

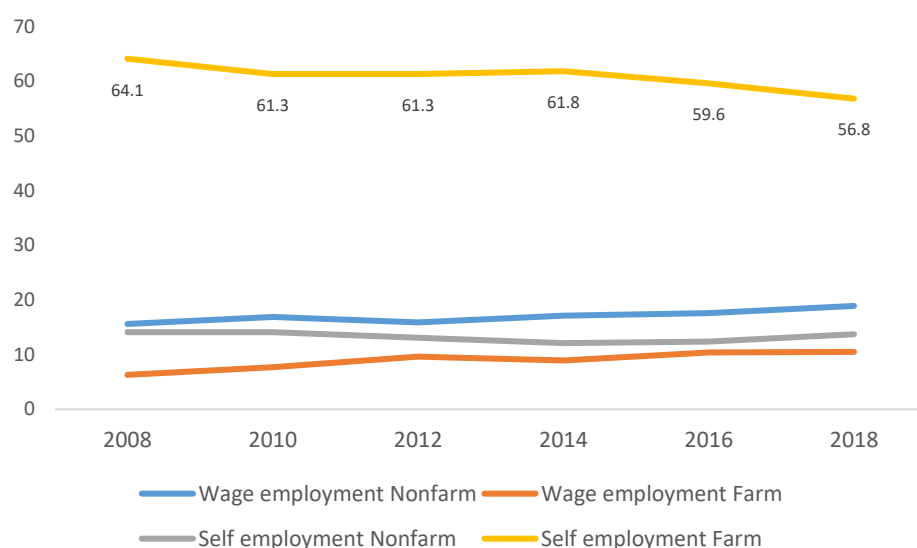
Although the livelihoods of EM peoples are based on agricultural and forestry, most of EM people are landless and have access to limited land. According to the national survey on collection information of 53 ethnic groups in Vietnam (2016), 68.5% of EM households need more land for production. In Central Highlands, in particular, more than 80% of EM household do not have land access to support their production.

- **Labour forces**

There was only 6.4% of EM labor that are trained. This rate is only one third of the national average rate. Underemployment among EM youth has been quite pressing. Of 9.38 million EM peoples from 15 years of age and above, more than 1.3 million people do not have stable jobs.

With regard to self-employment and wage employment, the percentage of self-employment in Central Highland tend to goes down over the past ten years (2008–2018) while wage employment for farm and non-farm slightly increase. However, self-employment remain higher among ethnic minorities compared to Kinh. 80 percent of ethnic minority women at the working age are in agricultural self-employment (either as own-account workers or unpaid family workers) compared to only 38 per cent of Kinh and Chinese women (Rodgers 2015). The difference among men are also large – 76 per cent of ethnic minority are self-employed in agriculture compared to 32 percent of Kinh and Chinese).

Figure 1 – Wage Employment vs Self-Employment in Central Highland



Data source: GSO VHLSS 2018 (Graphed by authors)

- **Loan program**

There have been various loan programs that are in place to provide loan access to EM peoples. The Bank for Social Policy is dedicated to offering loans to the poor and EM peoples. In the period from 2016 to August 2018, 1.5 EM household have access to a total loan of 45,194 billion VND. The

average credit loan is 30.5 million VND which is for production development and income generation activities. Nevertheless, most EM have difficulties in using these loans effectively. There has been no loan policy in place that are preferential to EM households who know how to set up and run a business and those who can create job opportunities for local EM in their respective area.

- **Living conditions**

On average, the number of EM households who have solid houses is 14.5%, which is only 1/3 of the national average. The percentage of EM households that have semi-solid house makes up 70.2%. But there is still 15.3% of EM households who still live in temporary houses. Presently, 73.3% of total EM households have access to clean water. However, there are 11 EM groups whose access to clean water is much lower: 30–50%. Electricity access rate among EM households is 5% lower than the national average rate. Each EM households spend, on average, 10,000–20,000 VND per month for electricity.

- **Education**

Presently, 100% of EM communes have access to primary school. Most have access to kinder garten. 51/54 EM groups have students attending universities.

The net enrollment rate – combined for primary, lower and upper high school is 70%. The net enrollment rate for upper high school is 32.3%, on average. About 80% of EM people can read and write Vietnamese.

- **Health care**

Although by policy, 100% of EM households are provided with health care insurance, the proportion of EM people who use health insurance for medical health care is low – 44.8%, which is just above half of the national average (87.2). Road condition and distance from home to health facilities affect the level of access to public health services of EM peoples.

The proportion of pregnant women who have at least one maternal examination among EM people is 70.9%, which is lower than the rate set forth under the national sustainable development goal (VDG). The proportion of EM women having birth at home is also high (64%).

- **Information access**

51/53 EM groups have less than 10% of their population having access to computer and internet. Cellar phone network has covered all mountainous areas.

- **Religion**

19.5% of EM peoples have religion, of which Buddhism accounts for 8.7%, Protestantism (6.1%), Catholicism (3.7%).

- **Overview of livelihoods**

The advantage of EM and mountainous areas are agricultural and forestry development, which make up more than 50% of total income. These crops include coffee, tea, pepper, herbal trees, timber and Non-timber forest products (NTFPs). Industrial tree and cattle husbandry. Industry include processing and exploitation of agri-agro products, processing of minerals, and hydropower. Ecotourism is also on increase.

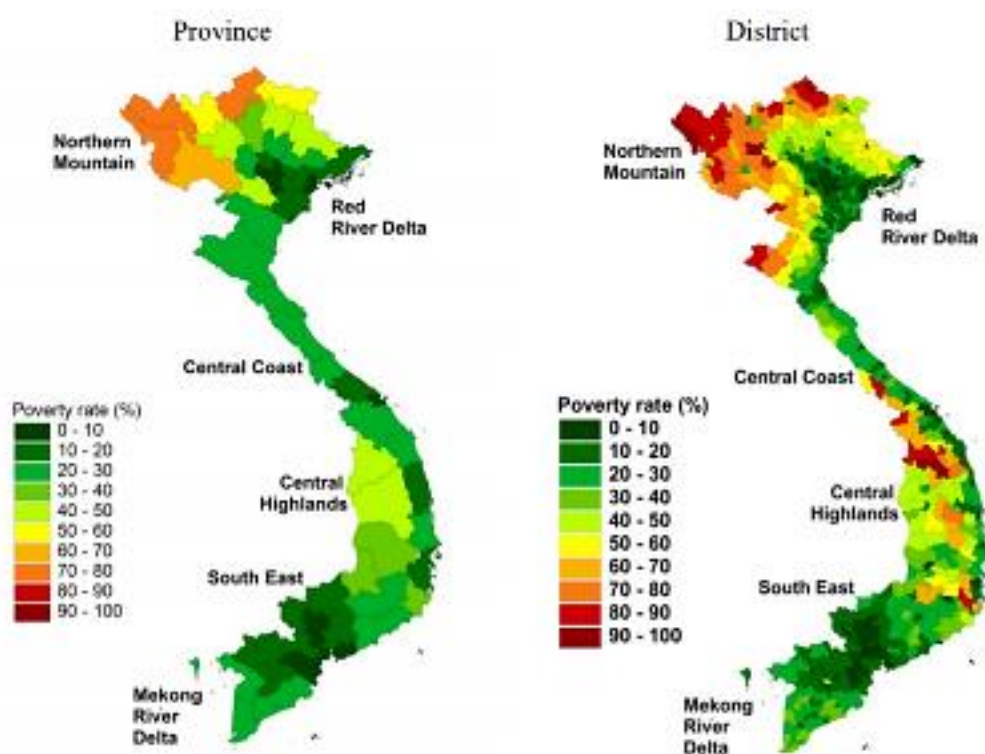
- **Overview on forest based livelihoods**

In Vietnam, most EM people live in, or adjacent to forest. They depend on forest to earn their living. They harvested vegetables, hunt animal for food, collect timber for houses and production tools, as well as herb and plants for medical purpose, and for income. These people are generally poor. Most of them are ethnic minority people who live largely in the Central Highlands (and neighboring plateaus), and the Northwestern mountainous part of the country. They also live in community and small groups in the Mekong delta region (See Figure 2).

According to the WB (2018), by 2016, close to 49% of rural population are poor. Agriculture contributes to about 31 percent of the total income of rural household. Forestry contributes only 2.9% of total income but it makes up about 10 percent or more among the poor. About 68% of the poor and 73% of the ethnic minorities are engaged in forestry activities, compared to 19 % of the non-poor and 13% of Kinh.

Forest resources provide the basis for rural livelihoods, particularly for those who live in, or close to the forest. People rely on forest for both subsistence and income. For EM peoples, cultural activities are based on forest. People go to forest for food, medicine, and others for building houses and income. During the hard times in the year (crop failure, drought, or household economic shocks...), forest offer them to help them maintain their lives at a subsistence level. Forest, thus, serve as a safety net that warrant their survival, which is particularly true for ethnic minorities, in many ways, and through many generations – be this in the northern mountainous, or in the Central Highlands. Forest acts as a common pool resource which they can access any time.

Figure 2 – The poverty rate of provinces and districts in 2009



Source: Lanjouw et al (2016)

Many studies in Vietnam have indicated that ethnic minorities have strong reliance on forest resources, for the above reasons. According to Danh and Vu (2015), local peoples (most are ethnic minority) who live inside the forest and the buffer zone of Kon Ka Kinh nature reserve in Gia Lai province are still heavily dependent on forest resources even when this nature reserve was established for twelve years. An *et al* (2018), in a study on the effectiveness of thirty national parks in Vietnam also found the livelihoods of local communities inside and outside most of the national park depend remarkably on agricultural activities (e.g. cultivation and livestock rearing) and, notably, the extraction of forest products, such as non-timber forest products. Thuat and Mai (2013) also found people living in the core zone of the Cat Tien national park are involved in agricultural activities (e.g. cultivation of cashew nuts, maize and cassava) as well as shifting cultivation. Animal husbandry are practiced by some households (buffalo, pigs and chickens). However, agriculture does not provide enough food, thus hunting for wildlife and collection of non-timber forest products for subsistence purpose and for sale remains important to them.

The most important uses of forest resources for Viet Nam's rural upland population include the use of forest land for cultivation, collection of timber for home use (e.g. building house and production tools), and collection of non-timber forest products and game animals for food and additional income. Crop production on forest land has been a major means of livelihoods for local people. Although swidden farming is discouraged in forest areas, upland farmers maintain this traditional practice. A patch of forest is cleared for cultivation for a few years (depending on the soil fertility and the need for land use in the area). It is then left for a fallow to regain soil fertility. Cultivation on swidden fields earns EM peoples important quantities of food (Tan 2005).

People who live within or in close proximity to forests rely considerably on the forest to earn their living. In addition to timber, non-timber forest products (NTFPs) contributes to both economic and cultural lives of forest-dependent people. The study by Dao *et al* (2015) in Pu Huong Nature Reserve in Nghe An province found that EM peoples living in the buffer zone of this reserve earn 25–38% of their income from NTFPs. Different part of forest plants (body, leaves, flowers, seeds, roots...) are used daily for different purpose – as food, herbal medicine, fodders, housing, or selling for income. The most common purpose of NTFPs is herbal medicine, followed by food, tannin (as tea), and dyeing. Over the past ten years, NTFPs become more popular because of the increasing demand – primarily from outsider. This brings local people who collect these products additional source of income. More than 50% the population (8,533 households) who live in the buffer zone and a small part living in the core zone are EM and poor. As they have limited access to land, they rely considerably on natural forest to earn their living.

In a study in Nam Dong district (Thua Thien Hue province), Wetterwald *et al.* (2004) found that NTFP serves as an important source of income for the poor people, including both EM (Cotu) and Kinh peoples. The regional social assessment prepared for a World Bank financed project in the Mekong (MARD, 2016b) also found that mangrove forest in Cu Lao Dung (Soc Trang) has drawn high number of poor and landless households to live in the nearby area to exploit aquatic resources from the forest, and practice mangrove-shrimp model.

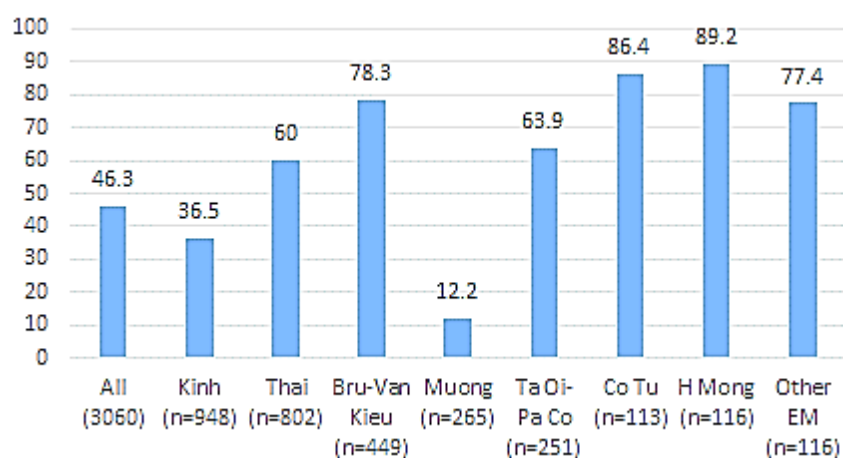
A study commissioned by MARD (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment) under the WB financed project covering six provinces with forest in Central Vietnam revealed that 90.1% (n=2,112) of EM households are involved in forestry or forest-related activities. The Kinh people are also involved in forest activities but are lower (62.6%, n=948). In terms of the need for harvest of timber for personal use, 90.1% of respondent confirmed their need. About 93% of EM and Kinh respondents have a high demand for collecting fuel wood while the demand for timber for building house is lower (19.6% and 10.8% for EM and Kinh, respectively). However, both EM and Kinh are involved in

forest planting and protection activities (about 70% for both groups). The survey found that forest resources are fundamental to the livelihoods of people who depend on it. EM peoples use forests, especially natural ones, for the purpose of:

- Cultivation
- Building housing
- As fuel wood and other domestic purposes (as agricultural production instruments, boats, fencing);
- Domestic consumption (food, medicines, construction materials, fodder for animals
- Additional income (collecting timber for sale)

In terms of the need for timber, although the general need for timber for personal use is high among EM compared to Kinh, the need for timber among different EM groups is also different (Figure 3).

Figure 3 – Need for timber for home consumption by ethnic groups



Source: SESA report

EM peoples has a consistent strong reliance on NTFP compared to Kinh (53% for EM vs 17% for Kinh). They also use more bamboo shoots as food (25% for EM vs 3% for Kinh) and NTFP plants (19% for EM vs 5.6% for Kinh). Also, it appears from the data that the poorer the households are, the more dependent on NTFP the households are – for the very basic need – food, and income (Figure 4).

Figure 4 – Harvesting by ethnicity and poverty status (in 102 communes)

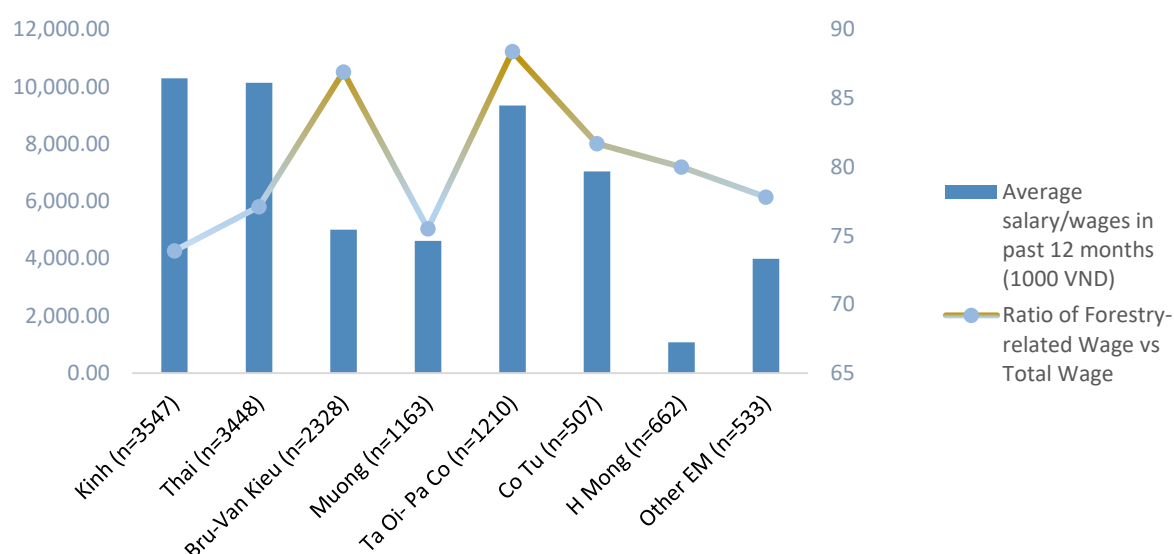
Group Types	HHs harvesting NTFPs %	NTFPs harvested for own use %	Bamboo shoots %	Bamboo %	Unspecified NTFPs from plants	Leaves and vegetables	Sample size (people)
All	49.4	39.3	27.0	18.2	15.1	9.1	3,060
Kinh	16.8	9.1	5.7	3.0	5.6	1.6	948
EM	64.0	52.9	36.6	25.1	19.3	12.4	2,112
Poor	60.7	53.4	44	19.0	16.9	16.3	921

Group Types	HHs harvesting NTFPs %	NTFPs harvested for own use %	Bamboo shoots %	Bamboo %	Unspecified NTFPs from plants	Leaves and vegetables	Sample size (people)
Near poor	54.3	40.8	27.5	21.3	17.6	7.8	615
Non-poor	40.6	30.2	16.5	16.5	12.9	5.2	1,524

Source: Data from SESA 2016 report

In terms of income (Figure 5), the correlations between the average wages (12 months) and the area of agriculture land (per capita), and that of the average wages and the area of forestland (per capita) suggested that household with more forest farmland appear to have more income ($r = .77$) while households with more agricultural land appear to have less income ($r = -.60$). This is observed across seven main EM groups participating in the survey.

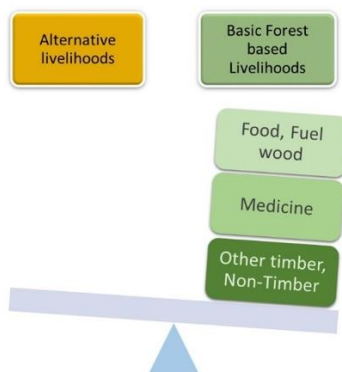
Figure 5 – Average wage & Ratio of wage vs Total income



Source: Data from SESA 2016 report (graphed by authors)

The evidence from the above cases (North, Central, and Mekong) indicate a strong and persistent dependence on forest resources by poor people, particularly EM peoples, as their means of livelihoods. As such, the restriction of access to forest, as a result of special-use forest establishment, would not be effective if alternative livelihoods are not available for forest dependent households to shift to. Addressing the livelihood of forest dependent households, be it ethnic minority or Kinh peoples, remains a challenge. Livelihood solutions, as exit options, is essential to enabling forest dependent households to depend less on natural forest resources (Figure 6).

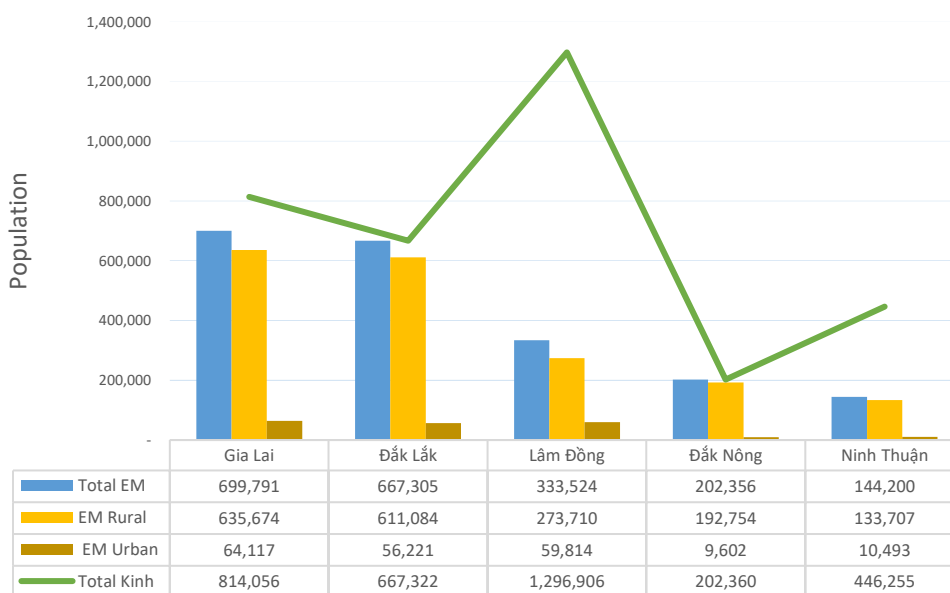
Figure 6 – Reliance on Forest resources as a mean of livelihoods



3.2 Characteristics of EM in the Project Provinces

- Population
 - The total population of the five project provinces is 5,474,075 people (GSO 2019), of which 2,047,176 people are EM peoples, accounting for 37.4% of the total population. The proportion of EM male population is 49.96% vs female of 50.0%. Dak Dak has the largest EM population, followed by Lam Dong, Dak Nong and Ninh Thuan.

Figure 7 – EM Distribution by Project Province



Source: GSO – Population & Housing 2019, graphed by authors

3.3 Distribution of major ethnic minority groups in project provinces

There are around 40 ethnic groups present in the provinces. The population of each group varies remarkably – from as small as a few people (e.g. La Chí, La Ha, Phù Lá...) to major groups such as Ede, K'ho, Raglay, Cham, J'rai, Ba Na, etc. The major groups in project provinces (in descending population size by province) include J'rai (Gia Rai), Ê Đê, Ba Na, K'ho, Nùng, Mnông, Tày, Mông, Raglay, Chăm. 90.2% of these EM groups (1,846,985 people) live in the rural area of the five project provinces.

Figure 8 – Distribution of EM groups by gender, area, and province

EM groups	NINH THUAN				DAK LAK				DAK NONG				LAM DONG				GIA LAI			
	Urban-Male	Urban-Female	Rural-Male	Rural-Female	Urban-Male	Urban-Female	Rural-Male	Rural-Female	Urban-Male	Urban-Female	Rural-Male	Rural-Female	Urban-Male	Urban-Female	Rural-Male	Rural-Female	Urban-Male	Urban-Female	Rural-Male	Rural-Female
Total provincial population	104,904	106,208	191,122	188,233	229,978	232,140	712,600	694,604	46,091	46,679	272,622	254,776	252,174	255,917	400,900	387,915	217,437	220,839	541,152	534,419
Total Kinh	100,004	100,606	125,555	120,090	203,177	202,709	405,801	390,313	43,576	41,591	174,566	160,075	222,547	225,682	263,788	251,273	186,842	187,317	225,892	214,005
Total EM	4,900	5,602	65,567	68,143	26,801	29,431	306,799	304,291	4,515	5,088	98,056	94,701	29,627	30,235	137,112	136,642	30,595	33,522	315,260	320,414
Gia Rai	490,931	530,250	23,231	23,231	2,231	2,311	7,411	7,411	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
Ê Đê	369,250	369,250	3	3	18,031	20,054	20,054	20,054	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Ba Na	189,933	189,933	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Cà Ho	179,191	179,191	15	15	1,543	1,613	30	30	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Nùng	144,291	144,291	24	24	270	295	1,176	1,329	37,871	43	35,482	37	67	15,479	14,637	5,074	4,732	7,557	7,006	3,550
Mnông	109,797	109,797	1	1	903	1,000	23,658	23,854	2,170	2,462	22,717	23,300	40	62	5,062	5,333	8	8	20	20
Tày	109,658	109,658	30	30	32	32	1,055	1,072	25,931	24,935	989	709	11,130	11,130	4,490	5,701	3,135	1,181	3,720	3,720
Mông	82,856	82,856	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Raglay	72,389	72,389	232	232	303	34	14	35	8	25	19	17	14	20	34	919	3	12	710	710
Chăm	69,696	69,696	3,100	4,036	28,670	30,031	70	85	126	77	14	14	46	35	180	131	357	27	24	366
Mã	46,684	46,684	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dao	45,426	45,426	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Thái	42,141	42,141	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Mường	35,602	35,602	26	26	21	26	300	300	7,222	7,222	6,585	304	1,000	978	2,185	1,245	439	361	3,033	1,320
Hoa	24,161	24,161	419	345	251	223	1,025	925	536	495	100	90	3,165	2,434	3,910	3,057	4,026	3,006	210	178
Chu Ru	23,052	23,052	-	-	247	299	-	-	11	4	-	-	252	455	10,748	10,697	-	-	2	1
Xu Đăng	10,885	10,885	-	-	8	3	-	-	20	20	4,561	4,554	-	-	3	14	-	-	34	457
Sơn Chay	6,975	6,975	-	-	4	3	-	-	34	37	2,828	2,522	-	-	31	54	-	-	18	188
Đoàn Văn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K'bu	3,611	3,611	-	-	1	1	-	-	23	20	1,813	1,701	-	-	1	4	-	-	9	5
Khmer	2,983	2,983	12	12	53	17	97	97	254	163	52	57	354	29	189	179	508	98	58	142
Thổ	2,329	2,329	8	8	5	2	63	51	283	245	46	33	189	141	272	275	280	24	50	41
Sán Dư	1,869	1,869	2	2	2	2	30	36	114	114	12	18	426	377	31	22	319	20	20	17
Hà	878	878	-	-	8	2	8	11	211	170	-	-	5	19	10	7	68	30	30	21
Choi	638	638	-	-	4	2	-	-	12	274	240	-	-	3	47	-	-	-	-	-
Xiêng	566	566	3	3	2	2	11	10	2	2	40	16	65	61	157	116	-	-	2	1
Lào	341	341	-	-	13	13	151	158	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chơ Rô	311	311	1	1	2	3	2	25	10	6	4	47	26	7	5	94	46	1	-	7
Cô	186	186	-	-	1	2	4	3	11	14	4	4	30	22	3	15	15	12	7	17
Kho Mú	175	175	-	-	14	5	-	-	3	3	4	2	2	3	15	35	3	2	25	35
Chay	136	136	-	-	4	1	-	-	3	3	2	2	5	4	19	18	17	17	-	-
Gia Trông	125	125	-	-	-	-	5	12	8	5	-	-	-	-	5	8	2	-	22	23
Ngái	119	119	-	-	2	2	32	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	11	-	3	16
Cô Tu	63	63	-	-	-	-	6	4	-	-	3	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	12
Tà Oí	57	57	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	2	15	-	-	-
Khang	36	36	-	-	-	-	18	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Là Lơ	23	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
La Ha	9	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hà Nhi	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
La Chí	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
La Hu	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lư	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Xinh Mun	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pho Lá	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: GSO – Population & Housing 2019, graphed by authors

3.4 Characteristics of the major ethnic minority groups

Ede

The Ede are long-standing people in the Central Highlands of Vietnam, mainly in the provinces of Dak Lak, Phu Yen, Dak Nong and Khanh Hoa. The traces of the origins of the Ede are reflected in epics and architectural arts and folk arts. Up to now, the Ede community has still remained a society of traditional matriarchy in our country.

Ede people mainly engage in rice shifting cultivation. After a period of cultivation, they fallow the land for forest regeneration and then come back to burn. The cultivation cycle is 5–8 years depending on soil quality and soil fertility restoration. This is multi-cropping field with only one crop per year. The fields using buffaloes for soil preparation are only found in Bih area near Lac Lake.

Cattle raised are mainly pigs and buffaloes and poultry raised are mainly chickens. However, they are mainly raised for worship. Household handicrafts are mainly wares made of bamboo, and rattan

weaving and cotton weaving with ancient Indonesian looms. Pottery and forging are not so well developed. Previously, trading had been mainly conducted under the form of barter.

Ede family is matriarchal family where the husband lives in the wife's house and the children take the mother's surname, and the youngest daughter is the heir. Ede society operates according to the legal practice of the matriarchal family. The whole community is divided into two genera to carry out marriage exchanges. The village is called "buon" and is the basic unit of residence, also the only social organization. People in a village belong to many clans of both genera but still have one clan that acts as a nucleus. The head of each village is a person called a landing place owner (Po pin ca) who on behalf of his wife runs all community activities.

Tay

The Tay is the largest ethnic minority community in Vietnam with an estimated population of 1.6 million people. Their language belongs to Tay–Thai group. The Tay also have other names such as Tho, Ngan, Phen, Thu Lao and Pa Di. The Tay settle in low valleys and mountain slopes in Cao Bang, Bac Kan, Lang Son, Bac Thai, Quang Ninh and parts of Ha Bac. They preserve a traditional and relatively advanced agriculture. They grow food crops like rice, corn, sweet potatoes, and seasonal vegetables and fruits. Their villages are always located at the foot of the mountains or along the stream and named after mountains, fields or rivers. Each village has about 15 to 20 houses. A large village is divided into several small hamlets. The houses are built under the style of stilt house or on the ground. Inside the house, it is divided into 2 rooms, the room for men is in the front and the bedroom for women is in the back.

Their traditional clothing is usually dyed in indigo and women wear a long skirt to cover their knees that is divided from right up to armpit with five buttons and narrow sleeves. Tay people prefer sons to daughters and divorce is rare. Tay people have tradition of ancestor worship. They are often hospitable, open and easy to integrate with other peoples.

Nung

There are about 915,000 Nung people living in Lang Son, Cao Bang, Bac Kan, Bac Thai, Ha Bac and Tuyen Quang provinces. They are also known by the names of: Xuong, Giang, Nung An, Nung Lon, Phan Sinh, Nung Chao, Nung Inh, Quy Rin, Nung Din and Khen Lai. Their language is closely related to the Tay's and belongs Tay–Thai group. Their writing is called Nung demonic scripts, which have been in use since the 17th century.

Their major cereals are rice and corn. They plant rice in irrigated fields along the ravines or in terraced fields on the hillside. They plant non–staple crops and fruit trees like tangerines and persimmons. Anise is the most valuable tree of the Nung, which can bring about significant profits from its shell to grain each year. They are famous for handicrafts, especially weaving fabrics to meet local needs, carpentry, blacksmithing, basketry and ceramics. Their villages are usually located on the hillside, above the rice fields. Behind the houses are land and gardens. Nung's house is built in stilt style, made of wood with straw or tile roof.

The Nung wear costumes in indigo. They have a strong cultural history that is considered a symbol of loyalty. Their diet includes fried foods with lard. They preserve rich folklore and cultural heritage, including a special form of music (song or sli) that harmonizes with the sounds of the mountains. Folk songs incorporate elements of poetry, music, decoration and performance styles. The annual Lung Tung festival that is well–known and attracted many people is held in the first lunar month. The main tradition practices of the Nung are ancestor worship and Confucianism and Guan Yin.

M'Nong

M'Nong people are one of 54 ethnic groups in Vietnam. The M'Nong reside in mountainous areas of Dak Lak, Dak Nong, Quang Nam, Lam Dong and Binh Phuoc provinces of Vietnam (accounting for 99.3%). However, they mainly concentrate in Dak Nong province.

The M'Nong mainly till the field on mountain slopes. They only engage in wet paddy growing on the areas around the lakes, lagoons and rivers. The animals that are commonly raised by the households are buffaloes, dogs, goats, pigs, chicken and elephants. The M'Nong grow upland paddy in the field by means of burning the field, digging the holes and sowing the seeds; harvest the rice by hand–threshing. They grow wet paddy in the wetlands, using buffaloes to prepare the soil and then sow the seeds, rather than transplant rice seedlings like in the plains. It is noteworthy that the role of the hoe in M'Nong's traditional agriculture. Along with farming, hunting and gathering still play an important role in their daily life.

Household handicrafts are mainly wares made of rattan, bamboo and leaves; the second is cotton weaving, mainly done by women. In each village, there are some persons who know how to make raw pottery wares that are manually made and openly burned. The products are pots of all kinds, bowls and jars. Forging of farming tools is not well developed in the M'Nong areas. Particularly in the Buon Don, hunting and taming elephants are very popular. This occupation has been so far maintained, although the number of elephants hunted annually has decreased significantly.

There are usually few dozen of houses in each village and the village chief plays a big role among the villagers. People live by experiences and practices that are passed down from generation to generation. Men and women, young and old alike, love to drink wine and smoke hand–rolled cigarettes. M'Nong people follow matriarchal system: the children take their mothers' family names, the wife holds the main role in the family, but the husband is not discriminated, they respect each other. Old parents usually stay with their youngest daughter.

H'mong (or Mong)

There are more than 900,000 H'mong (or Mong) people living in the highlands of Ha Giang, Tuyen Quang, Lao Cai, Yen Bai, Lai Chau, Son La, Cao Bang, Nghe An provinces. In Central Highland, they live in Dak Lak, Dak Nong...). They also have other names such as Mong Do (White Mong) , Mong Lenh, Mong Si (Red Mong), Mong Du (Black Mong) and Mong Xua. Their language belongs to the H'mong–Dao group.

The Mong are transforming to cultivation and developing in an easy manner. They grow rice and corn on terraced fields. Their main food crops are maize and rice on dry land and rye. They also grow flax to weave fabrics and grow medicinal plants. Households often raise livestock, dogs, horses and chickens. In the past, women were in charge of raising animals, while men were engaged in hunting. They are self–sufficient in producing fabrics and making their own clothes. Women's traditional dresses include a skirt with a blouse that is open in front with a panel at the back, a piece of cloth that covers the skirt in the front, and tight pants.

They view that people in the same clan should live and die together and must help each other at all costs, even in private life if necessary. Each clan resides in a cluster, with a head of the clan in charge of clan's common work. Men and women are free to choose their partners, but those who are in the same clan are forbidden to marry to each other. Divorce is very rare among the Mong.

Raglay

The Raglay have a population of more than 70,000 inhabitants, living chiefly in southern Khanh Hoa province and Ninh Thuan province. They are also called Ra glay, Krai, Orang glai, No-a na and La Vang. Their language belongs to the Malayo-Polynesian Group.

Formerly, in their nomadic life, they grew rice and maize in slash-and-burn plots of land. Today, they also develop wet rice. Hunting, picking, gathering and handicrafts (chiefly blacksmithing and basketry) play an important role in each family.

The Ra glai live in separate pa-lay (villages) in a high and flat terrain, near the source of water. Stilted houses are their traditional abodes. It is not more than a metre high from the ground to the house floor. The members of the household usually comprise the father, the mother and unmarried children. The pa-lay is headed by a po pa-lay (village chief) who is generally the first land reclamer. He is responsible for the performance of the heaven-and-earth praying ceremony when a serious dry spell occurs.

Chăm

The Cham are also called Cham, Chien Thanh and Hroi. They have a population of about 99,000 people inhabiting in concentration in the provinces of Ninh Thuan and Binh Thuan. Another part of the Cham lives in An Giang, Tay Ninh, Dong Nai and Ho Chi Minh City. The Hroi small group alone settles in southwest Binh Thuan and north-west Phu Yen.

Matriarchy has still existed in the Cham group living in central Vietnam. Though men play major role in the family but the heads of the families are often the aged women, Cham custom dictated that the daughters must take the family name of their mother. The woman of the family marries the groom for her daughter. After marriage, the groom comes to live in his wife's house. The right of inheritance is passed down to daughters only. In particular, the youngest daughter who must foster the aging parents is divided a greater part of inheritance than her sisters.

The Vietnamese Party and State pay great concern to restoring and preserving the traditional culture of the Cham. However, the life of the Cham, especially the Cham in Ninh Thuan and Binh Thuan, is facing many difficulties and backwardness still exists among them.

In the past, the Cham did not plant trees within the villages. They have a habit of arranging the houses in shape of the chess-board. Even each line of a group of relative families or an extended family may get together in a square-or rectangular-shaped piece of land. These pieces of land are separated by the paths. The houses face the south or the west. Most of the Cham villages contain about 1,000–2,000 inhabitants each.

K'ho

The traditional society of the K'ho ethnic minority is characterized by matriarchy that has governed every aspect of their social life. This is clearly seen in every custom and practice of their own; and few are enumerated here: After weddings, for instance, married men stay in their wives' families; females have always taken initiative in marriage. When grown up, a girl shall ask her parents to find a matchmaker (called "lam gong" in K'ho language) to go to the family of the boy of her choice asking for his hand after getting the consent of her uncle. The girl's family shall present the boy's family with a brass bracelet and chain of cowry bead. The acceptance of these gifts by the boy's family shall mean the acceptance of the marriage proposal. On the wedding day, the girl's parents and the matchmaker shall take her to the boy's family where the wedding ceremony is held. And after the

wedding, the boy shall move to live in the girl's family, bringing some things as his dowries, including clothings, a sword, two tea cups, one rice bowl, one pair of chopsticks and one brass food tray.

The K'ho customary laws ban the marriage between people of the same blood line, particularly those living in the same locality. The marriage between children of two brothers or between children of two sisters is strictly forbidden; but the marriage between children of a man/women with children of his/her sisters/brothers is allowed. A widower is permitted to marry an elder or younger sister of his deceased wife and similarly a widow is also allowed to marry an elder or younger brother of her deceased husband if so agreed by the latter.

After the decease of his wife, a widower shall have to return to her parents' house but his children remain in their deceased mother's. He has to wear mourning for his wife for one year and during that period he can remarry if it is so agreed by the family of his deceased wife or if he marries a sister of his deceased wife.

Under the K'ho conventions, adultery is considered a grave offence which shall be severely punished. Rarely seen in the K'ho community is divorce which, if any, must be approved by the hamlet chief. Monogamy has long been practiced by the K'ho. Yet, formerly some hamlet chiefs and rich family owners got more than one wife after they had paid a sum of money and property as fines to the hamlet and their wives' families for worshipping deities.

Unlike the conventions of other ethnic groups, the K'ho people is fairly liberal on pre-marriage relationship between males and females.

An ethnic minority group of the Mon-Khmer language family, the K'ho has a population of over 92,000 people (according to the 1989 demographic statistics) who live mainly in the Central Highlands province of Lam Dong and some areas of Thuan Hai province. Like other ethnic groups in the Central Highlands, the K'ho is also divided into subgroups with different names and different customs and practices, such as Sre, Nop, Ko don, Chim, Lat... Sre is the largest subgroup while the Lat is in a better economic situation due to their close contacts with the Viet majority group.

The K'ho people lives mainly on agriculture, either by wet rice farming (the Sre subgroup) or milpa cultivation. According to researchers, their farming techniques are characterized by crop rotation.

Besides agriculture, hunting, fishing, forest product gathering have been maintained by the K'ho. Husbandry has been practised through free ranching, with poultry, pigs, goats... being raised and killed as offerings for deities in various religious rites. Handicrafts are maintained to produce items mainly for self-consumption.

Due to the differences in their natural conditions, history and residing locations, the K'ho subgroups vary in the levels of their socio-economic development. Those living on highlands often sees lower level of development than subgroups in valleys.

An important administrative unit of the K'ho people is "bon" (hamlet) often built on a vast area of some square kilometers on high mountains or in valleys, depending on the customs and practices of each subgroup. "Bon" is delineated by rivers, mountains or by agreement between hamlet chiefs. Economically, each member of the hamlet is allowed by the hamlet chief to manage a plot of land or a part of forest.

The K'ho hamlet is still left with traces of the matriarchal clan commune, where almost all people are bound together by matrilineal relations or belong to the same descent, staying in different big long houses built close to each other. In some far-flung areas, all people in a hamlet belong to one big matriarchal family, being sons and daughters of a woman and living together in a big long house where

each small family lives in compartment with cooking fire. Only in valley or populated hamlets, people of different lineages and different clans live together.

Each hamlet is headed by a hamlet chief called “kuang bon” who does not necessarily come from the ruling stratum with many privileges and special interests but only is the most prestigious person representing the hamlet’s traditions and unity. In areas inhabited by a large number of K’ho people, many adjunct hamlets could voluntarily join into an alliance headed by a person elected from among chiefs of such hamlets or by the chief of the biggest hamlet, who is called “riklung” or “mon rong”. The hamlet chief, forest owners, sorcerers and house owners form into the upper class, who are responsible for the village affairs and do not enjoy any privileges and special interests.

There now still exist in the K’ho society two forms of matriarchal family: The big family and the small one. A big matriarchal family is composed of from 30 to 40 people from three to four generations, living together in one, two or three big long houses (each is from 50–100m long) in a premise. These people are members of small families of the maternal sisters, including their husbands and children. Such common property of a big family as land, cattle, gongs, alcohol vases... can be used by all family members. A big family is headed by a person called “po hui” who is the husband of the eldest woman of the first generation therein. Yet, the family head has in reality but to keep the traditional customs and practices and execute decisions of the maternal uncle in the family on matters relating to economic activities, daily life, religious affairs, funeral, weddings..., and represent the family in the hamlet.

Formerly the land was put under the ownership of the big family, and recently it belongs to each small family. Till now, all these customary laws still exist alongside the State laws in the K’ho society, continuing to govern every aspect of the people’s life. In some cases, the customary laws have become obstacles to the enforcement of the State laws though the two are only different in their punitive measures. So, to bring into full play the positive elements of the K’ho convention in support of the enforcement of the State laws shall be a good direction for building a law-governed life in areas inhabited by the people of this ethnic minority.–

Ma

According to 1989 census figures, the “Ma” ethnic minority group has some 25,500 people residing on southern plateaus, largely in Lam Dong (some 20,000) and the provinces of Dong Nai, Binh Duong and Dac Lac.

The Ma people speak the language of Mon–Khmer family, which is very close to the languages of Muong, Chro, Xtieng and particularly K’ho ethnicities. Their vocabulary is greatly influenced by Khmer language factors.

Besides the name of “Ma” (or Mir in the dialect of this ethnic group, meaning milpa) these minority people have also called themselves Chau ma, Che Ma or Cho Ma (with Chau, Che or Cho meaning people). This ethnicity is also subdivided into Ma Ngan, Ma Xop, Ma To, Ma Krung, with Ma Nga being considered the main subgroup. The people of Ma To subgroup live on highlands near water sources while the Ma Krung live on plains and Ma Xop on basaltic soil areas.

Among various ethnic groups living in the Central Highlands of Vietnam the Ma is considered indigenous, with its ancient history of a so-called “Ma kingdom” as formerly spoken of by some people, though such a hypothesis has triggered debates among researchers into this ethnic group.

Milpa farming has long been practiced by the Ma people as their main production mode. To them, there are two types of milpa: “mdrik” (new milpa) and “mpuh” (old milpa). “Mdrick” are cultivated with rice in the first year after they have been reclaimed, while “mpuh” are cultivated with rice for

another year or with subsidiary food crops for several more years before they are abandoned. Their fields are often intercropped with maize, pumpkins, gourds, chili, cotton, tobacco.

Husbandry has not been promoted by the Ma people who raise domestic animals to be used mainly as offerings in religious rites. Few families raise horses or elephants for mountain transportation. Their popular handicrafts include bamboo weaving, loom weaving, embroidery, and smithery. Forest products gathering has become their routine activities, that bring them vegetables, firewood, etc., for daily use.

Formerly, the Ma people led a nomadic life, having settled in their hamlets for 15 to 20 years before moving to new places with more fertile soil. A Ma hamlet is small and often built near water streams, in valleys, on hill sides, accommodating one to three long houses. For instance, there is in Bo Sur hamlet, Loc Trung commune, Bao Loc district, Lam Dong province, only one house, 54 meters long, where 12 households live. By the early 20th century there had existed houses of several hundred meters long.

Like people of other ethnic minorities in the Central Highlands, men of this ethnic group wear loin cloths while women wear skirts. They have also practiced teeth filing and ear piercing.

As a closed society, each Ma hamlet becomes a socio-economic unit with self-sufficing economy. It can also be considered a social unit characterized by an enlarged paternal clan, then later by communal neighborliness. Every people in the hamlet is entitled to own land and natural products on the hamlet soil. Each hamlet is headed by a chief called “Knang bon” assisted by “tom bri” (forest owner) and “chau at bri” (forest manager), who manage land and run farming activities.

Big paternal families have been in the process of disintegration, each of which is headed by “Po hui”, an old man of the oldest generation in the family. “Po hui” has great power, deciding important affairs of the family, from productive labor to the organization of rituals, procurement or exchange of big assets and representing the family in its relations with other families and the entire community.

People of the same blood line, called “Nao”, are not allowed to marry each other. Yet, under the Ma customary law, a daughter of a woman can marry a son of her brother while her son is not allowed to marry a daughter of her brother. Marriages between brothers’ children or sisters’ children are not common. Though monogamy has been advocated by Ma people, men of this ethnic group can marry concubines provided that their lawful wives agree and shall be compensated for by the concubines. Divorces must be approved by “Khang bon” (the hamlet chief). When either spouse dies, the other can marry a younger brother or sister of the deceased. Adultery is considered a serious crime and the adulterer or adulteress shall be severely punished, having to organize rituals to ask for forgiveness from deities and to pay compensation to the betrayed, depending on the verdicts of the customary law court.

The wedding ceremonies held by the Ma people are very complicated. They are organized at the girl’s house with a very important formality: The couple stand in front of a deity-worship post, of all hamlet people, their relatives, the hamlet elderly, the match maker and the witness. The wedding presider puts on the couple a blanket as a symbol of people’s wish for the newlywed’s happiness. The couple then exchange bracelets and drink a horn of alcohol. And on the following day, a ceremony shall be held to escort the bride to the bride-groom’s home where the latter’s family shall present the bride’s relatives with many valuable things such as gongs, alcohol jars, clothings... In cases where the bridegroom is poor, being unable to find such offerings, he shall continue to stay at the bride’s home till the offerings are ready.

The customary law of the Ma ethnic minority has long been established with customary law courts being set up in hamlets and chaired by the hamlet chiefs who were assisted by a number of people called “Chau Zac zong” or “Chau vong hoa” who are knowledgeable about Ma customs and practices, honest, straightforward and impartial. Brought to such courts for trial are such cases as disputes inside the hamlets or between hamlets, violations of the hamlet’s rules such as adultery, incest, robbery, theft, causing fire or damage to property of the hamlet, individuals, etc. A court shall base itself on local regulations and rules recorded through rhymatic proverbs to hand down penalties to offenders.

The judgments are executed in public before the hamlet community, often in the form of fine. The offenders have to organize deity–worshipping rites with offerings.

The customary law of the Ma people dwells on ethical norms, morality, traditional conventions handed down from generation to generation, which all fit the conception of the Ma people and are accepted and voluntarily observed by them.

Even now, such customary law and its courts still exert strong impacts on the life of Ma people. So, the question is to find appropriate measures to bring into full play the positive elements while limiting the negative aspects of the Ma customary law so as to actively contribute to building a new cultural life in areas inhabited by the Ma people.

3.5 Characteristics of EMs in the Project Area

3.5.1 Demographic Information

A total of 353 respondents, who represented five project provinces, participated in the household survey. Of the total 353 people answering the survey, 41.9% (n=148) are female. The remainder (58.7%, n=205) is male (See Figure 9 below). Average household size is 4.5 (min=1, max=10, SD=1.3, total household members=1,604). Average age of household head is 38 (min=17, max=75, SD=11.4). Of the total 1,235 people enlisted as members from 353 respondents’ households, 49.6% are male and 50.4% are female. Household head live in their community for an average of 33 years (min=4, max=75, SD=13.9).

Most of survey participants (88.7%, n=313) are ethnic minorities. The remainder is Kinh (11.3%, n=40). Three largest ethnic groups participating in the survey include Ba Na (18.7%, n=66), Raglay (17.8%, n=63), M’Nong (16.4%, n=58), followed by Kinh (11.3%, n=40), J’rai (10.2%, n=36), Ede (9.1%, n=32), Nùng (4.2%, n=15), etc. In terms of religion, more than half of the survey participants has no religion (62.3%, n=220). The remainder (37.6%, n=113) practices major religious denomination in Vietnam including Protestantism (24.9%, n=88), Catholicism (9.9%, n=35), Buddhism (1.4%, n=5), and others (1.4%, n=5).

Of the total 353 people who answered the household interview, 218 (68.1%) are household head, of which 20.1% (n=71) are female-headed household. Most of household heads (71.7%, n=253) were born in the community and have been living in their community for an average of 33 years². The average household size is 4.4 person (min=2, max=9, SD=1.2). The average age of survey respondents is 38 (min=17, max=75, SD=11.5). The average age of all household members reported by 353 survey respondents (n=1,235) is 24.6 min=0.5, max=79, SD=16.5).

² Min=4, max=75, SD=13.9)

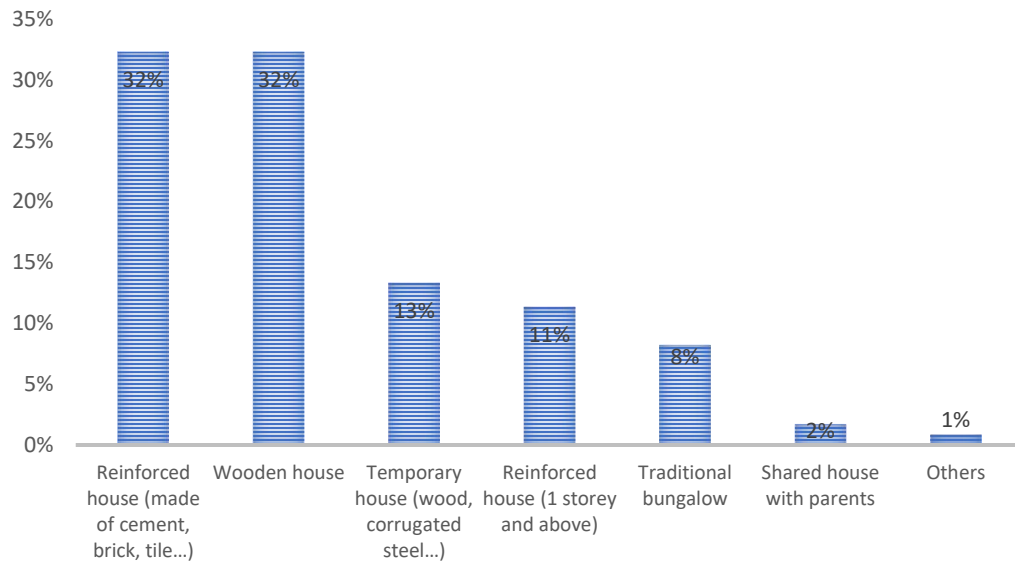
Figure 9 – Distribution of Survey Sample

Provinces	Districts (communes)					n	Percent
Đắk Nông	Đắk Glong (Đắk Som)	Đắk Song (Đắk Mól)	Krong Nô (Đắk Nang)	Tuy Đức (Quảng Tâm)		74	21.0%
Lâm Đồng	Đam rông (Đạ Long)					16	4.5%
Ninh Thuận	Thuận Bắc (Phước Chiến)	Ninh Hải (Vĩnh Hải)	Ninh Sơn (Ma Nới)	Bác Ái (Phước Bình)		79	22.4%
Gia Lai	Chư Prông (Ia Ga)	Đắk Đoa (Đak Sơmci)	Krông Pa (Đất Bằng)	Kông Chro (Chư Krey)	Mang Giang (Kon Chiêng)	106	30.0%
Đắk Lắk	Eaka (Cư Elang)	Krong Bông (Cư Drăm)	Lắk (Bông Krang)	Mdrak (Krông Á)		78	22.1%
					Total	353	100%

3.5.2 Household's living conditions

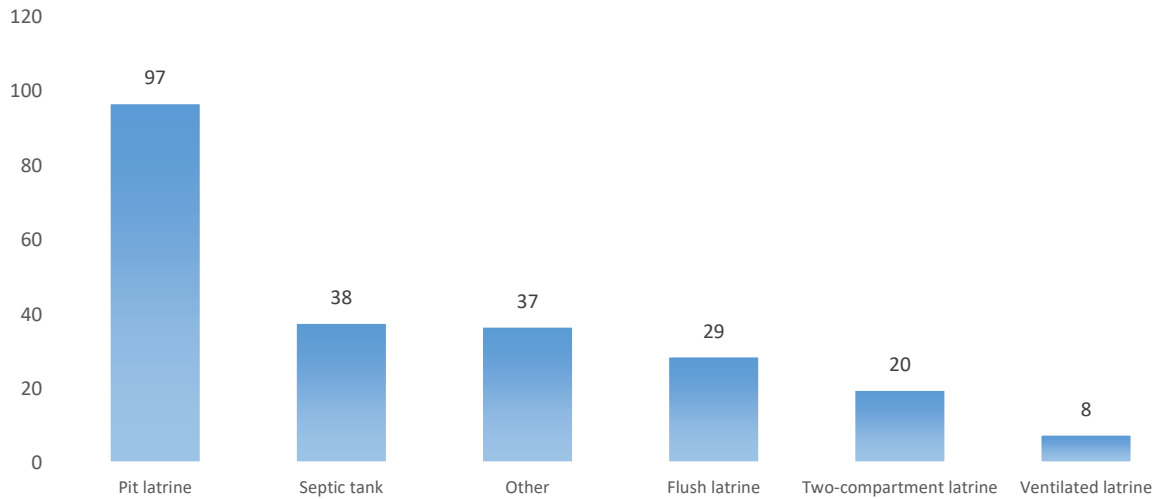
Most of survey participants are living in good houses such as reinforced house (32%), wooden house (31%), storey house (11%). About 13% are living in temporary households. Average living space is 66.3 m² (min=20, max=342, SD=42.9).

Figure 10 – Type of Houses (n=353)



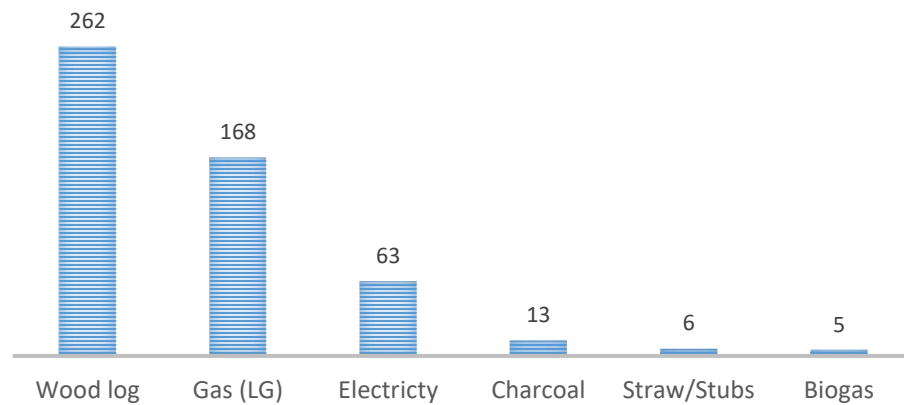
In terms of household sanitation, 64.9% (n=229) have access to latrine. Most (42.4%, N=97) are pit latrine and septic tank (16.6%, n=38). The remaining households (35.1%, n=124) do not have latrine.

Figure 11 – Type of Latrine (n=229)



Most people (50.7%, n=262) use wood log for cooking, followed by gas (32.5%, n=168), electricity (12.2%, n=63), etc. to cook meals.

Figure 12 – Source of Energy for Cooking (n=349)

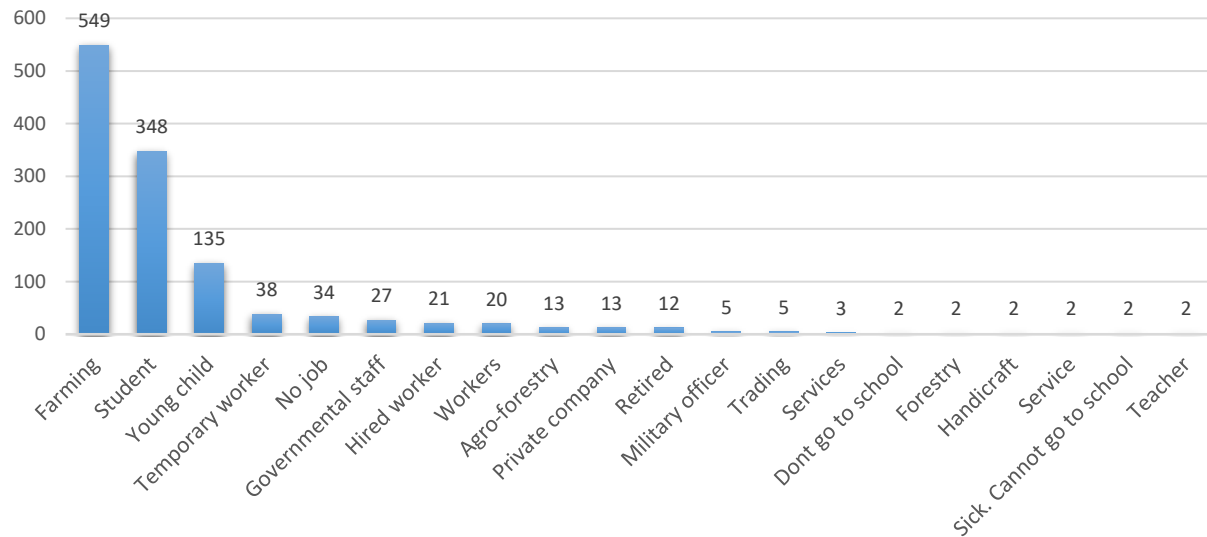


3.5.3 Household production

- **Jobs**

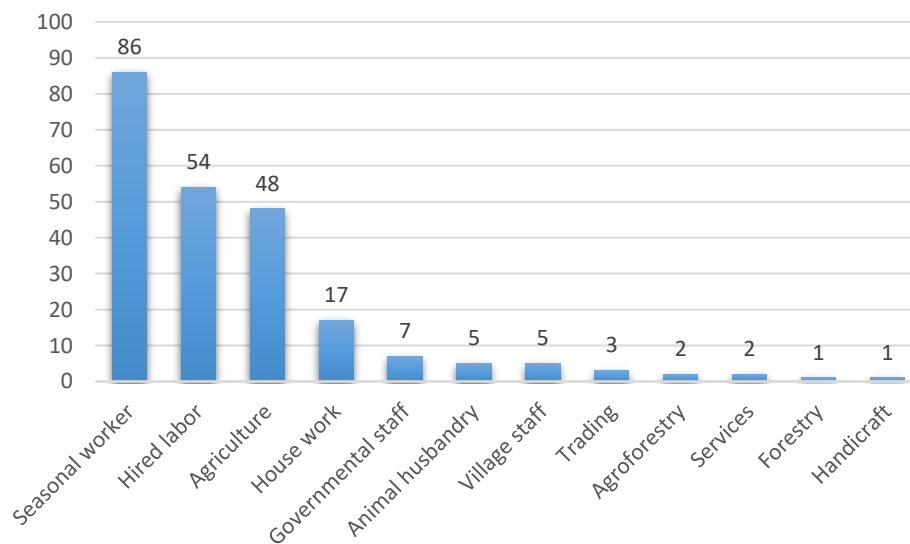
45.7% of household member (n=564) are working in agriculture as primary labor. Regular paid worker account for 5.4% (n=67). Temporary workers make up 3.1% (n=38). Family members who don't work include students (39.1%, n=483), jobless and retired (3.7%, n=46). The remainder is trading, services, handicraft (1.3%, n=6). All people worked in agriculture (100%, n=399) considered themselves the main labor of their family. Of this total, 62.9% (n=251) are male. The remainder (37.1%, n=148) are female. Average age of main labor working on farming is 35.6 (min=13, max=79, SD=16.5).

Figure 13 – Main Jobs of Household Members (n=1,235)



Of total 1,235 people from 353 households participating in the survey, 231 people (18.7%) do secondary job to earn additional income. These worked mainly as seasonal worker, hired labor, and other works in agriculture.

Figure 14 – Secondary Jobs of Household Members (n=231)



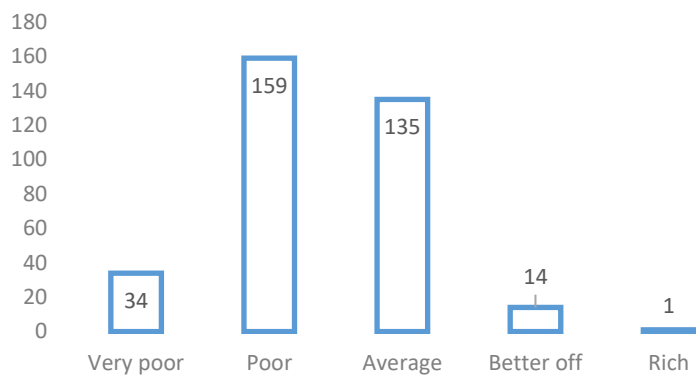
- **Economic Status**

42.8% of people at working age (n=258) from the 167 surveyed households reported their main jobs as agricultural production. The remaining household members are involved in non-agricultural jobs, such as temporary works (12.3%), governmental officers (2.5%), houseworkers (1.8%), company employee (1.2%), small business (0.8%), agro-forestry (0.8%), handicraft (0.7%), services (0.3%), and

forestry (0.2%). 32% of members from 167 surveyed households are school children and are not involved in income generation activities.

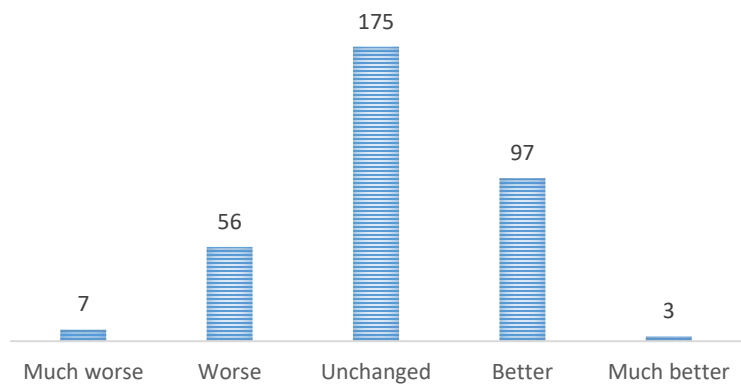
9.9% self-assessed that they are “very poor” (n=34). Nearly half of survey participants (46.4%, n=159) rated their family as “poor”. 39.4% (n=135) considered themselves “average” economically. Only a small percentage (4.1%, n=14) considered themselves “better-off”.

Figure 15 – Self-assessment of household economic status (n=343)



More than half of survey participants (51.8%, n=175) said their economic status remained “unchanged” over the past two years. 16.6% (n=56) said they are “worse” and 28.7% (n=97) indicated their economic status has been “better”.

Figure 16 – Self-assessment of change in economic status over the past two years (n=338)



• **Production Land**

75.4% of surveyed households (n=266) have access to production land of big varying size (See Figure 17 below). Most common land they people own is perrenial land (47.2%), followed by annual cropland (41.4%), production forest land (8.5%), Protection forest land (1.9%).

Figure 17 – Distribution of Production Land (by Type)

Type of land	Total (m2)	n	Mean	Min	Max
Perennial land	1,582,700	132	11,990	100	60,000
Annual cropland	1,388,520	173	8,026	40	48,000
Production forest land	286,090	28	10,218	700	30,000
Protection forest land	62,000	4	15,500	7,000	30,000
Agricultural land for animal husbandry	30,840	17	1,814	10	9,000
Aquaculture land	70	2	35	20	50
Subtotal	3,350,220	266	12,594	10	87,000
Housing land	23,273	351	66.3	20	342

Most survey participants have LURC for their perennial land and annual cropland but not for both production forest and protection forest. For perennial land and annual cropland, most landholders have both husband and wife listed in LURC. Of 353 survey participants, only two households rent additional land for agricultural production. These households are poor and have very limited land access (2,700m² and 3,500m² as annual crop land) which are less than half of the average land size.

Figure 18 – Land Use Right Certificates

Land User Right Certificates	Total	Yes	No	Husband	Wife	Both
Perennial land	132	84	48	20	7	57
Annual Cropland	173	115	58	23	16	76
Production Forest	28	11	17	3	1	7
Protection Forest	4	2	2			2
Agri- land for Animal Husbandry	35	9	26	5	4	
Residential land	124	70	54	19	11	40

- Production by Perennial Land and Annual Cropland**

Of the total 3,350,220m² of productive land owned by 266 people in the survey, 2,969,750 m² (89%) is under cultivation, of which coffee makes up the largest area (1,399,000 m², 47%), followed by cassava (703,800 m², 23.7%), maize (345,400 m², 11.6%), rice (324,100 m², 10.9%), bean (171,300 m², 5.8%), pepper (26,150 m², 0.9%).

Figure 19 – Land Area by Crop (m²)

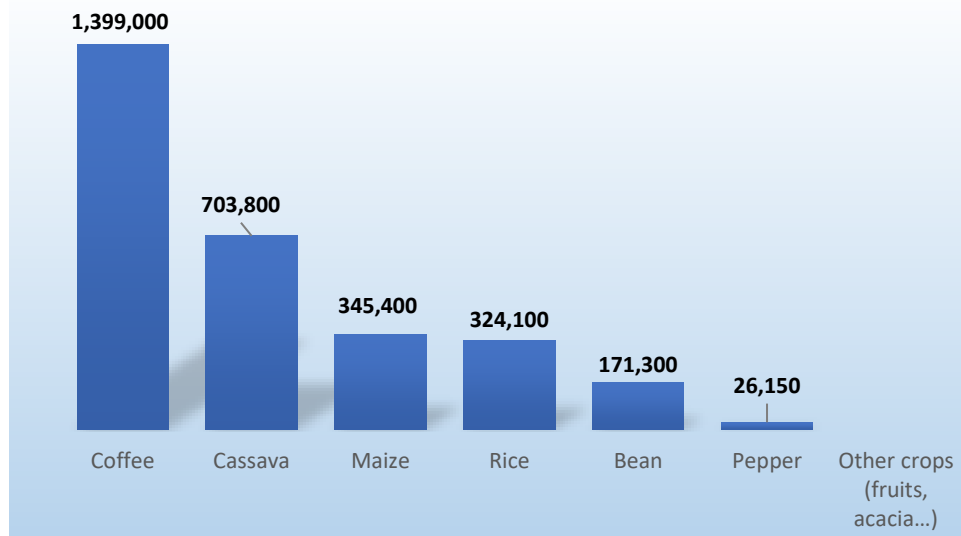


Table 1 – Summary of Crop Productivity

	Min	Max	Mean	Sum	N
COFFEE					
Area (m2)	3000	40,000	11,562	1,399,000	121
Yield (kg/ha)			6,500		
Selling price (VND/kg)	6,000	37,000	27,929		70
No of crop/year	1	1	1		59
MAIZE					
Area (m2)	300	20,000	5,396	345,400	64
Yield (kg/ha)			6,500		
Selling price (VND/kg)	3,000	15,000	8,722		40
No of crop/year	1	2	2		29
BEAN					
Area (m2)	200	30,000	6,588	171,300	26
Yield (kg/ha)					
Selling price (VND/kg)	17,000	25,000	20,307		13
No of crop/year	1	2	1.3		12
RICE					
Area (m2)	100	12,000	2,266	324,100	143
Yield (kg/ha)	1,000	7,500	3,871		
Selling price (VND/kg)	4,500	9,000	6,021		23
No of crop/year	1	3	1.7		19
Estimated income from land (VND)	1,204,200	48,168,000	7,865,562	243,832,437	31
PEPPER					
Area (m2)	200	8,000	2,651	26,150	10
Yield (kg/ha)			2,350		
Selling price (VND/kg)	45,000	68,000	56,928		7
No of crop/year	1	1	1		4

	Min	Max	Mean	Sum	N
CASAVA					
Area (m2)	200	37,000	6,398	703,800	110
Yield (kg/ha)	1,000	20,000	8,142		
Selling price (VND/kg)	1,000	5,000	2,186		
No of crop/year	1	1	1		
ANIMAL HUSBANDRY	Min	Max	Mean	Sum	N
Buffalo	1	2	1.1	7	6
Total sold annually	1	1	1	1	1
Cow	1	20	3.4	454	133
Total sold annually	1	6	1.5	49	32
Pig	1	20	3.9	182	46
Total sold annually	1	50	6.7	135	20
Chicken	1	120	20	2,007	100
Total sold annually	1	120	21.2	532	25
Duck	2	100	26.2	472	18
Total sold annually	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Goat	4	10	7.2	36	5
Total sold annually	2	5	2.6	13	5

Notes:

- Some pepper area are intercropped with coffee land. Some bean area are intercropped with maize land.
- Figure in red is estimated based on prevailing market price in 2021.
- Households with large number of cows are those specializing in cow breeding. They sell calves every 3 years (on average). Cow manures are composted for family's crop cultivation. A cow could be sold from 5-20 million VND (average price: 11,277,778 VND). No household in the survey sample reported about buffalo raising.
- Households with large number of pigs specialized in breeding. Baby pig could be sold from 300,000 VND to 1,850,000 VND depending on months of age.
- Chicken raising households can sell chicken from 85,000 to 300,000 VND with average price of 174,167 VND per chick. Household with small number of chicken raise chicken for home consumption (improving nutrition status for family).
- A baby goat could be sold at 1,700,000 to 2,000,000 VND/kid.

• Collection of forest production

Survey participants reported that they occasionally collect forest products such as bamboo shoot (Dak Nong, Lam Dong), and honey, dry log, mushroom (Ninh Son district, Ninh Thuan province). In Ninh Thuan, local people face risks of forest fire during dry season.

• Production by Forest Land

40 households live near forest. Average distance is 3.7km (min=0, max=10). 6 said their allocated forest land is good. 6 other said it is acceptable. 5 mentioned their allocated land is of bad quality. 44.2% (n=19) mentioned they need to invest money on seed trees. Other investment include costs for crop care, finding market, buying land, etc. Top three costs the people spend money on the most is seed trees, crop care and finding markets. Of 23 people allocated forest land, 11 mentioned they were supported by government in planning, financial assistance, seed trees, and credit loan. They mentioned they need to obtain permit from local government to harvest, transport and sell their trees.

In terms of obtain permit, 8 found it easy to obtain. 6 said it was relatively easy whereas 4 said it is difficult. Of 36 households, 35 mentioned their land are not recollected to rent to other (one said their land was collected). 26/32 households said they are entitled to requesting forest land allocation. 18/26 people said they were consulted before forest land was allocated to them. 20/23 household said they are not compensated if their land were reacquired while three said they were. The three households who were compensated said their compensation payment were adequate.

Ten households reported they are allocated with forest land. Four said the allocated land is of good quality, three is “acceptable”, and three is “poor”. Sixteen household reported most of the investment they have made for forest land is small trees and crop care. Most of them crop care is important to achieve expected results. These households said they were supported technically and financially, including being provided with small tree. They reported they need to obtain government’s permit for harvesting their crop. Obtaining such permit ranges from “difficult” to “relatively difficult”. 14/26 household reported they experience the loss of harvest due to natural disaster (drought and flooding). Of 12 households, 11 said their land are not acquired to hand over to other people. Ten household reported that they cannot decide on if they are allocated with land or lend their allocated land to others.

There were 3 persons from a focus group discussion in Phuoc Binh commune, Bac Ai district, Ninh Thuan province indicated they are using special use forest and were financially supported 1 million VND quarterly to buy rice. There were cases where people do slash and burning. They abandoned the land and return after that to take back the land, causing conflict with local forest rangers (Phuoc Chien commune, Thuan Bac District, Ninh Thuan province).

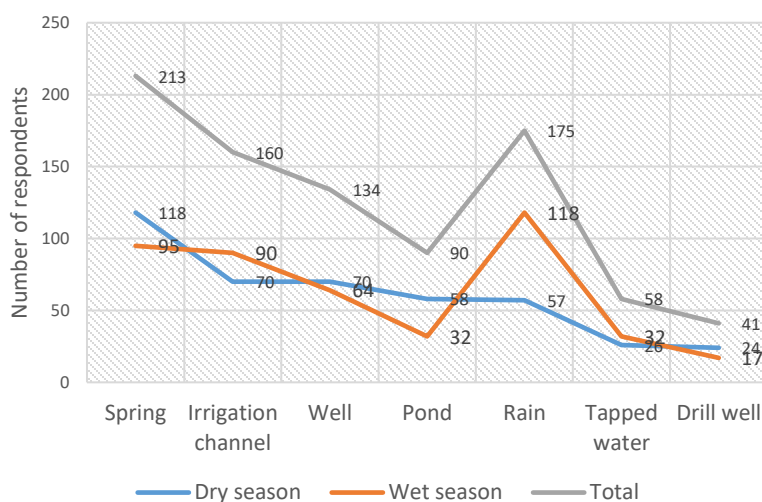
- **Retailed Services**

One household reported they are involved in beverage service and the other in selling clothes. None of the remaining 165 participants reported they are involved in retailed services.

- **Water for Production**

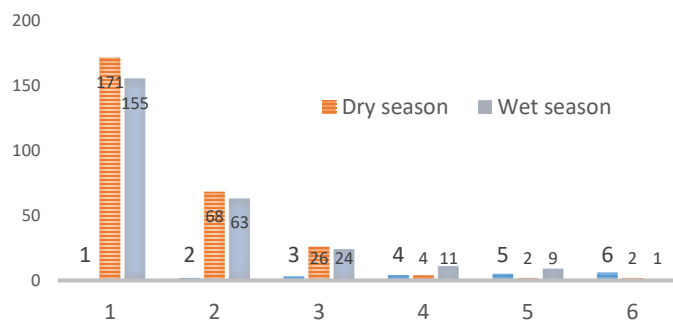
Water collected from springs are most mentioned as the water sources the family use for agricultural production, followed by irrigation channel, well, pond. While these sources are important for both dry and wet season, water from rain is widely use, particularly for areas where irrigation does not cover and other water sources other than rain is limited.

Figure 20 – Water use for production by type of water source



Half of the respondents (48.4%, n=171) have access to only one source of water to support their agricultural production during dry season. Even during rainy season, only (58.9%, n=155) have only one source of water for production. For those who have access to more than one source of water to support production, they rely on sources such as well, drill well, pond, spring, tapped water. Existing water from irrigation system can cover only 18.4% of the need for water access for the whole year (including wet and dry season).

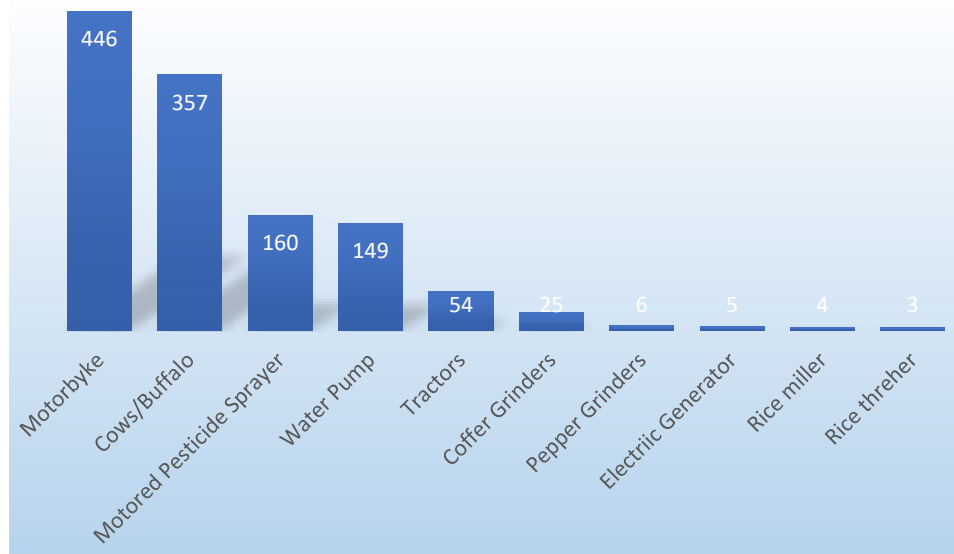
Figure 21 – Number of water sources



- **Production equipment**

Motorbike is the most common means of transport – for people and for carrying farming utensils. Cows/buffalo are the second most common means of production – as draft animal. Water pump is also common because more than half of surveyed households have to collect water from river and pond and pumping machine is essential as a way to save labor. Motored pesticide spray are also common.

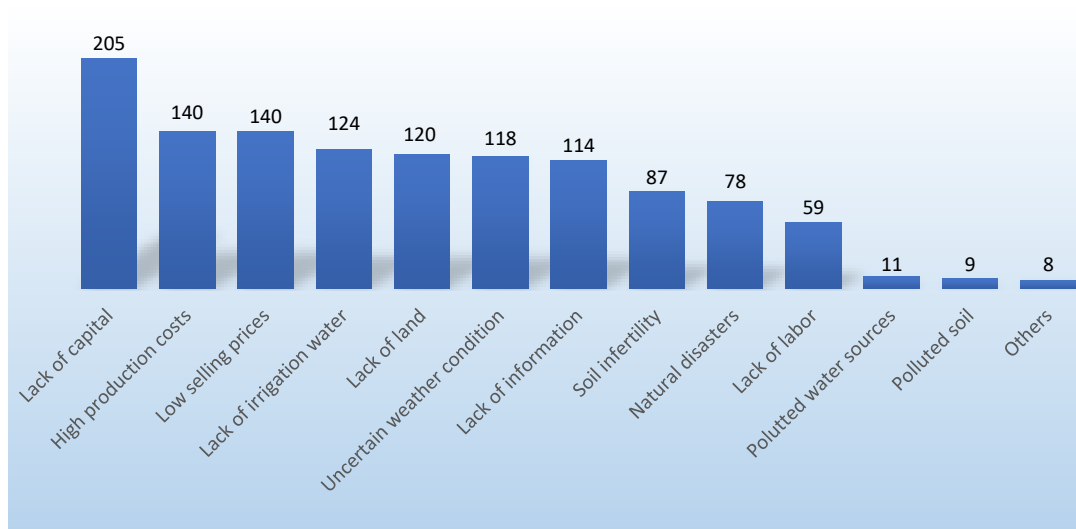
Figure 22 - Equipment for Production (n=353)



- **Common Constraints in Agricultural Production**

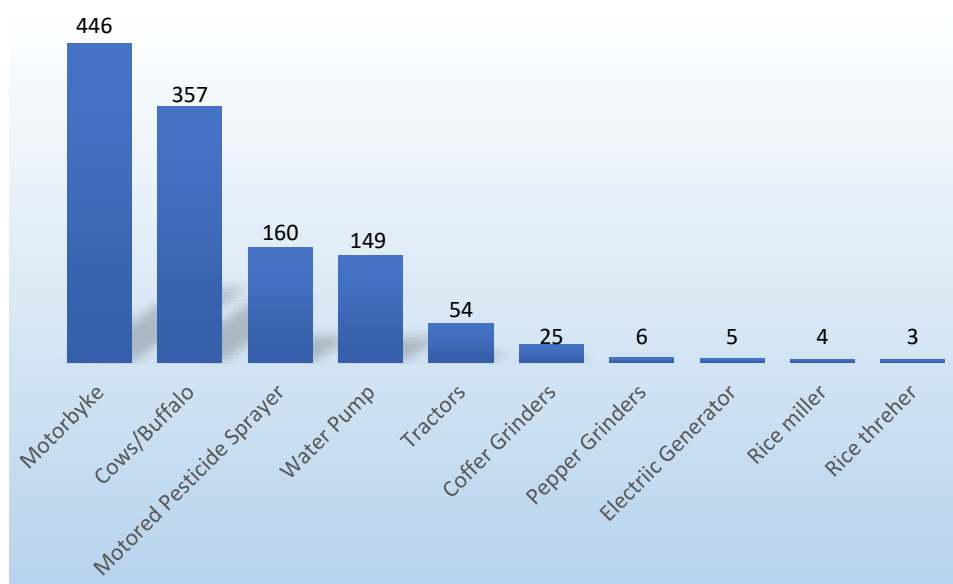
Lack of capital was reported as the most common constraint in agricultural production, followed by fluctuating selling prices, lack of irrigation water, lack of information and high production costs.

Figure 23 – Key Constraints in Agricultural Production (n=353)



In term of production tools, the top five common tools is motorbike, followed by cow, motored pesticide sprayers, water pump and and tractors.

Figure 24 - Equipment for Production



3.5.4 Household Income

- **Monthly cash income**

The monthly cash income earned by all household members from the sample (n=580) is 3,195,291VND. Monthly cash income earned male members is higher³ than that of female members: 3,778,929 VND vs 2,529,815 VND, respectively (See Table below).

Table 2 – Descriptive Statistics of Monthly Cash Income

	Both	Male	Female
N	580	309	271
Mean	3,195,291	3,778,929	2,529,815
Median	2,000,000	2,500,000	1,500,000
Std. Deviation	4,714,968	5,647,727	3,233,055
Min	100,000	110,000	100,000
Max	60,000,000	60,000,000	30,000,000

For youth (16-30 years of age), there are 235 youth members (124 male, 111 female) out of total 1,233 member reported from 353 households in the survey. Their monthly cash income of 88 youth members who work is 3,438,068 (male: 3,596,809, female: 3,256,098). However, income difference in between male and female is not statistically significant⁴. This suggests that youth does not only make more income than older group but also does not have income difference between male and female. The monthly cash income of youth is lower than that of non-youth⁵.

³ Male vs Female (all household member): $t(501)=-3.31, p<0.001, n=580$, Cohen's $d=-.267$ (small effect size)

⁴ Male vs Female (youth): $t(86)=.967, p=0.488, n=88$, Cohen's $d=-.267$ (small effect size)

⁵ Youth vs Non-youth: $t(527)=-2.95, p<.05, n=580$, Cohen's $d=-.246$ (small effect size)

- **Estimated discretionary income**

Based on total productive land area that each surveyed household have, discretionary incomes are estimated based on their gross income from a) annual crop sale, b) secondary services⁶, and c) annual expenditure for living and production (See table below). While monthly average discretionary income is 4,594,493 VND, 3 9.7% of the surveyed members (n=140) do have minus discretionary income, which suggests that they have to borrow money to cover their daily essential expenditure such as food, electricity, healthcare, education, etc. It is noted that 74.5% of households in the survey have outstanding loan to support their agricultural production. Some use loan for consumption, healthcare, education for children (See Section 3.5.5 – Loan Access for more). The aata suggested that having access to land alone does not earn income for households⁷but actual production on land do⁸. There is a significant difference in average monthly discretionary income between group with average land access of 1.3ha and group of 0.33 ha⁹.

Descriptive Statistics	Land area (m ²)	
	Group with minus income	Group with surplus discretionary income
n	103	205
Mean	4,610	13,277
Median	3,000	10,000
Mode	1,000	10,000
Std. Deviation	5,165	12,059
Minimum	400	1,000
Maximum	30,000	82,000

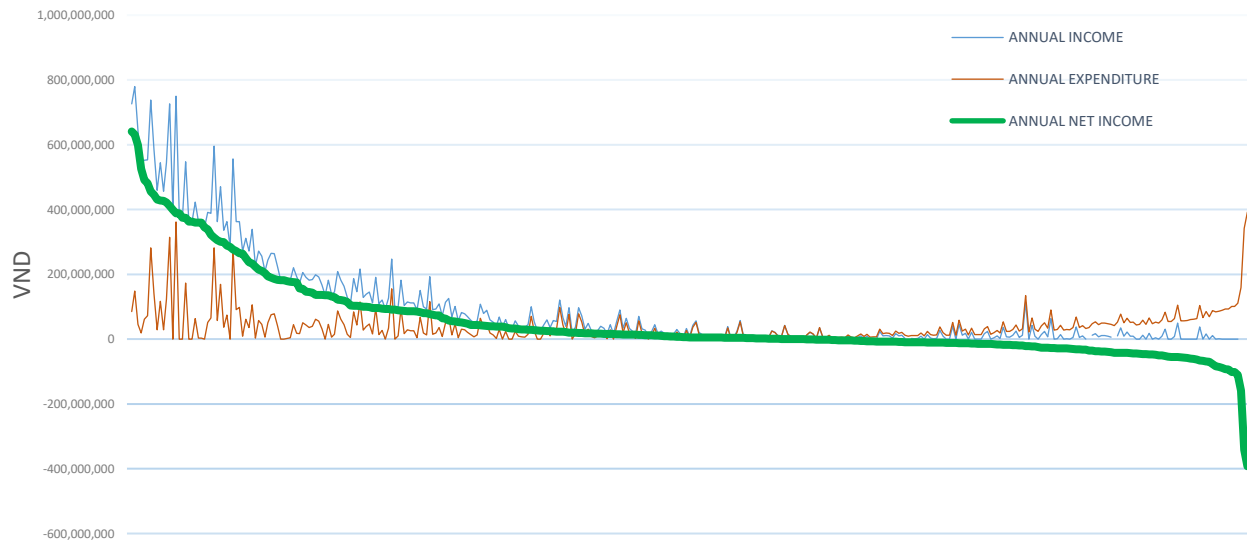
⁶ Income earned form working as hired worker, other services, trading, etc.

⁷ $r=.59, p<.001, n=266$

⁸ $r=.76, p<.001, n=308$

⁹ $t(347)=-12.039, p<0.001, \text{Cohen's } d=-1.31$

Figure 25 – Annual Income, Expenditure & Discretionary Income, all sources (n=353)



- **Income from Forest Plantation**

Only 5 participant reported their income from forest plantation. The average income is 18,080,000 VND (min=5,400,000 VND, max=45,000,000). The total income from 5 participants is 90,400,000 VND.

- **Income from Collecting Forest Products**

One reported they collect bamboo shoots which earned them 6,000 VND for each kilogram collected. Two other collected log for home use. Nine household reported the distance from their home to forest. The average distance is 4.6km (min=1, max=10km).

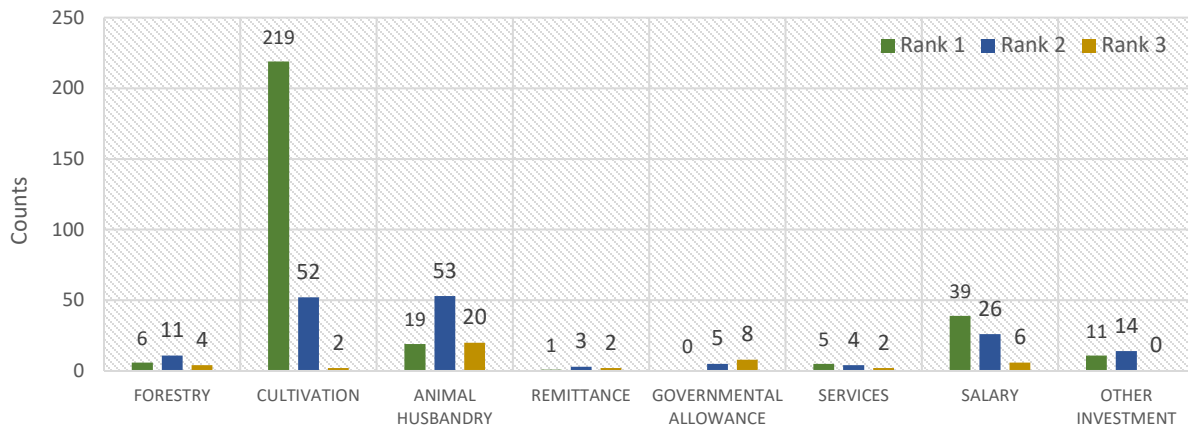
- **Income from PFES**

Seven households reported their income from PFES (min=700,000 VND, max=3,600,000 VND, mean=2,071,428 VND), sum of seven households=14,500,000 VND). None of household reported their income from collecting wood.

- **Ranking of Income Sources**

Income from cultivation was ranked the most important income source (Rank 1) for most households (62%, n=219). By Rank 1, respondents mean this source of income is the one that brings them an average of 82% of income from all sources of income available to them (min=40%, max=100%). However, for those rank monthly salary as their most important source of income (Rank 1), then agricultural and/or services are ranked the second (Rank 2). In addition to income from agricultural production and salary, other income sources appear to be trivial (including income from animal husbandry and retailed services). Most people reported that they keep animal, such as chicken and duck, for their home consumption. Some sell their surplus but just only occasionally. This does not contribute to their regular income generation activities.

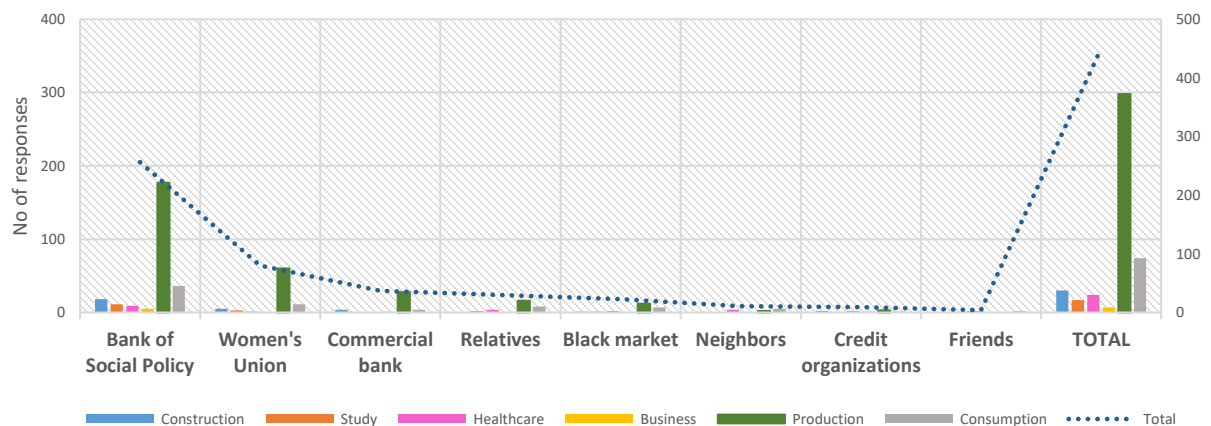
Figure 26 – Ranking of Income Sources (n=353)



3.5.5 Loan Access

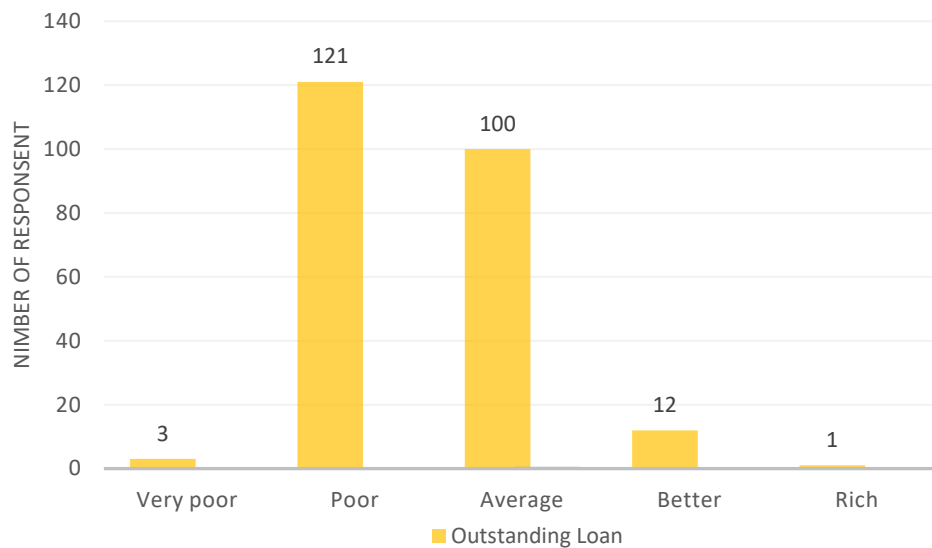
74.5% of survey participants (n=263) have at least one outstanding loan. Most (75%, n=177) borrow for production, followed by consumption (14.1%), construction (7%). Figure below show purpose of loan. Number of loans per borrow source are ranked in descending order (from left to right). The number of loan vary among respondents with average number of loan 1.65 (min=1, max=5). It is noted the number of loan borrowed from black market is low (23, mainly for production) but loan taken in the form of agricultural inputs (credit-in-kind) is quite common among the poor who do farming.

Figure 27 – Loan status by purpose and borrowing source



Borrowers are mainly poor economically (51%), followed by average (42%), and better off (5%). For

Figure 28 – Loan Status by Economic Status

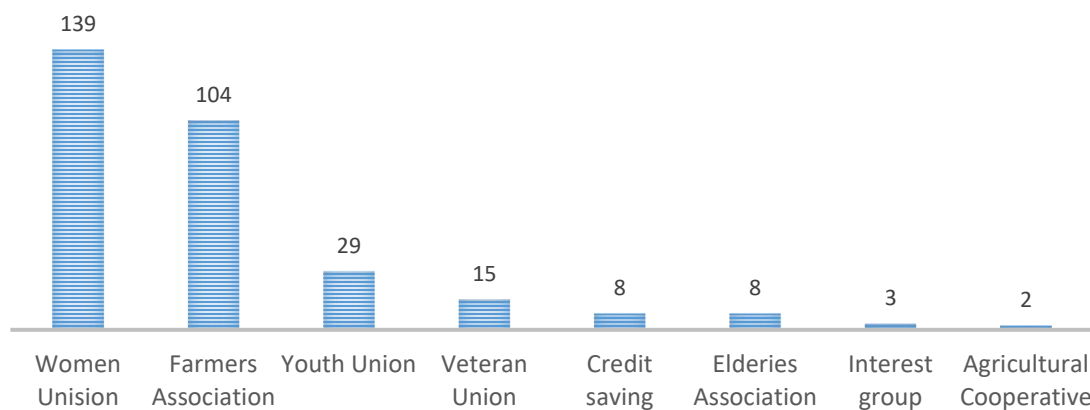


For those who don't want loan. Reasons 1) don't want loans (46%, n=23), 2) want loan but don't want to be indebted (32%, n=16), 3) want loan but have not found a suitable source (12%, n=6). Other reasons include they want loan but don't have collateral. Loan size varies from 10 million to 30 million VND. People indicated a loan size of 10 million VND is small. They preferred bigger loan size (20 million VND or more) to be able to make investment in agricultural production.

3.5.6 Social Networks

39% of participants in the survey have a membership with Women's Union, followed by Farmers' Association (30%), Youth's Union (8.3%). It is noted that members with

Figure 29 – Memberships



When needing help, people reach out to their siblings (41.2%), relatives (21%), neighbors (14.8%), and friends (11.9%), mass organization (5.9%). When in urgent need for money, participants also asked to borrow money from these groups, including siblings (42%), neighbors (12.2%), relatives (12.2%), local banks (13.9%) and friends (9.4%). A small percentage (1.6%) borrow money from black credit.

Figure 30 – Sources to reach out for general help

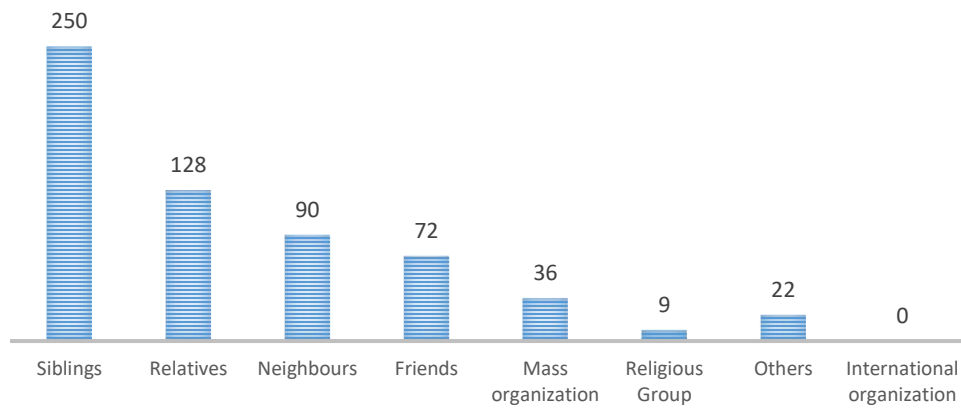
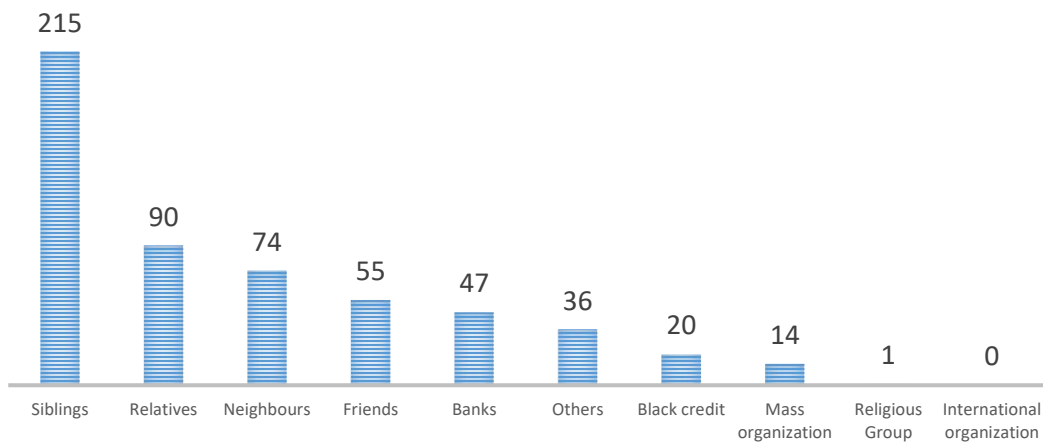


Figure 31 – Sources to reach out for urgen money



3.5.7 Labour Division

Participants from the survey seems to follow the division of labor that is based on the traditional pattern. Female members do domestic works and is involved in matters that are related to financing whereas male members are responsible for physically heavy works, including those that involve interaction with people outside the family.

In terms of domestic works vs works happening outside the house, it is more likely that women undertake activities that are mostly light physically and happen within the household whereas men are involved more in interactions outside the household and are responsible for works that are heavy physically and/or hazardous (See Table below for how labor is divided between men and women for domestic works, crop production, animal husbandry, forestry, and general family issues.

Table 3 – Division of Labor

Domestic works	Cooking	Dish washing	Laundry	Child care	Child Tutoring	Care of elderly/sick	Minor repairs	Water fetching	Community meeting	TOTAL
Only Female	57	70	74	35	33	42		28	43	382
Mainly Female	156	168	97	81	43	18	9	27	23	622
Both	126	105	113	222	190	224	75	155	160	1370
Mainly Male	8	5	1	3	19	7	188	50	101	382
Only Male	12	1	0		8		59	13	11	104

Cultivation	Buy agricultural inputs	Soil preparation	Crop care	Irrigation	Fertilizer use	Pesticide use	Hiring labor	Harvesting	Decide selling price	Decide whom to sell to	Attending trainings/Searching Information	Work as hired labor	Work as exchanged labor	TOTAL
Only Female	11	9		7	7	9	3	7	18	19	26	10	4	130
Mainly Female	13	13	10	12	11	8	12	8	25	25	32	19	21	209
Both	144	209	239	189	220	78	136	273	241	243	163	150	188	2473
Mainly Male	100	55	32	65	37	88	40	15	24	25	77	76	43	677
Only Male	41	32	8	27	19	114	8	5	7	6	14	18	3	302
Hired Labor		9	1	1	4	9		13						37

Animal Husbandry	Select breeds	Select feeds	Feed preparation	Daily care	Feeding in the wild	Sanitation of pens	Vet services	Decide when to sell	Decide selling price	Decide whom to sell to	Attending trainings/Searching Information	Total
Only Female	14	22	24	23	18	15	13	12	14	13	19	187
Mainly Female	22	32	41	36	36	21	21	15	13	15	28	280
Both	134	129	129	135	130	136	107	134	142	138	107	1421
Mainly Male	40	24	19	14	21	26	49	28	19	20	45	305
Only Male	4	6	4	7	0	5	9	2	2	2	5	46
Hired Labor												0

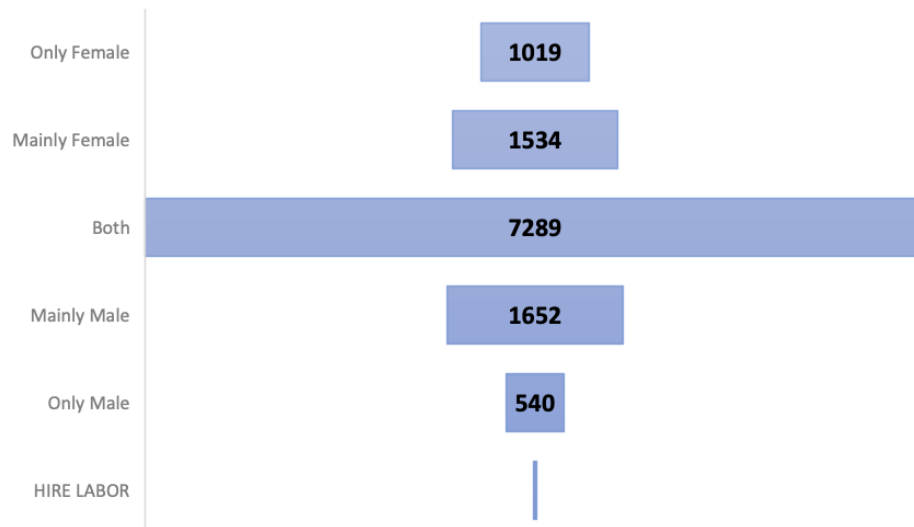
Forestry	Select variety	Soil preparation	Crop care	Hire labor	Decide when to sell	Decide whom to sell to	Decide selling price	Total
Only Female		5						5
Mainly Female	6	1	1			1	1	10
Both	28	29	30	25	30	31	31	204
Mainly Male	6	5	5	1	5	3	3	28
Only Male	2	2	2	1				7
Hired Labor								0

Home issues	Buy valuable assets/things	Borrow loan	Names in asset ownership	House repair/build	Job change	Production Planning	Keep money	Decide family diet	Children's education cost	Decide on marriage of children	TOTAL
Only Female	19	15	23	6	7	6	123	74	36	6	315
Mainly Female	21	18	36	4	4	10	103	146	61	10	413
Both	262	255	185	185	168	207	86	99	191	183	1821
Mainly Male	21	17	41	100	29	33	3	6	4	6	260
Only Male	1	2	23	21	9	8	2	2	1	12	81

3.5.8 Decision Making

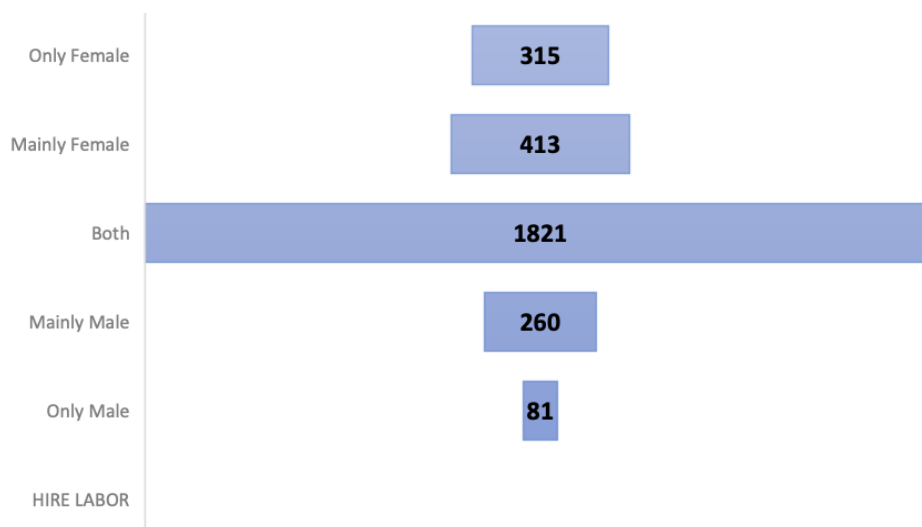
With regards to decision making as to domestic works and agricultural works, although most works are shared, female member do as much as twice male members with regarding to work items that female do mainly and solely (1,019 vs 540 responses).

Figure 32 – Decision Making (domestic works and agricultural works)



However, when it comes to internal/home issue, male members appears to be less decisive. In fact, female make sole decision four times higher than male (315 vs 81 responses). This may be explained by the fact that most of survey participant are from matriarchal ethnic minority groups in which the mother or a female elder has authority over the family group.

Figure 33 – Decision Making (family issues)



3.5.9 Agricultural Inputs

- **Pesticides**

87% of survey participants (n=282) used pesticide for crop care and 89%% (n=290) used chemical fertilizer. However, it is noted a large part of the Raglag ethnic group (n=34) from Ninh Thuan province reported they do not use chemical fertilizer, including some (n=5) from Dak Nong and Lam Dong. In terms of personal protection equipment (PPE) in farming activities, 52.7% (n=146) said they use gown, 19.9% (n=55) use google, 59.1% (n=166) used long-sleeve clothes, 86.6% (n=240) use mask, and 37.7% (n=104) use close shoes (covering toes).

More than half of survey respondents (55.9%, n=171) said their family members participate in spaying pesticide. Two participants reported they engage their children under 14 years of age in pesticide application to assist the family. Nine other participants said they asked their children (14 to under 18 years of age) to help them with spraying of pesticide and 149 participants engaged their children above 18 years of age in pesticide application. There was 55 participants (19.3% of those who responded this question) reported they had a rash on your skin after applying pesticides and 65 respondents (22.8%) indicated that they had allergy that are uncomfortable to them, such as tiredness, itchiness, dizziness, arthritics, muscle pain, etc.

Pesticide are mainly applied for rice, and occasionally for maize using local experience (e.g. Barca, Basudin). Farmers may consult opinion leaders for their advice on pest management. Farmers typically use up all the pesticide that they buy. There is no storage of pesticide. Pesticide containers are usually left in the forest or mixed up in family garbage bin. Some bury empty pesticide containers.

- **Fertilizers**

Common fertilizers that farmers apply include Ure (nitrogen), Kali (potassium), Phosphate, and combined NPK. Some use manure when available. The amount of fertilizers applied are currently primarily based the cultivated area, and based on local experience and guidance from local shops that sell agricultural inputs.

3.5.10 Contract Farming

Only 4/353

households interviewed mentioned they have contract farming for one or two crops (acacia, sugar cane, medicinal herb). Consultation through key informant interview, focus group discussion and household survey indicated that contract farming has not yet practiced commonly among consultation participants in four project provinces. If there are, they are just verbal agreement between farmers and traders. There was no written contract. In the household survey, only one household reported he has contract farming for his cashew nut – but just for one cropping season. In the focus group discussions and key informants, only two groups (Lac Duong Coffee Cooperative in Da Chau commune, Lac Duong district, Lam Dong province, and Farmers' Cooperative in Ninh Son district, Ninh Thuan province) indicate they have practiced contract farming. For those who have not yet practiced contract farming, they have identified the followings as potential constraints associated with contract farming:

For Farmers:

- Farmers need to invest more in their existing farm whereas their current field are small in area and labor resources is limited;

- Supplies are not regular
- Not strictly follow food safety control measures
- Not follow technical recommendations in farming contract
- Existing degraded infrastructure
- Lack of negotiation skills for prices

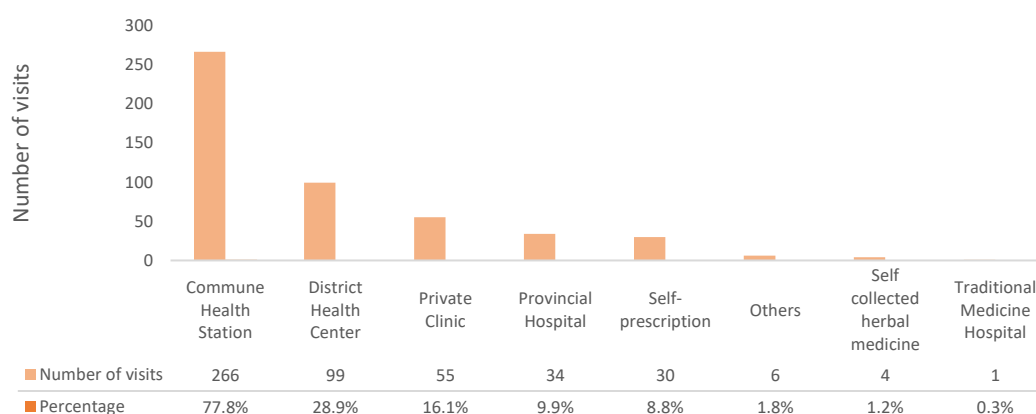
For Businesses

- Not buy all products from farmers as contracted
- Lack of strategy for market development
- Occasionally beating down the prices agreed with farmers
- No supervision of local government for contract compliance
- Price insurance not applicable due to increased costs incurred on the part of both farmers and business, plus low awareness about the benefit of price insurance
- Fluctuating price, especially during Covid-19
- Written contract is not strictly legally binding
- Face contract breaching, especially contracts with ethnic minorities

3.5.11 Health – Education

55.8% of participants (n=193) reported the one of their family members were sick during the past three months. Common diseases are flu (65.3%, n=126), followed by chronic diseases (31.6%, n=61) such as arthritis, backache, diabetes, heart disease, sinusitis. digestion problems account for 19.4% (n=38), dermatological infections (6.7%, n=13), falling (3.6%, n=7), and degue fever (1%, n=2), and so forth. 26.1% of survey participants (n=83) reported that they have family members who suffer chronic disease. Over the past one year, commune health stations are the most commonly visited healthcare facility for survey participants (66.15%, n=226), followed by district health center (28.9%, n=99), and private clinic (16.1%, n=55), provincial hospital (9.9%, n=34), and so on (See figure below).

Figure 34 – Use of Healthcare Facilities



90.6% of survey participants (n=307) have healthcare insurance. This covers a total of 1,266 people from 353 households participating the survey. On average, 4.2 members of these family (household

size=4.5) have health insurance (min=1, max=10). Participants (n=299) reported the average distance from their home to a medical treatment facility being 13.2km (min=0.1km, max=100km).

There are 9.7% (n=31) who reported they have children at school age but the children do not go to school. The main reason is because these children don't want to go to school and/or the family face difficulties sending them to school.

3.5.12 Summary of land tenure, key knowledge, farming practices, social practices of EM groups

- **Land tenure:**

While EMs had their own traditional governance system, post 1975, government's governance structures and mechanisms have largely replaced the traditional institutions. At the village level, EMs may still follow their traditional governance mechanisms for decisions on social aspects, but decisions on land access, tenure are subject to existing statutory frameworks and legislation. Since most ethnic minority in the project area live near the forest and not inside the forest, they have their own land. These lands were passed down to them from the parents. Some reclaim land on their own several years ago. Therefore, even though they may not have access of a Land User Right Certificate, these lands are considered theirs and local government just let them use for cultivation.

RECAF could building on traditional institutions for collective decision making, management of land resources and use/application of indigenous knowledge infused or complimented with scientific technical knowledge.

On tenure, the project will use Participatory Perspective Land Use Planning and mapping to:

1. Bring about a participatory land use management
2. Identify and record the community's land use and use that to harmonize with a formal statutory land use
3. Move towards identification and recognition of individual HH's tenurial use of land, community use of certain areas for usufruct, and thereby, bring about sustainable management.

This can later be used for laying formal claims for allocation of rights.

- **Knowledge:**

In general, ethnic minorities in the project area possess a wealth of knowledge that they use very often for their living activities. These knowledge have been passed down from generation to generation and tend to be practiced more frequent when the ethnic minorities live in a community of a remarkable population who practice and learn from each other. For example, there are special leaves that family can collect in the forest that area made into herbal medicine to improve maternal health for mothers who just give birth to their child. For other group, they know well where and when to collect the wild vegetable that helps improve their daily diet. They also know the conditions under which these vegetable will grow through traditional knowledge and through observation.

In some area where handicraft are still practiced: such as weaving among Mạ people in Lam Ha district of Lam Dong province; the most skillful women are old and young people of the same ethnic groups are not interested in maintain the career because the produce is cheap and there is no market. Their household chore, which is inherently heavy, also keep them away from practice weaving that require time and attention.

EMs also possess knowledge on the use and management of biological resources, both domesticated (cultivated agro-biodiversity as well as wild plants). Coping mechanisms in response to climate change or other stresses are based on this knowledge. However, with the increasing frequency of climate events the communities often find this knowledge inadequate. A pointer in this direction is the fact that when faced with extreme situations such as prolonged dryspells or heavy rainfall resulting in damage to emerging crops, producers do not have sufficient seeds for replanting, sometimes leading to situations threatening food security.

- **Farming practices:**

For farming, the knowledge of ethnic minority have been evolving – in a manner that enable them to keep themselves adapted to the changing condition. For instance, they can use their knowledge to know if under certain weather condition, rice can be sown and actions they should take to ensure the rice survive through pest infestation and through degraded soil fertility. However, it was noted that for ethnic minority groups that are small in population and are not native to the areas, such as the H'mong who live in Dak Lak province as immigrant from Northern mountainous areas, they tend to fail practice because the traditional farming practices for various reasons: they lack labour as they can not exchange labour among the same EM group as their population is small and scattered. As such, when they hire local labour (which may be poor people from Kinh or from other native EM group), these hired labour prefer practicing their own farming knowledge rather than the knowledge of the EM household who hire them.

However, it was noted that in area where traditional farming practices are promoted, for instance, through upscaled production to supply the market, EM farmers can practice their indigenous knowledge, including using their traditional seed variety, to keep and strengthen their knowledge and practices. An example is rice farmers from J'rai in Kon Chien commune, Mang Yang district, Gia Lai province. In the project area, most local ethnic minorities have abandoned swidden farming. However, it is noted and the slash-and-burn are still practices occasional in the project area by ethnic group people who are not local but are immigrant from other provinces.

- **Social capital:**

EM people are closely knit network, most still practice labour exchange which is a traditional mode of mutual aid to overcome the shortage of labour. Group of about 2-3 households who typically live near with each other exchange labour in rice farming as well as in cultivation of other jobs. Group members are closely connected through the kin, neighbourhood, or friend relationships. The benefit of labour exchange are typically extended to situation where people of labour exchange group helps each other outside farming, such as as borrowing of small sum of money during difficult time, helping with repairing/building houses, etc.

- **Governance:**

Although day-to-day social issues are channeled through local government, such as commune Peoples' Committee, village leaders of ethnic minorities still play an important role when it comes to practicing cultural practices such as festivals at their own community, or when people have conflicts and concerns that only village leaders are trusted and sought for advice and resolution. For instance, people with family conflicts or land use under community management come to EM village leaders who are typically different from village head who are also EM but are appointed with the facilitation of local government.

- **Other cultural practices:**

Some ethnic groups still practice highly expensive tradition such as funeral and special family events where they need to kill a few cow or buffalo to treat community members and expect a similar return from other family in the same community. These practices may deprive EM a large sum of money, particularly when they are poor and have to buy cow to treat other people in their family events. They also suffer from high-interest rate when they buy rice, foods, and agricultural inputs on credit and pay back only when they harvest their crops. For these poor people, crop failure or economic shock that leave them in situation where they have to spend money for family food, medical treatment food (e.g. rice, fish sauces) that put them in the vicious cycle on increasing debt that they find hard to escape.

3.5.13 Expectations

Most of participants indicated that they understand the benefit of forest as to their livelihoods. They expect the project will provide support to enable them to sustainably use and protect the forest. This can be done by providing them more access to production forest to support their forest based livelihood development and stabilize their income. Support such as access to loan, training, and agricultural inputs are important to them.

4. SOCIAL ASSESSMENT

4.1 Methods

This Social Assessment was conducted on the basis of primary data which was collected through focus group discussion, key information interview and household survey, and secondary data (e.g. literature, statistics book, and reports). A mixed method approach was used for collection and analysis. Qualitative data obtained from focus group discussion were analyzed using content analysis. Household survey data was collected through questionnaire Data were cleaned using Microsoft Excel and were analyzed using the statistical package IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows (version 28.0, Armonk, NY, USA). Descriptive statistics was conducted to obtain frequency for all responses collected through the household survey.

Table 4 – Sample size by type of consultation and by gender

No.	Type of consultation	Total number of people participating	Total participants by gender	
			Male	Female
1	Household survey	353	205	148
2	Focus Group Discussion	280	127	153
3	Key Informant Interview	21	21	0
	Total	654	353	301

4.2 Project stakeholders

The project have a wide range of project stakeholders. These stakeholders could be categorized into three main groups – affected groups, interested groups, and vulnerable/disadvantaged groups.

- **Affected groups**, including positive affected groups (project beneficiaries), and adversely affected groups (unintended impact)

Positively affected groups include:

- Local peoples including the poor, near-poor, ethnic minorities, women, youth who benefit directly from project investments (e.g. infrastructure, payment for forest ecosystem services, etc.) – both directly and indirectly.
- Private companies, agribusiness, and individuals who are interested in and qualified to benefit from joining deforestation free value chain, public private partnership grants.

Adversely affected group include:

- Households/individuals who are adversely affected, temporarily, as a result of environmental pollution during construction of small scale civil works (should include adverse effects from use of pesticides)
- Ethnic minority households/individual who are adversely affected in terms of access to customary land or natural resources that they traditionally depend on.
- Businesses who are temporarily affected during construction
- Communities residing in the vicinity of the project's civils who may be prone to risks related to labor influx

- **Interested groups**

- Government agencies at provincial, district and commune levels. This include provincial Project Management Board, Peoples' Committees at provincial, district and commune levels, agencies under Peoples' Committee at all levels, such as Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DONRE), Department of Labor, Invalid and Social Affair (DOLISA), Department of Transport (DOT), Department of Health (DOH).
- Non-Government Organizations (NGOs).
- Private companies, agribusiness, and individuals who may be interested in the project activities (deforestation free value chain, construction companies, local agricultural/forestry cooperatives, enterprises).
- Services providers, such as microfinance entities,
- Local residents (who earn extra income from providing services to project workers, project visitors...)
- Public media (e.g. radio, television, cable news, newspapers...) who may be interested in reporting project related news.

- **Vulnerable/disadvantaged groups**

Disadvantaged/vulnerable individuals and groups may be affected disproportionately, particularly adversely by the project. Under this project, vulnerable/disadvantaged groups include

- Poor or near-poor households
- Poor household with members who are being financially supported under national social policy household (e.g. injured ex-soldier, dead soldier, heroic mothers...)
- Poor female-headed households
- Elderly people who are in especially difficult circumstances
- Poor households with person with disabilities

4.3 Key government forest-related policy and its impacts

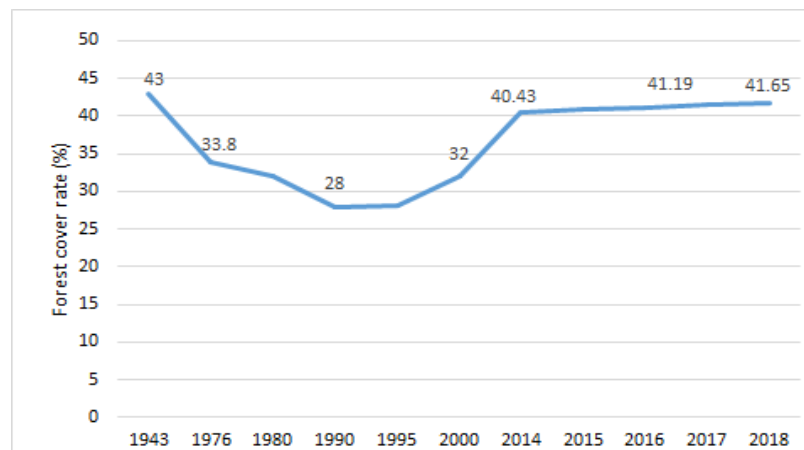
- **Brief overview on forest history in Vietnam**

Vietnam is a country characterized by large forest coverage. There has been a long history of rural people, particularly ethnic minority (EM) people, whose livelihoods are associated to forest resources for many generations. EM peoples do not only rely on forest resources for daily subsistence, but also for income generation activities, as well as their cultural life. Deforestation has been widespread in Vietnam over the past several decades – because of livelihood activities of people who depend on it, as well as exploitation for commercial purpose. Because of this, forest coverage dropped dramatically – from an estimated 43 percent in 1943 to 28 percent¹⁰ in 1993. Since 1993, with government's committed effort, forest cover has reserved its trend. The forest cover has increased again – from 28% in 1990 to 41.19% in 2017 (equivalent to 14.37 million ha)¹¹. A marked improvement in terms of forest cover was noted during the period from 1990 to 2014 (Figure 1).

Figure 35 – Forest Cover Change 1943–2017

Source: FPD (Forest Protection Department). Data on forest changes.

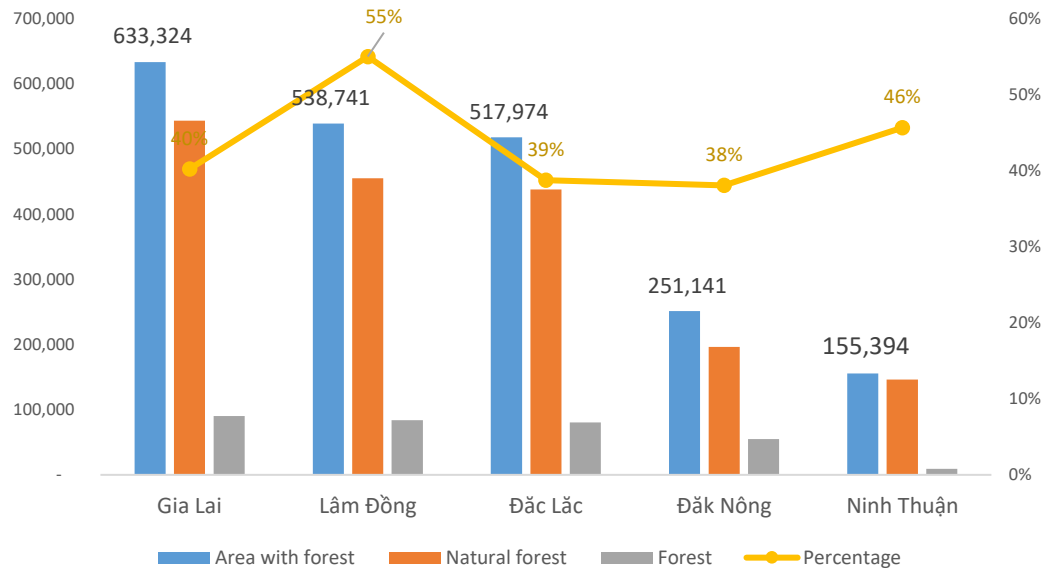
(<http://www.kiemlam.org.vn/Desktop.aspx/List/So-lieu-dien-bien-rung-hang-nam/>)



¹⁰ Vo, Q. and T.C. Le. 1994. "Conservation of Forest Resources and the Greater Biodiversity of Vietnam." *Asian Journal of Environmental Management* 2(2): 55–59.

¹¹ MARD's Decision 1819/QĐ-BNN-TCLN dated 16 May 2017 disclosing the 2016 national forest status.

Figure 36 – Forest Cover Change of Project Provinces (2020)



Data source: Forest Protection Department)

(<http://www.kiemlam.org.vn/Desktop.aspx/List/So-lieu-dien-bien-rung-hang-nam/>)

The improvement in forest cover is due to government's effort to curb deforestation, meanwhile promoting afforestation to compensate the past forest loss. One of the key efforts that has been consistently done over the past nearly four decades is the forestland allocation (FLA) which was started in early 1980s with the issuance of Instruction 29 dated 12 November 1983 by the Communist Secretariat to promote forest land allocation. The document stated it was urgent to allocate land/forest land and hills to people who need. Decree 02 (dated 15 January 1994) by the Government had encouraged organizations, households, and individuals to request land allocation to plant trees and develop agro-forestry activities on bare land. Decree 163 (dated 16 November 1999) by the Government is about allocation of forest land to organizations, households, and individuals for their long-term use without having to pay land use or land lease fees. Households whose livelihoods depend mainly on direct land use is also exempt from land use fees.

Thanks to the above policy, by 2017¹², Vietnam has a total of 14,377,682 ha of forestland, of which natural forest accounts for 10,242,141 ha, and planted forest makes up 4,135,541 million ha). This provides a forest cover of 41.19% of total natural land area of the country. It is noted forest area is divided into three groups – for legal and management purposes. These include special-use forest, protection forest, and production forest. By 2017, the area of special-use forest is 2,137,332 ha, protection forest is 4,537,852 and production forest is 6,672,056. Vietnam aims to increase the nationwide forest coverage – from 41.65 % in 2018, to 42 % by 2020. It aims for a cover of 45% by 2030.

Given high dependence on forest, as discussed above, government's objective related to protection of forest, as well as forest development, remain a challenge. Over the past few decades, the government

¹² MARD's Decision 1819/QĐ-BNN-TCLN dated 16 May 2017

has adopted various policies to promote the protection and development of forest while stabilizing the livelihoods of people who depend on forest. Various effort has been made by government in implementation of various policies that balance government's forest protection objective and the forest-dependent livelihoods of local people, particularly EM peoples. We will discuss briefly the impact of these policies, including forest land allocation (FLA), payment for forest environmental services (PFES), budget commitment, and forestry co-management. But first of all, we will discuss what special-use forest is, why it is established, and the current status of special-use forest in Vietnam. Then we will discuss how the above support policies contribute to achieving the objective of special-use forest which Decree 156 covers as one of the main topics.

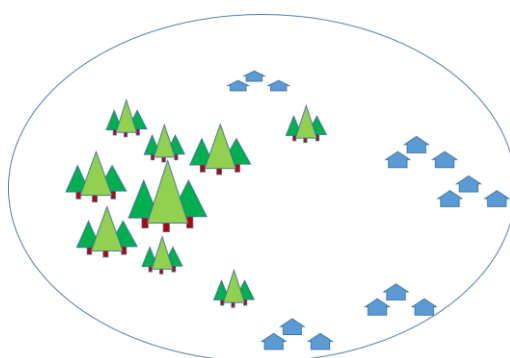
○ *Special-use forest*

Why special-use forest. The Government have been making every effort in establishing forest protected area for forest protection. This is referred to as special-use forest. The purpose of special-use forest is two-fold: 1) protecting the existing forest, particularly forest biodiversity, and 2) increasing forest coverage – through natural recovery and forest planting.

Current status of special-use forest. The special-use forest system has been developed over the past fifty years, with a total area of 2.25 million hectare, including 164 areas consisting of 31 national parks, 58 nature reserve, 10 species and landscape conservation areas, 46 landscape protected areas, and 20 scientific research areas. Currently, the total area of special-use forest makes up the largest part of forest – compared to the areas of protection forest and production forest in Vietnam. Eighty percent of special forest in Vietnam has management boards in place.

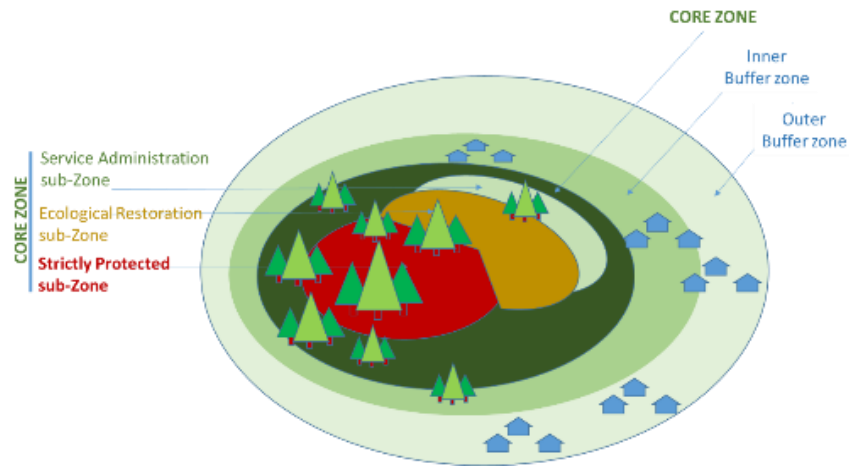
Layout of a special forest. A **special-use** forest is typically designed to have a core zone and a buffer zone. The core area is divided into three sub-zones: a Strictly Protected sub-Zone (SPZ), an Ecological Restoration sub-Zone (ERZ) and a Service Administration sub-Zone (SAZ)¹³. Generally, human activities that causes adverse impacts to forest in the core zone is not allowed. Thus, strong measures are typically taken to protect the core zone. The buffer zone is the area outside the core area, including inner and outer buffer zones. According to Gilmour & San (1999), in Vietnam, any commune that share a border with a protected area is likely to be considered as a 'buffer zone'. Figure 9 shows a typical layout of a community in or near the forest and Figure 10 show how zonation would look like when a special forest is established.

Figure 37 – Typical arrangement of forest based community



¹³ Strictly Protected sub-Zone: an area that is fully preserved in a national park, natural reserve or species – habitat reserve. Ecological Restoration sub-Zone: an area where it is strictly managed and protected so that the forest may restore natural ecosystems of the national park, natural reserve or species – habitat reserve. “Service and Administrative sub-Zone” is a regular operating area of the reserve forest management unit, research and experiment institution, area providing tourism, hospitality or entertainment services combined with construction works to manage services of the national park, natural reserve or species – habitat reserve (Law on Forestry 2017)

Figure 38 – Sub-Zones in a Special-use Forest



Exploitation of forest products in a special forest. According to Article 52–54 of Law of Forest 2017, exploitation of any forest products is not allowed in the Strictly Protected sub-Zone. In an Ecological Restoration sub-Zone (ERZ), even dead and fallen timber tree are not allowed to be collected for use. However, this, including mushroom collection, is allowed in Service Administration sub-Zone (SAZ). In addition, in areas where land are to be cleared for construction as per government plan, collection of wood, log, mushroom is allowed. For sacred forests which are typically the case for ethnic minorities, dead and fallen timber tree, forest plant and mushroom could be collected. Exploitation of timber tree for the EM community purpose is allowed – subject to approval of relevant authority.

Livelihood activities within a special-use forest. In case where people happen to live in the area designated as Strictly Protected sub-Zone, resettlement plan will be prepared to facilitate relocation of local households out of this area¹⁴. If the affected household have not yet been able to relocate out of the strictly protected area, forest management board can provide short-term package contract to them to protect the forestland in the special-use forest. For Ecological Restoration sub-Zone (ERZ), management board of the special-use forest will contract people living in this area to protect and develop the forest¹⁵. Households, individuals and communities whose residential land and production land are intermingled with the special-use forest but their lands are not designated to be part of the special-use forest can maintain their residence and production activities in line with sustainable forest management plan of the forest management board, and as approved by local authorities¹⁶.

How livelihoods of forest-dependent people are stabilized. As part of the plan for establishment of the special-use forest, the forest management board will be responsible for preparing development project/program with the participation of local people. Organization, households, individuals and communities have the right to oversee, participate in implementation of the investment project/program that benefit them.

¹⁴ Resettlement, assistance, and livelihood restoration will be implemented in accordance with Land Law 2013.

¹⁵ Article 137 of Land Law 2013

¹⁶ Article 54 of Law on Forestry 2017

Challenges in special-use forest management. Despite successful establishment of special forest, effective management of these forests remain a challenge. This problem is due not only to the lack of financial and human resources for effective management of the special-use forest, but also lack of active participation of local people in forest protection as their livelihoods depend on forest resources. Prohibiting the use of natural resource in protected areas do not provide incentive to responsible and sustainable use of forest resources. Instead, it results in local residents maximizing resource exploitation when opportunities arise (Dung *et al* 2013). Similar findings are observed in many other developing countries (Hayes 2006). As discussed above, in most cases where special-use of forests were established, people whose livelihoods traditionally depends on forest still maintain their forest based income generation activities.

In reality, the management of forest is relaxed to certain extent to avoid conflicts with forest resource users. The study by McElwee (2008) found that when Ke Go Nature Reserve (North Central) was established, the boundaries for this special-use forest was deliberately drawn to exclude human settlements, creating a buffer zone of 22,000 ha. By the 2008, approximately 40,000 people lived in the buffer zone of Ke Go Nature Research, spreading across eight communes in the district of Cam Xuyen. While not all residents in these communes were involved in forest extraction activities, people living closer to this Reserve were often actively engaged in forest exploitation. Local people access the outside area of Ke Go Reserve where timber, fuel wood and a variety of non-timber forest products could be harvested. Buffalo and cattle were occasionally grazed as well. While any exploitative extraction of goods from a nature reserve is illegal, rangers primarily focused interdiction efforts on timber, charcoal extraction, and hunting and ignored infractions of other NTFPs or fuel wood harvesting for the most part. Households gain, on average, 20% of their total overall incomes from natural forest exploitation, and 18% of their cash incomes are from forest environmental service.

- **Existing relevant support policies that contribute to enhance the objective of special-use forest**

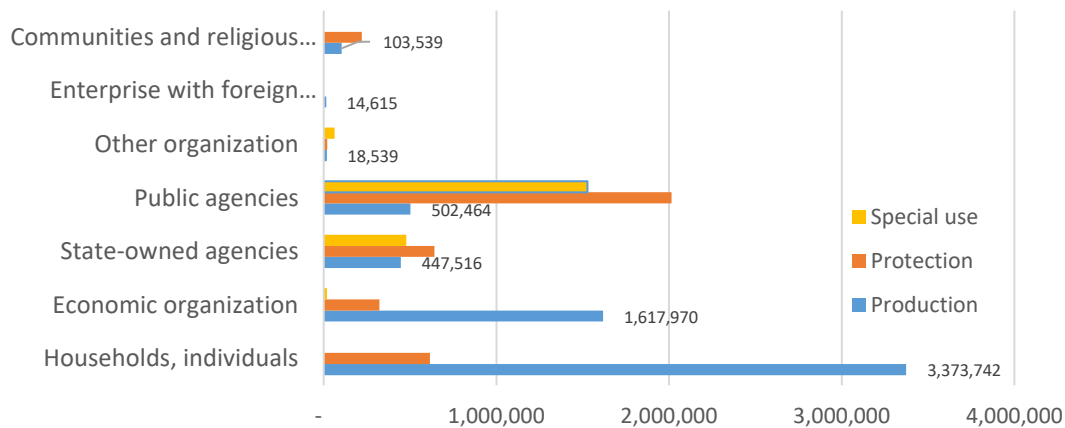
- ***Forest land allocation (FLA)***

Alongside with establishment of special-use forest and protection forest, FLA policy has been practiced to promote long-term forestland ownership and as such improves forest-based livelihoods for those living in or near the forest. FLA is applied to all three types of forest: special-use forest, protection forest, and production forest. Thanks to government's consistent effort and the participation of local people, by 2016, a total of 1.12 million ha of forestland (7.8 % of country's total forest area) has been allocated to communities for their use. A total of 805,559 ha (about 70% of allocated land) has been allocated to 12,095 EM communities. A total of 1.93 million ha (20.4% of country's total forest area) were allocated to individual families. Almost half of it (936,135 ha) were allocated to 439,374 ethnic minority households (about 74% of these HHs have land use right certificate).

Although the impact of the forestland allocation policy is not consistent across the country, it did encourage abandonment of slash and burn practice which was common among EM communities. This also contributes to reduced deforestation and illegal logging, meanwhile preserving the forest ecosystem which helps address the risk of natural disasters such as flash flood, erosion...which is more common recently. Nghi and Xuan (2015) reviewed government's effort in FLA initiative. They found that forestland allocated to households has been effectively used. However, forestland allocation to Forest Companies (FC) were not successful. It is good to note that most of the

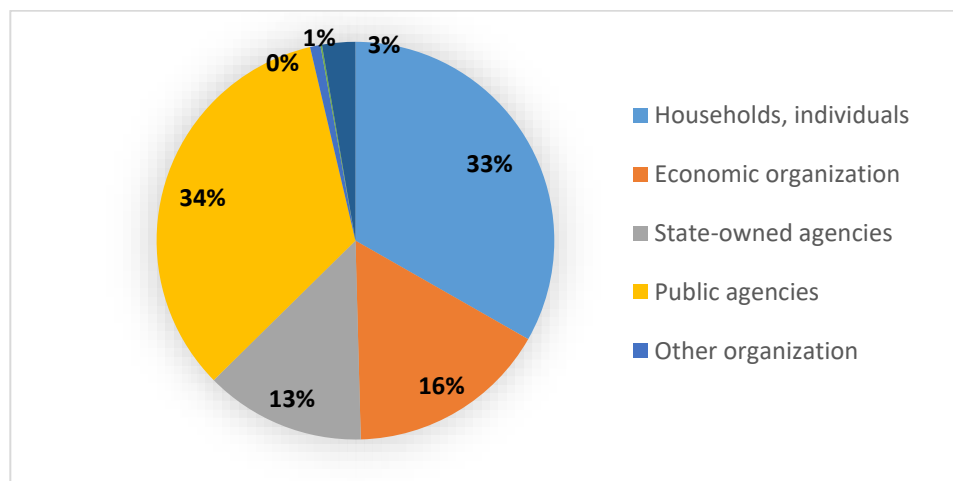
forestland that have been effectively used are allocated to individual households and most of these land are production and protection forestland (See Figure 9 and 10).

Figure 39 – Distribution of land (hectare) by users group



Source: MONRE's Decision 3873/QĐ-BTNMT dated 25 December 2018. Graphed by author

Figure 40 – Distribution of land (in hectare percentage) by users group



Source: MONRE's Decision 3873/QĐ-BTNMT dated 25 December 2018. Graphed by author

This forestland allocation policy has contributed to improving the livelihoods and income of individual, households, and communities, particularly EM peoples. Some studies have indicated that this policy contributed to poverty alleviation and created a positive impact on forest status (Sunderlin & Ba 2005).

○ *Payment for forest environmental service*

Decree No. 99/2010/NĐ-CP regulates that organization and individual households who receive land – either through contract with forest organization or through land use right, are entitled to

payment for forest environmental service by those who use the forest environment service. The payment is made either directly from forest environmental service users, or through the Vietnam Forest Protection and Development Fund. Community who are allocated with land by government are also entitled to this payment.

In a review workshop organized by MARD and GIZ in November 2018, it was reported that 61 special-use forest (out of total 164) have organized ecotourism activities with 1.5 visits by tourists, bringing a turnover of 175 billion VND. Tourists' visits to Phong Nha Ke Bang Nature Reserve alone account for about 30% of total visits in 2018. In 2018, 74 of 165 special-use forest (48%) have paid 336 billion VND as forest environmental service and 154 protection forest management units (59%) have paid 920 billion VND to local households and community for their contribution to forest protection and development.

According to a review by Luong (2018), payment for forest environmental services has contributed to protection of about 5.875 million ha of forest land, providing a turnover of 6,510 billion VND from three groups of service users (hydropower: 97.04%, water supply service: 2.73% and ecotourism: 0.23%). The payment level for people will be increased – as per Decree 147/2016/ND-CP, including income from low carbon market (through UN's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and the voluntary carbon market (VCM).

Nevertheless, according to the WB (2018), while the PFES scheme is generating sizeable funding for forest protection, these payments are not necessarily creating sufficient incentives for behavioral change, both because of the small amounts paid to individual beneficiaries and not all who are involved in land allocation are paid.

- *Co-management*

Given this, in 2003, the Government ratified the Management Strategy for Protected Area System in Vietnam up to 2010. This document mentioned approach of co-management of protected areas as an approach to more effective management that promote participation of local peoples. In 2014, a similar strategy was approved – through Decision 218 (dated 7 Feb 2014) that set targets, among other things, to achieve that all special-use forest will adopt new forest co-management and benefit sharing by 2020. The co-management concept in forestry is not new in Vietnam. However, implementation of co-management still face challenges, particularly in how livelihoods of those depending on forest resources are improved through alternative income generation activities – as an exit option, to reduce their dependence on forest resources. This is even more challenging for the case of ethnic minority where forest is part of their culture.

- *Budget commitment*

To support the livelihood stabilization and development for communes and villages in the buffer zone, Decision 24/2012/QĐ-TTg (dated 1 June 2012) was issued by PM to provide a budget of 5,500 billion VND for infrastructure investment for better management of special-use forests and agricultural extension program that target people in the buffer zone. Specifically, the budget covers both forest management and livelihood stabilization for people in the buffer zone. For the first, this budget allows management board to a) contract¹⁷ local people living in the buffer zone to protect forest allocated to adopt agroforestry on the allocated land, b) procure equipment for forest management, including firefighting equipment, c) surveillance and education of the general public, and d) meeting

¹⁷ Households (who legally reside in the local area, including EM households) are paid with 400,000 VND/ha/year) and receive payment for forest environmental service. They are also be able to collect some secondary forest product, non-timber products, and some others as per regulation.

with communities and local governments for monitoring. To support the livelihood stabilization, an amount of 40 million VND is allocated to each village per year. This is used for agricultural extension activities, provision of seeds and animal, small-scale agro-forestry processing equipment, and infrastructure development such as water supply, lighting, communication, rural road, cultural houses, and other works. The investment will be on the basis of the need of local people which is assessed through meetings with local people (facilitated by village head). With government's committed annual funding for this purpose and funding from local governments, both communities and individual households are encouraged to join in forest management. The funding also enables management board to improve infrastructure to attract ecotourism and to pay participating households for their forest environmental service.

4.4 Project's potential impacts

4.4.1 Positive impacts

Will be overall positive, including (but not limited to) the following key benefits:

At community level:

Knowledge

- **Access to improved sustainable farming knowledge** (climate smart agricultural practices, deforestation free standards, good agricultural practices, GAP Standards).
- **Improved capacity building** (knowledge, management, leadership)

Soil and Landscape

- **Improved soil health, diversified farming and landscapes**, thereby increasing productivity of crops and livestock and promoting integration of environmental management.

Infrastructure

- **Access to infrastructure and facilities** to improve agricultural production efficiency and promote adoption of deforestation free supply chain.

Credit Loan

- **Access to loan** for smallholders those who are willing to adopt climate-smart farming practices.

Income generation and business development opportunities

- **Job opportunities** (on-farm and off-farm) for both men and women,
- **Job and skill development opportunities for youth**, particularly those are disadvantaged, including promotion of agricultural SMEs, on-the-job-training and apprenticeship programme.

Networking

- **Become part of forestry and farmer groups** for mutual support/learning
- **Become part of business partner with private sector**
- **Become part of saving/credit group** for mutual support/business partnership (including MFI/Women development fund, currently in Dak Nong and Ninh Thuan, to be replicated).

Gender equality

- **Improved participation of men and women in project planning, implementation, M&E**

At provincial and national level:

- Mainstream REDD+ into SEDP
- Contribute to emission reductions in the Central Highland and South Central Coast region of Viet Nam (which supports the National REDD+ Action Programme goals).

4.4.2 Adverse impacts and risks

Adverse Social & Environmental Impacts:

Will be minor, localized, limited, manageable and reversible,

- Potential minor temporary environmental impact to due to minor upgrading of **small-scaled irrigation canal, drainage, rural road, power line, access road, production facilities, infrastructure and equipment** for harvesting and post-harvesting, forest protection stations, fire watch tower, pumps, and **other public infrastructure** foreseen under the project.
- Can be avoided or minimized through proper design and construction measures.
- Can be avoided through a) consultation and b) exploring ways to engage EM peoples into project design and implementation, and c) participatory monitoring during project implementation

Social and Environment Risks

- Improper storing, handling, and application of pesticides and other chemical inputs
- Completing demands for scarce water supply with local people
- Contraction of diseases (e.g. HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, other communicable diseases..., COVID-19, due to labor influx)
- Conflicts with local people
- Gender based violence (e.g. verbal and physical abuse, sexual harassment, violence against children...)
- Child labor as a result of construction contractor hiring local EM peoples
- Forced labor
- Unequal access to project benefits/conflicts if eligibility for selection of beneficiaries do not exist, or exist but not well applied
- Possible social exclusion (because of vulnerability, land tenure issues)
- Agricultural competition (markets, value chains...)
- Inflation
- Traffic accidents

Critical to the determination of potential adverse impacts is a gender-sensitive analysis of the relative vulnerability of, and risks to, the affected Indigenous Peoples/ Ethnic Minority communities given their particular circumstances and close ties to land and natural resources, as well as their lack of access to opportunities relative to those available to other social groups in the communities, regions, or national societies in which they live;

4.5 Impacts of climate-related natural hazards and climate change

Vietnam is one the countries in the world that is highly impacted by natural hazards and climate change. According to the WB (2021), Vietnam was ranked 91 out of 191 countries by the 2019 INFORM Risk Index, particularly natural hazards such as droughts, flood, storms, including landslides and epidemics. The mean annual temperature has increased by 0.5°C–0.7°C since 1960, with the most rapid rate particularly in southern part of Vietnam and the Central Highlands. There have been

growing concerns, particularly for Central Highla where key cash crops such as coffee, tea, pepper and rubber are affected because of potential future climate stressors. According to USAID and UNDP (2016), one of the key reasons is the decline in the runoff will adversely affecting crop yields.

Using the panel dataset from the period from 2000 to 2018, Do et al (2021) found that that extreme weather events and climate change have a negative impact on agriculture and fishery activities in the central regions of Vietnam, including Central Highlands. They noted, in particularly, that the central region is the most vulnerable and heavily affected by extreme weather events. This affect both smallholder farmers as well as business activities in agricultural production, such as cultivation and fisheries. They also noted big enterprise are likely to adapt more effectively to the impact of climate change as they are able to apply advanced technologies to actively develop measures to respond to climate change. Although enjoying a good precipitation, strong fluctuation of temperature in Central Highland it tends to increase significantly over time which influenced remarkable agricultural production activities.

Ethnic minorities who are most sensitive to the impact of climate pressures as they face additional challenges to their coping capacity (Nguyen et al 2016). Stakeholder consultations suggest that climate change impacts are already being felt by the farmers, particularly the affects of extreme events and prolonged dryspells. In the absence of irrigation, farmers are dependent on rainfall and often are faced with situations where emerging crops wilt due to lack of rains. In such cases, households often do not have access to seeds for replanting, and hence lose the year's crop making them heavily dependent on wage labour for feeding their families.

4.6 Impacts of the COVID–19 Pandemic

Recent empirical evidence that covers Vietnam, and some other countries, suggested that women's burden across all spheres were not only heavier but are also more dangerous across their life domains. It is envisaged that women will endure a worsening burden until COVID-19 is well under control, and for a long time after. It is estimated that generally, women are 24 percent more likely to permanently lose their job than men. They may expect their income to fall by 50 percent more than men do. As a result, women tend to reduce their current consumption level and increase savings. Women and girls, in particularly, are vulnerable to economic hardship as they are in more precarious employment than men. In addition, they would potentially bear a greater burden of unpaid care work which limits their economic participation, and they suffer increased incidences of gender-based violence during the COVID-19 crisis.

5. MITIGATION MEASURES OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS

5.1 For social risks and impacts:

As mentioned in Chapter 4 (above), the key social risks that are anticipated as a result project activities include:

- Potential contraction of diseases on the part of local EM peoples (e.g. sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS, other communicable diseases..., COVID–19) due to labor influx.
- Potential conflicts with local EM peoples due to construction workers who work and stay near EM communities

- Potential of labor related accidents on the part of EM peoples who are hired by project construction companies to support seasonal works.
- Gender based violence (e.g. verbal and physical abuse, sexual harassment, violence against children...) due to influx of labor.
- Possible social exclusion (because of vulnerability, land tenure issues, disability...)
- Child labor as a result of construction contractor hiring local EM peoples for heavy construction works that is prohibited under the current Code of Labor (2019).
- Forced labor (e.g. coerced to work through the use of violence/ intimidation, or by more subtle means such as manipulated debt, retention of identity papers, or similar threats).
- Lack of contract for EM workers, particularly for seasonal works less than one month's duration.

The above risks are assessed to vary from low to moderate because there is no practical measures that ensure complete avoidance. However, when necessary measures are in place and effectively implemented, the likelihood of these consequences happening is likely to be reduced – to the level that is manageable. The following measures will be carried out under the project.

Potential risks	Measures to be taken to avoid/ minimize such risks
<i>HEALTH AND SAFETY</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contraction of diseases on the part of local EM peoples due to labor influx 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The requirements for contractors to identify Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) risks and provide remedies for non-compliance will be included in all procurement documents of PMU • Awareness raising activities will be conducted regularly – as part of the project's annual Information, Education and Communication program (IEC) (as described in the Section below (Chapter 6).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential conflicts between EM peoples and immigrant workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The requirements for contractors to develop a Code of Conduct when working in EM area, including hiring of local EM peoples will be required in bidding documents. • All workers of project contractors will be trained on this Code of Conduct and will be required to sign in the CoC before starting the work under the project' activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor related accidents on the part of EM peoples who worked for project contracted construction companies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The requirements for contractors to identify Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) risks and provide remedies for non-compliance will be included in all procurement documents of PMU. • All contractors are required to conduct OHS training to raise awareness of OHS and promote application of good OHS practices prior to mobilizing all workers to construction sites. • Where required, based on risk assessment at activity level, contractors will be required to engage qualified OHS staff to be in charge of OHS issues, including provision of training of

Potential risks	Measures to be taken to avoid/ minimize such risks
	workers, monitoring of OHS risks and proposed updated preventative measures
<i>GENDER & EXCLUSION</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender based violence (e.g. verbal and physical abuse, sexual harassment, violence against children...) due to influx of labor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please see Table 5 (below) on measures to minimize risk relate to Gender based violence (including Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and Sexual Harassment).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social exclusion (because of vulnerability, land tenure issues, disability...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of households under this group has been identified in Chapter 4 (Social Assessment/Project stakeholders). During project preparation and project implementation, representatives of households under this group will be consulted to ensure a) they receive socioeconomic benefits from project investment that are culturally appropriate to them, b) are not adversely affected disproportionately if they are potentially affected as a result of any project activities. • To promote the full participation of this group, every effort will be made to consult ethnic groups in their local languages, following FPIC principles (as described in Chapter 5 (above).
<i>LABOR</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child labor (EM people under 18 years of age is hired by project's construction contractor for heavy works prohibited under Code of Labor) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peoples under 18 years of age will not be hired by all project's contractors for construction works. • In all contracts between PMU and contractors, there shall be provisions that require compliance with the minimum age requirements, including penalties for non-compliance. • The contractor will be required to maintain labor registry for all contracted workers with supporting documents confirming the age of workers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forced labor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising activities will be conducted regularly – as part of the project's annual Information, Education and Communication program (IEC) (as described in the Section below (Chapter 6).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of contract for EM workers, particularly for seasonal works less than one month's duration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure seasonal EM workers who work less than one month do not take any risks, particularly risks related to OHS, working condition, and payment, all contractors will be required to sign contracts with all seasonal EM workers as if these EM workers work as workers with more than one month duration. This aims to protect the seasonal EM workers from taking the above mentioned risks as a result of the absence of a working contract.

Table 5 – Actions to be taken to minimize and mitigate GBV risk (including SEA/SH) as part of Gender Action and Social Inclusion Plan (GASIP)

Project Stage	Actions to Address GBV risk (including SEA/SH)	Timing for Action	Who is Responsible for Action	Ongoing Risk Management	Estimate Cost & Budget
PROJECT PREPARATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At project level, social assessment (results reflected in GASAP and IPP) was conducted and SEA/SH risk screened, identified, and key mitigation measures proposed. • Provincial PMUs sensitized on the importance of identifying and addressing SEA/SH risk, proposed mitigation measures, and implementation mechanisms. • GBV risk mainstreamed into Stakeholder Engagement Plan to ensure project affected people and project workers are aware of GBV risk, mitigation measures, including project's level GRM for GBV. 	Project Preparation	IFAD and FAO (as lead) and Provincial PMUs (as supporting)	SEA/SH risks and prevention measures are reflected in project's ESMF, SEP, GASIP and IPP.	IFAD (completed, as part of social assessment)
PROJECT IMPLEMENT	<p><i>At project level</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate GBV (including SEA/SH) into consultation meetings (as part of project's overall Stakeholder Engagement Plan). • Conduct project-level awareness raising campaign, including the participation of local Women's Unions as potential GBV service providers. • Mainstream GBV related information into project's materials (e.g. project booklet and training documents). • Report on GBV incidence status in PPMU's quarterly implementation progress report. • Review annual PPMU's capacity to identify, prevent and respond to SEA/SH risks throughout project cycle. <p><i>For infrastructure scheme</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screen for SEA/SH risk (as part of preparation of site-specific ESMP, and integrate in site-specific ESMPs). • Include provisions related GBV (including SEA/SH) in the bidding documents and Work Contract of the Contractors. Key provisions include: a) zero tolerance for GBV (including SEA/SH), b) awareness raising for workers about GBV/SEA/SH risks, c) Code of Conducts for contractor's workers prepared, understood, and signed by workers prior to mobilization to project site d) Grievance Redress disclosed to contractor's workers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 • Year 1, repeated mid-term. • Quarterly Report submitted to IFAD • Preparation of infrastructure scheme (before civil works). • Prior review of bidding documents and work contract by IFAD procurement team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial PMUs • Provincial PMUs • Provincial PMUs • Provincial PMUs • IFAD project team • Provincial PMUs • Provincial PMUs and Contractors 	Ongoing review during supervision missions, and provide guidance and support as necessary	5,510 USD (project funding)

6. ENHANCING DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

6.1 Capacity Building

Capacity Building: measures to strengthen the social, legal, and technical capabilities of local people.

- (a) Government institutions to address Ethnic Minorities issues in the project area;
- (b) Indigenous Peoples/Ethnic Minority organizations in the project area to enable them to represent the affected Indigenous Peoples/Ethnic Minorities more effectively.

6.2 Community-based natural resource management

In Vietnam, the government ensures that ethnic minority groups and forest-dependent communities are allocated with forests along with productive land for their production. They are also entitled to cooperating and associating with forest owners in forest protection and development, and sharing forest based benefits as well as practicing their culture and beliefs associated with the forest (Article 4, Item 6 of the Law on Forestry (2017)). The law recognized community forest as a type of forest managed by the community. Community forest include religious forest, forest for protecting water source of the community, and production forest.

By 2018, there has been a total of 1,156,714 ha of forest (8% of total forest area) have been allocated to community for their use and management. This total area include 1,051,224 ha of natural forest and 105,490 ha plantation forest (MARD 2019, cited in Nguyen Ba Ngai 2020). With the forest allocation, the community are now responsible for the management of the allocated forest. The project will explore measure to support EM peoples' engagement in the conservation and sustainable management of the natural resources on which they depend.

6.3 Benefit sharing plans

By the time of starting project design, no activities that are related to benefit sharing are anticipated. Upon project design completion, and during project implementation, if there is opportunities for benefit sharing, the potential activities will be subject to FPIC consultation and consent of EM peoples to ensure that the EM peoples can take advantage of project opportunities, particularly in relation to the use of traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices of EM Peoples as traditional knowledge (See Chapter 7 for details).

7. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

7.1 Stakeholder Engagement

7.1.1 During Project Preparation

- ***Objective of Information Disclosure and Meaningful Consultation***

FPIC consultation with EM peoples who are present the project area is an important and an integral part of the stakeholder engagement process. It is essential to informing project design and project implementation. FPIC consultation aimed to provide the affected EM peoples with information about project objective, project's scope of work, project activities, potential social and environmental risks and impacts, and proposed approach to avoiding and managing identified risks and impacts.

To facilitate FPIC consultation, the above project related information have been provided/ disclosed to the potentially affected EM peoples at early stage of project design. Later on, when the design was completed and ready for appraisal, the FPIC consultation with EM peoples were repeated to provide EM peoples with updated project information to provide a basis for the project to solicit their meaningful feedback and incorporate into project design and implementation.

The project information have been presented in a manner that is culturally appropriate to the consulted EM people, including forms of presentation, and use of local languages, to collect their meaningful feedback. Sufficient time have be arranged – between early stage of project design and design completion, and open channel for two–way communication, to allow EM sufficient time to understand about the project, and its environmental and social risks and impacts, and provide feedback as they wish throughout project cycle. It is noted that during the project design, FPIC consultation has been organized amidst the remerging wave of COVID–19 which is widespread and more serious than the first four waves in Vietnam. This has affected remarkably to the organization as well as progress of the entire FPIC consultation. However, effort has been made to ensure affected EM peoples, particularly those who are potentially adversely affected as a result of the project are consulted in a FPIC manner before any activities that potentially adversely affect them are carried out.

Key EM's comments on the environmental and social risks and impacts

The consulted EM people were informed of the key environmental and social risks and impacts. They supported project implementation given the overall project benefits and expect identified risks and impacts are effectively managed during project implementation.

7.1.2 During Project Implementation

- **Participatory Planning**

Participatory Perspective Landuse Planning and Mapping mandatory for each project village/commune during Annual Planning will be adopted and revisited each year. EM participation must be at least 60-70%.

- **Consultation amid COVID-19**

Methods that will be used to carry out consultation contribute directly to consolation outcome. During project implementation, main methods to be applied for consultation under the project will include face-to-face and virtual format. Face-to-face format including public meetings, focus group discussion, key informant interview will be used. However, when social gathering is restricted due to COVID-19, virtual consultation will be applied. When this is the case, consultation will be conducted online, and will be maintained throughout project circle as an alternative means of two-way communication in the situation of COVID-19. During COVID circumstances, online consultation will be prioritized for adversely affected groups, including disadvantaged/vulnerable group, and other key stakeholders such as governmental agencies, NGOs, service providers, and the general public, etc. Telephone interview will be used as an additional channel where affected group do not have access to social media and necessary device for online consultation.

- **FPIC and Consultation Framework**

This section describes the mechanism the project will use FPIC consultation is conducted with EM peoples during project implementation and to ensure the full participation in EM peoples in the process of planning for activities that potentially adversely affect them, if any. This mechanism

involves the process of selecting project activities, screening for the need to seek the Free, Prior, Informed Consent for specific circumstances, a framework for carrying out FPIC consultation process and for obtain Free, Prior, Informed Consent from EM potentially affected under project activities. It also set forth principles to manage adverse impact as well as compensation that should be made, and other benefit sharing measures that should be taken to ensure that the consent of the affected EM peoples is sought, and EM people receive socioeconomic benefits as a result of the project.

Selection of project activities

Selection of project activities and detailed design for such sub-projects will be done in consultation with local people. Screening will be carried out against IFAD's SECAP (2017) and [Policy on engagement with Indigenous Peoples](#) and GCF's [Indigenous Peoples Policy](#) and ESS. DARD and IFAD are responsible for ensuring that screening of sub-projects and public disclosure of related documents prepared for activities, such as ES documents, will be disclosed in a manner that is appropriately culturally to local people, including EM peoples.

Screening for FPIC

During project design, Environmental and Social screening was carried out using IFAD's SECAP (2017) and GCF's ESS and IPP. During project implementation, IFAD's SECAP (2017) and [Policy on engagement with Indigenous Peoples](#) and GCF's ESS and Indigenous Peoples Policy will continue to be applied to all project activities to be identified/confirmed throughout project implementation.⁵

During the screening process of identified project activities, each activity will be assessed to identify whether the project activity may potentially result in adverse impact to EM people present in the area of influence of such project activities. Particular attention will be given to screening to identify whether Free, Prior, and Informed Consent needs to be obtained from adversely affected people. The checklist below will be used for screening for the need for FPIC Consent. If any of question is answered "Yes", it is likely that the project need to obtain FPIC Consent from the people potentially affected by such project activities.

Checklists for appraising whether an activity may require an FPIC process (partial listing)

QUESTIONS	Yes/ No
1. Impacts on lands and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use	
2. Will the activity involve the relocation/resettlement/removal of an indigenous population from their lands?	
3. Will the activity involve the taking, confiscation, removal or damage of cultural, intellectual, religious and/or spiritual property from indigenous peoples / forest-dependent community?	
4. Will the activity adopt or implement any legislative or administrative measures that will affect the rights, lands, territories and/or resources of indigenous peoples / forest-dependent community (e.g. in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources)?	
5. Will the activity involve mining and oil and/or gas operations (extraction of subsurface resources) on the lands/territories of indigenous peoples / forest-dependent community?	

6. Will the activity involve logging on the lands/territories of indigenous peoples / forest-dependent community?	
7. Will the activity involve the development of agro-industrial plantations on the lands/territories of indigenous peoples / forest-dependent community?	
8. Will the activity involve any decisions that will affect the status of indigenous peoples' / forest-dependent community's rights to their lands/territories or resources? (In particular, adversely affect access to land resources and security of tenure)	
9. Will the activity involve the accessing of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices ¹⁸ of indigenous and local communities? (Have adequate safeguards to protect knowledge rights of indigenous and local communities been put in place?)	
10. Will the activity involve making commercial use of natural and/or cultural resources on lands subject to traditional ownership and/ or under customary use by indigenous peoples / forest-dependent community? (Have benefit sharing with EMs being put in place?)	
11. Will the activity involve decisions regarding benefit-sharing arrangements, when benefits are derived from the lands/territories/ resources of indigenous peoples / forest-dependent community?	
12. Will the activity have an impact on the continuance of the relationship of the indigenous peoples/forest dependent community with their land or their culture?	
13. Will the activity affect indigenous peoples' political, legal, economic, social, or cultural institutions and/or practices?	

If any of the above question have a “Yes” answer, additional information need to be collected for further analysis to identify if the proposed project activities would potentially affect adversely the ethnic minorities. If the analysis results, combined with the FPIC consultation and participation of potentially affected ethnic minorities, indicate that the ethnic minorities will be directly and adversely affected, provincial DARD must carry out necessary preparation to obtain the consent of the affected ethnic minorities for the activities that potentially affect the ethnic minorities. FPIC obtained from Ethnic Minorities will be paid special attention so it remains free from potential pressuring / coercion by any external actor (including provincial DARDs or other stakeholders) due to unequal power dynamic. FPIC processes will engage third-party independent facilitators for FPIC consultations on a regular basis. [IFAD has extensive experience supporting Indigenous consultants who engage in leading FPIC processes](#) as thrid parties, helping with a better understanding of the local contexts and developing FPIC process that are culturally relevant and promote full and effective participation.

Process of Achieving Free, Prior and Informed Consent

It is noted that FPIC applies to project design, implementation, and expected outcomes related to impacts that affect the communities of ethnic minority peoples.

¹⁸ Relevant to [Article 8\(j\) - Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices](#) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the [Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing](#).

In the process of achieving FPIC of affected EM, DARD should take the followings into account:

- **Location of EM leaders and decision making bodies.** Be aware of the location(s) of the EM formal and/or informal leaders and decision-making bodies of the affected EM communities who may be located outside of project area of influence that is defined by the project environmental and social risks and impacts assessment process.
- **Representativeness.** Assess issues related to governance, leadership and representativeness that EM communities may be affected. This aims to inform the engagement and negotiation process. Where administrative and traditional systems recognize different leaders, where leadership is known to be highly politicized and/or only marginally representative of the affected population or if there are multiple groups representing different interests, FPIC should rely on identification, recognition and engagement of greater numbers or representativeness of stakeholder sub-groups;
- **Conflicts.** Assess the occurrence of conflict—whether past or present—within the affected EM communities, or between the affected EM communities and other stakeholders (e.g., non-EM, private companies, and/or the government) should be assessed in terms of the nature of the conflict, the different interest groups and the Affected Communities’ approaches to conflict management and resolution mechanisms;
- **Be aware that the role, responsibilities and participation of external stakeholders** may have vested interests in the outcome; and
- **Possibility of unacceptable practices**, such as bribery, corruption, harassment, violence, and coercion) by any of the interested stakeholders within and/or outside the affected EM communities.
- **Capacity of the affected EM communities.** DARD should approach the achievement of FPIC from a development perspective that prioritizes sustainability of development activities implemented with the affected EM communities. The FPIC process may require investment in building relevant institutions, and decision-making processes.
- **FPIC shall be established through a process of Good Faith Negotiation (GFN)** between DARD and the affected EM communities.
- **If the GFN is successful,** DARD need to make an agreement that document the roles and responsibilities of both parties and specific commitments. This may include:
 - ✓ agreed engagement and consultation process;
 - ✓ environmental, social and cultural impact management (including land and resource management);
 - ✓ compensation and disbursement framework or arrangements;
 - ✓ employment and contracting opportunities;
 - ✓ governance arrangements;
 - ✓ other commitments such as those pertaining to continued access to lands, contribution to development, etc.
 - ✓ agreed implementation/delivery mechanisms to meet each party’s commitments. The agreement between parties should include requirements to develop time-bound implementation plans such as implementation of development activities set forth in this IPP, or implementation of additional development activities that target the affected EM communities as part of agreement between DARD and the affected EM communities.

Note. Impacts on vulnerable groups within the affected EM communities should be adequately addressed during negotiation, and in relevant documentation.

Outcome of Achieving Free, Prior and Informed Consent

- Documentation of the agreement should include evidence of support from the affected EM communities. In particular, DARD need to document (i) the mutually accepted engagement and negotiation process between the client and affected EM communities; and (ii) evidence of agreement between the parties regarding the outcome of the negotiations. The Participatory Perspective Land Use Map would be a concrete evidence of the FPIC process and hence should be mandated for all cases.
- In the event where either appropriate engagement process or agreement cannot be achieved, third party advice and mediation could be considered.
- FPIC entails consent for specific project activities, impacts and mitigation measures – as anticipated at the time the consent is given.
- The agreement achieved should be valid for the duration of the project.
- Implementation of IPP or similar action plans (as agreed in the agreement) should be monitored.
- Be flexible and adapting these actions as needed if circumstances change while maintaining the overall principles, commitments, and mutual accountabilities set forth in the agreement.

Note. The FPIC process and outcome do not require unanimous support from all members of affected EM communities. FPIC should be viewed as a process that both allows and facilitates affected EM communities to build and agree upon a collective position in relation to the project activities in question.

Circumstances Requiring Free, Prior, and Informed Consent

- **Impacts on Lands and Natural Resources Subject to Traditional Ownership or Under Customary Use or occupation**

At the design stage, the project does not plan, and do not anticipate to finance any project activities are located on, or develop natural resources commercially on lands traditionally owned by, or under the customary use of EM peoples, and adverse impacts, including loss of access to assets or resources, or restrictions on land use, can be expected. However, during project implementation, if this become a case, DARD is required to take the following steps and seek the free, prior and informed consent of the affected EM peoples and updated this IPP and stakeholder engagement plan:

- Document efforts to avoid and otherwise minimize the area of land subject to traditional ownership, use, or occupation proposed for the activities;
- Document efforts to avoid and otherwise minimize impacts on natural resources subject to traditional ownership, use, or occupation;
- Identify and review all property interests, tenure arrangements and traditional resource usage prior to purchasing, leasing, or, as a last resort, undertaking land acquisition;
- Assess and document indigenous peoples' land and resource use without negatively affecting any indigenous peoples' land claims. The assessment of land and natural resource

- use will be gender inclusive and specifically consider women's roles in the management and use of these resources;
- Ensure that affected indigenous peoples are informed of and understand: (i) their land rights under applicable law and obligations of the state directly applicable to the activities under relevant international treaties and agreements; (ii) the scope and nature of the activities proposed for GCF-financing; and (iii) the potential impacts of the activities proposed for GCF-financing; and
 - Where the activities promote commercial development of their land or natural resources, afford due process and offer compensation together with culturally appropriate sustainable development opportunities to indigenous peoples at least equivalent to that to which any landowner with full legal title to the land would be entitled, including:
 - (i) Providing fair lease arrangements or, where land acquisition is necessary and unavoidable, providing land-based compensation that is comparable to the land acquired from the indigenous peoples or compensation in kind in lieu of cash compensation where feasible. The amount and quality of the compensation will be coordinated with, consulted on and consented to by the indigenous peoples;
 - (ii) Ensuring continued access to natural resources, identifying the equivalent replacement resources, or, as a last option, providing compensation and identifying alternative livelihoods if project development results in the loss of access to or the loss of natural resources independent of project land acquisition;
 - (iii) Enabling indigenous peoples to share equitably in the benefits to be derived from the commercial development of the land or natural resources where the entity intends to utilize land or natural resources; and
 - (iv) Providing affected indigenous peoples with access, usage and transit on land the GCF-financed activities are developing.

It is noted that in the event where the risks and impacts in the project's area of influence resulting from a third-party's action (e.g. under a deforestation free value chain...), DARD will need to address those risks and impacts in a manner commensurate with DARD's control and influence over the third parties, and with due regard to conflict of interest.

- **Relocation of Indigenous Peoples from Lands and Natural Resources Subject to Traditional Ownership or Under Customary Use**

This project will not finance any project activities that involve physical relocation of EM peoples. This requirement is mentioned in the Exclusion List in the project's Environmental and Social Management Framework (please see ESFM for details).

- **Critical Cultural Heritage**

If the project proposes to use the cultural heritage including knowledge, innovations, or practices of EM Peoples for commercial purposes, DARD will inform the affected EM communities of

- (i) their rights under national law;
- (ii) the scope and nature of the proposed commercial development;
- (iii) the potential consequences of such development; and (iv) obtain their FPIC. DARD will also ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits from commercialization of such

knowledge, innovation, or practice, consistent with the customs and traditions of the affected EM communities.

Knowledge, innovations, and practices of EM Peoples as traditional knowledge

Knowledge, innovations, and practices of EM Peoples are referred to as traditional knowledge and include expressions of folklore or traditional cultural expressions. Such knowledge is referred to as intangible cultural heritage. DARDs should comply with applicable national laws, if any, regarding their use of knowledge, innovation or practices of Indigenous Peoples for commercial purposes.

If the project proposes to exploit and develop intangible cultural heritage including knowledge, innovations, or practices of the EM Peoples, DARD should

- (i) investigate whether the indigenous cultural heritage is held individually or collectively prior to entering into any agreements with local indigenous holder(s) of the cultural heritage;
- (ii) obtain the informed consent of the indigenous cultural heritage holder(s) for its use; and share the benefits accruing from such use as appropriate with the Affected Communities of Indigenous Peoples.

The client should use expert and unbiased information in seeking the FPIC of indigenous holders of cultural heritage, even if ownership of the item is in dispute. The client should document the FPIC of the affected Indigenous Peoples' communities for the proposed commercial development, in addition to any requirements pursuant to national law. Where benefit sharing is envisioned, benefits should be determined on mutually agreed terms as part of the process of securing FPIC. Benefits may include, for example, development benefits in the form of employment, vocational training, and benefits pursuant to community development and similar programs as well as from the making, marketing and licensing of some forms of traditional cultural expression. DARD should be mindful of specific consent requirements under the relevant international conventions or national law, and may have to address identified gaps, if any.

DARD should be aware that use of indigenous names, photographs, and other items depicting them and the environment in which they live can be sensitive. The client should assess local norms and preferences, and consult with the relevant communities before using such items even for such purposes as naming project sites or pieces of equipment.

Note. DARD should refer to similar requirements and guidance available in IFC's Performance Standard 8 (Cultural Heritage) and Guidance Note 8 (Cultural Heritage) with respect to the cultural heritage of communities other than those of EM Peoples.

Commercial use of genetic resources

For commercial use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge of indigenous or traditional communities, please read the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) in which women's vital role in preserving and managing biological diversity is also mentioned. Useful guidance in this area include the [Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of their Utilization](#) and the [Akwé: Kon Guidelines](#) and the [Tkarihwaï:ri Code of Ethical Conduct to Ensure Respect for the Cultural and Intellectual Heritage of Indigenous and Local Communities](#) (issued under the Convention on Biological Diversity).

Mitigation and Development Benefits

DARD and the affected EM communities will identify mitigation measures in alignment with the mitigation hierarchy described in IFC Performance Standard 1 (Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts) as well as opportunities for culturally appropriate and sustainable development benefits. The client will ensure the timely and equitable delivery of agreed measures to the affected EM communities.

DARD will adopt a mitigation hierarchy to anticipate and avoid, or where avoidance is not possible, minimize, or compensate/offset for risks and impacts to affected communities and environment, as follows:

- **Avoidance** requires the client to identify and, where available and technically and financially feasible, make changes to the project's design (or potential location) to avoid adverse risks and impacts on social and/or environmental features. Avoidance is considered to be the most acceptable form of mitigation.
- **Minimization**: where avoidance is not possible, adverse impacts and risks can be minimized through environmental and social measures/treatments/design. Acceptable options to minimize will vary and include: abate, rectify, repair, and/or restore impacts, as appropriate.
- **Compensation/Offset**: where avoidance or minimization measures are not available, it may be appropriate to design and implement measures that compensate/offset for residual risks and impacts. It should be noted that these measures do not eliminate the identified adverse risks and impacts, but they seek to offset it with an (at least) comparable positive one.

The determination, delivery, and distribution of compensation and other benefit sharing measures to the affected EM Peoples will take account of the laws, institutions, and customs of these communities as well as their level of interaction with mainstream society.

Various factors including, but not limited to, the nature of the project, the project context and the vulnerability of the affected EM Peoples will determine how these communities should benefit from the project. Identified opportunities should aim to address the goals and preferences of the Indigenous Peoples including improving their standard of living and livelihoods in a culturally appropriate manner, and to foster the long-term sustainability of the natural resources on which they depend.

8. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT

This section describes how the IPP was developed, and proposes how IPP can be done during the project implementation process. It also describes institutional arrangement and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders who take the lead role in carrying out activities set forth in the IPP, and describes the process of including relevant local organizations and/or NGOs in jointly carrying out activities of the IPP.

8.1 Implementation Analysis

8.1.1 Barriers and Needs

In this section, based on a) secondary data review and reports, b) social assessment and gender assessment carried out for the project, barriers to participation of EM for effective IPP

implementation are summarized. The needs and priorities of EM peoples are also identified to serve the basis for proposed development activities.

Table 6 – Barriers/Needs and Proposed Actions

Barriers and Needs (faced by smallholder farmers of ethnic minorities in project provinces)	Proposed actions/ activities to be carried out under RECAF project
<p>Culture, Norms, Customs and Habits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Languages Nationally, 53 EM groups have their own EM language, of which 32 groups have their own written language. In the project area, all EM groups also have their own languages. Even though young EM people can speak and write Vietnamese, their daily spoken language is their mother language (e.g. J'rai, Ede, Ba Na, K'ho, Raglay, Cham ...). Farming practices Changing a farming practice, from an existing tradition (e.g. swidden farming, a particularly technique that is deep rooted) takes time. In addition, adopting a new farming technique (e.g. climate smart technologies, pest management...) may require both husband and wife to learn and agree on applying the new techniques. Some techniques may require additional labor and time, which EM learner cannot meet at once. <p>Therefore, training events should be followed with technical support, hands-on guidance in the field (e.g. demonstration site, on-field workshop during cropping season/harvest) to draw lessons learned and promote interest of the trained and EM neighbors to trial out the new techniques/technologies. Participants in stakeholder meetings also expressed the lack of adequate sensitization and awareness raising on new technologies thus hampering the adoption of such technologies and</p>	<p>It is important that local EM language be used, whenever possible, in meetings, workshops, trainings, etc. where all participants are from the same EM group. Where written language is available (such as Ede, Ba na, Hoa, K'ho, Gia Rai, Mnông, Cơ Tu, Khmer, Tày, Mạ, Mông, Chăm), written language should be used, particularly for simple training, and for project's leaflets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension agencies must make special efforts to sensitise farmers on the use and benefits of new technologies being introduced so that farmers are well informed about benefits, use and apply new technologies. This is critical to enhancing widespread adoption of improved technologies. Trainings (agricultural extension...) will be organized by EM group so that their own language can be used (through trainer/facilitator of their own language, or interpreter). The need for use of EM languages need will be assessed for each target EM groups – well in advance to allow sufficient time for training preparation. Where possible, training and extension materials will be summarized (important dot points) in EM's own written language for their use after the training, and for sharing with other EM members who did not have chance to come to training/meetings. <p>Training will be organized, and supported with follow-up technical support to promote application of the new knowledge, using the following key steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training needs assessment Preparation of training materials (including in EM language, leaflet in EM language...) Deliver training + post-training evaluation Set up demonstration sites (using farm of a trainee) Organize on-field training (where possible using Farmers Field School) to promote real-time and visual effect – through observation of standing crop) Provide additional technical support for trained farmers to promote trial of new technology

Barriers and Needs (faced by smallholder farmers of ethnic minorities in project provinces)	Proposed actions/ activities to be carried out under RECAF project
practices. This hampers widespread adoption of new technologies, limiting their uptake and affecting improvements in agricultural productivity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the process to assist farmers to move on – from learning, trial, to early stage of adoption and full adoption.
Assets for Livelihoods (land, equipment...). EM peoples, in general, have limited access to productive assets, such as productive land, and equipment. Secondary data indicated that EM peoples still face lack of productive land, particularly in Dak Lak and Lam Dong. This is further exacerbated by the lack of labor (both domestic and external) to expand area for productive land – through rental, for instance.	Forest land allocation Allocation of land under commune PC's management will be piloted. However, it is important that that economic opportunities needs to be available and EM households are willing to take. If these two conditions are met, EM people are likely to take on these chance through project's activities, including attending extension training, apply loans, and participate in value chain with private sector for gradually improving their income and expanding their production – through renting more productive land and labor.
Lack of security of tenure, particularly in forest lands Access to the upland fields and their present management raise several concerns, primarily in regard to access to these plots and the lack of tenurial security for the farming households, especially for those belonging to the ethnic minorities. Upland plots have been established in land that fall under different forest land use categories ¹⁹ : these plots have been established in degraded forest land or along the fringes of 'protected forests'; in some cases, they may have also been established on the fringes of 'special use forests'. In all cases, these are officially on forest land and in the absence of a formal forest allocation ²⁰ and land certificate, regarded as encroachments and hence, illegal occupations, and the farming household as encroachers. To discourage the practice, encroached plots are often recovered by the concerned agency and the farming household displaced from the plot. This situation is common across provinces and is of major concern both to the communities as well as the government agencies.	<p>As a first step and a core activity of the Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) process, a Participatory Land Use Planning and Mapping (PLuPM) should be mandated for all activities. The PLuPM approach not only facilitates a participatory planning for effective resource management safeguarding ecosystem services at the landscape level, it also helps to enhance transparency and thereby, trust among the different actors. As the PLuPM exercise is based on RS imageries, it helps lay the foundation for developing evidence and a framework for formalizing tenurial claims to land. The PLuPM can contribute in ensuring inclusion of disadvantaged and marginalized households and communities and thereby, help achieve outcomes highlighted in the IP Policies of both GCF and IFAD. The exercise should be incorporated into the Project Implementation Manual and mandated at the beginning of the implementation planning cycle in each commune/village with regular revisits each year during the preparation of Annual Plans.</p> <p>Additionally, all land-based interventions on forest land supported by the project must ensure that security of tenure is assured and steps taken for the formal allocation of such land and issuance of Land Use Right Certificates. In cases where permanent Land Use Right Certificates cannot be accorded, long-term lease (of a minimum of 30 years) should be ensured. Findings from the household surveys conducted</p>

¹⁹ Including production forest land, protection forest land, and special use forest land.

²⁰ Albeit they can continue using the land as they are.

Barriers and Needs (faced by smallholder farmers of ethnic minorities in project provinces)	Proposed actions/ activities to be carried out under RECAF project
<p>Labor forces (domestic and outside)</p> <p>At household level, the average household size generally decreases for all regions of the country over the period 2009-2019. The household size for Central Highland decreased from 4.1 (in 2009) to 3.7 (2019), according to GSO's 2019 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census. This result in the lack of domestic labor that potentially affect the agricultural expansion at household level if family does not resort to external labour force – through labour hiring.</p> <p>At community level, the self-employment farm labor forces in Central Highland slowly goes down over the past ten years (2009-2019) whereas self-employment non-farm labor forces slightly increase for the same period. However, self-employment remain higher among ethnic minorities compared to Kinh. 80 percent of ethnic minority women at the working age are in agricultural self-employment (either as own-account workers or unpaid family workers) compared to only 38 per cent of Kinh and Chinese women (Rodgers 2015). This pattern applies the same to men from EM and Kinh.</p>	<p>in the project districts suggest that security of tenure (land ownership) is critical for ensuring income enhancement.</p> <p>Preparing labour force from refined labour division at home</p> <p>The slight shift of labour force from self-employment to non-self-employment suggest a trend that people are moving to jobs that secure their income, which is not necessary higher but regular compared to farming which is precarious in the context of uncertain climate conditions and weather extremes such as flooding, drought, exacerbated by flooding due to water discharge from hydropower plants (11 existing major plants and more than 250 smaller plants under way). Given limited household labor, seeking out labor in the neighbourhood is also challenging, particularly when daily labor pay is low compared pay rate in other sector such as services (non-farm self-employment).</p> <p>As the first start at households level, domestic division of labor may need some adjustment thereby women are more involved in paid work than unpaid home chore). Women participation in home paid labor force also add not only labor but also synergy that can boost production at home. This is an important start for households to prepare themselves (labor division, knowledge, loan, etc.) before they are ready to join the private-public partnership for deforestation free value chain and other relevant chain for their key commodities.</p> <p>Labor Exchange</p> <p>Current labor exchange among a small group (2-3 households) are still dominant. This practice should be leveraged to overcome the potential lack of labor when project interventions are unfold and upscale that require farming intensification such as soil preparation, crop care, harvesting, etc.</p> <p>Mechanisation</p> <p>Where possible, mechanisation should be promoted to overcome the lack of labor and allow consistent quality output of certain stages over crop cycle. Use of ploughing machine, seed spreader, tractors are important to leverage the labor shortage meanwhile saving cost if adopted for a larger group of households.</p>
<p>Gender Roles (Intra-household)</p> <p>There is a long-standing labour division about men and women in a family. Men will undertake heavy works and socialize whereas women undertake light work and are more home based. This pattern appears to be the</p>	<p>Gender equality campaigns for awareness raising, changes of attitude and practices</p> <p>The project will conduct the following steps to gradually promote the participation of women in economic activities:</p>

Barriers and Needs (faced by smallholder farmers of ethnic minorities in project provinces)	Proposed actions/ activities to be carried out under RECAF project
<p>same for both Kinh and EM groups despite, including EM groups who adopt matriarchal system thereby a number of family decisions are still dominant by women. With the existing labor arrangement, it would be challenging for women to join economic activities to contribute to household's income generation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare IEC materials (leaflet, training materials that promote gender equality through equal economic participation) • Conduct annual IEC program, workshops, to raise awareness of the community in terms of the role and potential of women in improving economic situation of households. • Involve mass organizations, including Farmers Association, Women' Union, particularly Youth Union, to get the message across. • Organize contests on knowledge on gender equality, and sharing success story of the women's improving economic activities, including story about husband sharing household chore to enable his wife to join him in family's income generation activities (e.g. farming, non-farm business...) • Loan application process requires signature of both wife and husband, with written commitment of husband sharing chore works to enable his wife time for income generation activities and effective loan use
<p>Access to loan</p> <p>The government has a special loan program for EM through the country. The Bank for Social Policy is in charge of offering loan to EM peoples. Although EM have loan access, common difficulties is to use loan effectively. There is a lack of an integral component to the ongoing loan that assist EM in setting up and run a business for those who can create job opportunities for local EM in their area. A critical barrier in this regard is the inability of many EM households to provide land as a collateral. In the absence of a land user right certificate, poor households are ineligible for loans from formal financial institutions. Even for those households who do have land certificates, their credit rating is deemed to be poor by lending institutions depriving them of avenues for sourcing capital for investments that could help them improve their agricultural pursuits, initiate agricultural enterprises and thus, enhance incomes. Combined, these factors perpetuate poverty for the households and most households seem caught in a debt trap.</p>	<p>Customized Pro-Poor Loan</p> <p>To ensure effective loan use, it's important that loan be provided based on crop cycle. This allows loan borrower to access the right amount of loan timely to make timely investment in the crop. Example include loans for investment in agricultural inputs such as seeds, trees, fertilizers, pesticide, etc. Loan group may be based on group that adopt labor exchange to build on existing strong bonding social capital. Loan should target long-term plan including agroforestry, particularly those who are allocated with forest land that need intensive and investment in the first few years of the crop cycle. Further, lending institutions must also explore the possibility of designing loan instruments that do not require land as a collateral but explore the possibility of accepting group guarantee as an alternative option.</p> <p>Roll-out <i>Start and Improve Your Business</i> training program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leverage on-going loan program initiated by IFAD. • To enhance the effectiveness of loan use on the part of EM and Kinh loan users, an add-on training program will be developed to enable EM and Kinh people who have loan access learn basic principles of loan management and use to develop better the business to which their loan is associated.

Barriers and Needs (faced by smallholder farmers of ethnic minorities in project provinces)	Proposed actions/ activities to be carried out under RECAF project
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the past ten years, ILO has developed a specialised business skill training (known as Start and Improve Your Business). The project will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Invite master trainers certified by ILO to develop a start your business training program to target two key groups: 1) those who have attended project trainings (climate smart) but have not yet loan access, and 2) those who are having loan access and plan to participate in project's value chain. The program will have a version for women that focus on loan use/management and business development, focusing on 4P (Product, Place, Price, and Promotion).
Market Linkages (value chains)	Participation in select value chain through contract farming to join high end market With the above preparation in place, following activities will be promoted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good, trained farming households will be invited to join commodity specific value chain initiated and led by project's 4P Close monitoring of household production will be done to build good reputation for both farmers and private sectors in the value chain.
Inadequate attention and lack of support and promotion of local niche products While value chains for cash crops such as coffee, pepper, cashew, rubber and fruits are fairly well developed, location-based practices and products suggest opportunities for the development of niche products which can provide comparative advantages to communes. Several of the products and practices qualify for zero deforestation/deforestation free value chains, and are based on existing practices carried out by ethnic minorities. Some of these, such as wild honey, are already identified as an 'One Commune, One Product' or OCOP product. Bamboo shoot and rattan processing, weaving, basketry and wickerworks, wild medicinal herbs, particularly ginseng, natural dyes and weaving offer opportunities for developing niche products which can claim zero deforestation and 'heritage' tags, thus opening up market opportunities with comparative advantages which can bring satisfactory returns.	<p>Given the potential of 'unharnessed' promising products and value chains, it would be advisable for the project to commission a few short research studies to document wild edibles, animal produces and herbal medicines that are available in the project districts, together with the range of local/indigenous knowledge associated with their cultivation/rearing as well as their traditional use. Simultaneously studies should also be commissioned to assess the market demand and potential for such products and explore existing value chains, if any. Such studies will lay the foundation for developing new products and value chains which can add to the existing portfolio of deforestation free or zero deforestation value chains the project would like to promote.</p> <p>Drawing from the stakeholder consultations, promising options (activities/products already being practiced or available in communes) fall under three categories – (i) forest based NTFPs (ii) wild edibles and animal products and (iii) handloom/handicraft based. These under-utilised value chain options can be developed subsequent to rapid appraisals or short research studies commissioned in the first year, involving national universities and international research organisations.</p>

Barriers and Needs (faced by smallholder farmers of ethnic minorities in project provinces)	Proposed actions/ activities to be carried out under RECAF project
	<p>Under the forest based NTFPs, herbal medicinal plants, including ginseng, rattan, bamboo shoots and other products, broomsticks, wild honey and dye plants are potential products/value chains that can be explored for further development. It must be cautioned that presently the usage/knowledge may be confined to pockets and not widespread. Efforts will therefore be required to (i) deepen the knowledge and understanding (ii) develop sufficient volume for short-listed, promising products (and ensure high quality products), and (ii) establish a steady market. However, given the high potential and niche value of some of these products, they offer potential to develop into high value products with a strong comparative advantage for the producers and therefore, merit investment from the project. The menu of options under the second category – wild edibles and animal products – is fairly broad. In addition to wild edible plants (used as wild vegetables and herbs), participants across communes indicated the harvesting of wild insects, fishes, crabs, frogs and molluscs. With the exception of wild insects, the rearing of crabs, frogs, molluscs and fishes offer opportunities for Common Interest Groups or even individual households to develop such activities for supplementing diet and incomes. It must be pointed out that such value chains if developed, should aim at local markets or, at best, super market chains in the cities. These value chains may require robust technical backstopping, quality control and promotion initially, but with small investments can provide attractive returns to practicing households and communes (as an example, participants informed that fish sold at 80,000 VND/kg, snails at 30,000 VND/kg and tadpoles at 100,000 VND/kg compared to 5,000 VND/kg of rice). Importantly, promotion of these value chains will foster stakes for conserving and managing local aquatic bodies and can add value to the maintenance of ecosystem services. More importantly, they can also help in dietary diversification and thereby, in improving nutrition of the household.</p> <p>Developing value chain options under the third category - handloom and handicraft based – draws on existing practice of basketry, wickerworks and weaving practiced by some households. Both basketry and wickerwork draw on bamboo and rattan which are fairly common in the forest fringes in several locations. These can be further developed by encouraging the introduction of rattan and bamboo plantations or encouraging these plants as border fencing in cash crop plantations or production forests. Both bamboo and rattan are fast growing and thus could also contribute substantially to meeting the target of C-sequestration</p>

Barriers and Needs (faced by smallholder farmers of ethnic minorities in project provinces)	Proposed actions/ activities to be carried out under RECAF project
	<p>envisaged under the project. Capacity building in regard to improved practices, diversifying and improving designs and products will be required as will concerted efforts for promotion and marketing of products.</p> <p>Weaving is still practiced by a handful of households in selected communes. With distinct colours and patterns unique to individual ethnic minority groups, opportunities abound to develop handloom products that can be diversified in design, shapes and end products to meet demands in markets within the country and abroad. Together with basketry and wickerwork, weaving offers excellent opportunities for enhancing incomes for women and thereby, can also contribute to women's empowerment. In addition, a complimentary and extremely promising option is the development of natural dyes. Although the knowledge and practice of dye plant cultivation is on the wane, some communes still retain the knowledge and indicated that dye plants are fairly easy to cultivate. Efforts must be made to (i) document such knowledge, (ii) encourage the establishment of nurseries/demonstration plots of such dye resources (iii) encourage the promotion of dye extraction and use among rural youth and (iv) with the gradual development of such 'repositories' and cultivation, explore promising partnerships with garment/handloom enterprises to open up markets. Opportunities should be explored for capacity improvement and diversification of designs and products in this sector.</p> <p>Sericulture and beekeeping are practiced by households in some communes and there seems to be a keen interest in developing and improving efforts. While beekeeping has its challenges given the widespread use of pesticides and chemicals in the plantations and the depletion of biodiversity (resulting in a drastic reduction of foraging choice for the bees), limiting such options to collection of wild honey, sericulture offers more promise. Several households in different communes are reported to be engaged in sericulture and are keen to scale up. Silk worms are reared not just for silk, but are also sold for consumption. Households are eager to expand activities but require investments and technical backstopping, particularly in yarn making and semi-processing. Farmers are also keen on value addition of the mulberry fruit and developing finished products from the fruit. Cultivation of host plants (mulberry) is fairly easy and this can be introduced as an intercrop in coffee, cassava and other plantations (though this would not be feasible if chemical pesticides are used) or even encouraged in home gardens. Overall, the promotion and support of sericulture holds multiple benefits which can</p>

Barriers and Needs (faced by smallholder farmers of ethnic minorities in project provinces)	Proposed actions/ activities to be carried out under RECAF project
	enhance not only incomes, but also buttress nutrition for the poorer households, particularly in improving their protein intake.
<p>Inadequate dietary diversity potentially leading to nutritional insecurity</p> <p>Vietnam is a major producer and exporter of rice, the staple food. Food security is assured even in areas where paddy is not a major crop. Interactions with the different communes and in particular, the ethnic minority households seem to suggest that while cereal security (rice in particular) does not seem to be a concern, dietary diversity (and hence, nutritional security) may be an issue, especially among the poor households. During the stakeholder interactions, participants from poorer households revealed that their daily diet often consists of rice and salt, occasionally supplemented with wild vegetables collected from forests and plantations (wild herbs, mushrooms, bamboo shoots). Fish and molluscs collected from paddy fields, streams and pools form part of the diet occasionally, but this is highly seasonal, while meat is rare. With such a poor dietary diversity, nutritional inadequacy is probably common with implications for malnourishment of children and nursing mothers. Malnutrition and stunting are known to be high among the ethnic minorities in Vietnam and this is an area of grave concern.</p>	<p>Opportunities exist in improving nutritional intakes of the poor households with a little effort. Arrangements with adequate support for the cultivation of wild edibles, herbs, green vegetables and tubers in plantations, production forests and homesteads should be designed into the relevant project component. Support – both technical and financial - should also be extended for the rearing of molluscs, frogs and fishes in aquatic bodies (streams and/or pools in forests or near plantations which can be leased out to communities under existing legal provisions). This can improve diet and nutritional inputs of households and if pursued in a systematic manner, help to develop into profitable micro-enterprises. The project should explore the possibility of designing appropriate leasing mechanisms of aquatic bodies to CIGs for the development and pursuance of such potential value chains. This has a double benefit of developing new zero deforestation value chains and hence, enhancing incomes as well as improving protein and nutritional intake of poorer households.</p>
<p>Necessary Trainings</p>	<p>Training Needs Assessment (based on EM needs & market analysis)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize topic-specific trainings on select commodities to prepare joining AVC • Key topics may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Soil fertility management & effective fertilizers use ➢ Plant protection & effective pesticide use ➢ Water management, coordination, and water saving technologies ➢ Labour safety measures (to protect farmers' health and meet international standards such as Sustainable Rice Platform...

Barriers and Needs (faced by smallholder farmers of ethnic minorities in project provinces)	Proposed actions/ activities to be carried out under RECAF project
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Post-harvest technologies (e.g. warehouse, storage, maintenance...), particularly for perishable farm produce (fruit...) ➤ Good agricultural practices for select commodities for awareness raising and promoting technology adoption
Infrastructures Although increased access to basic infrastructure for agricultural production (rural road, irrigation canals...), there is still a need for additional infrastructure, particularly those of bottleneck nature that still constraint transportation of farm product and post-harvest.	Investment in small-scaled infrastructure bottle-neck <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in bottle neck small-scaled infrastructure, such as repair irrigation canals, electricity connection, upgrading storage facilities, production and post-harvest equipment, fire watch tower...). • In area that is rain fed, and irrigation is not possible, feasible water harvesting methods are necessary to help improve home production, including animal husbandry that help improve family nutrition, and thus health.
Indiscriminate use of chemicals raises serious environmental and health concerns and interactions with stakeholders across several communes suggest deleterious effects on local biodiversity, with participants indicating the disappearance of several edible wild plants, fishes and molluscs over the last few years. In addition to pollution of soil and aquatic bodies and the adverse impacts on biodiversity, the possibility of bio-magnification of harmful chemicals and the resultant long-term ramifications on ecosystem and human health raises serious concerns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urgent policy reforms with strict regulations on the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides must be introduced therefore, and steps taken to promote organic approaches. Steps in this direction are necessary from an economic standpoint as well (and in national interest), as exports constitutes a major proportion of the market for these crops. With unregulated usage of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, a rejection of products by international markets due to the presence of harmful chemicals is a distinct possibility and it is in the interest of the country (as well as the private sector and growers involved) to gradually reduce the use of chemicals and move towards organic farming.

8.2 Implementation Approach

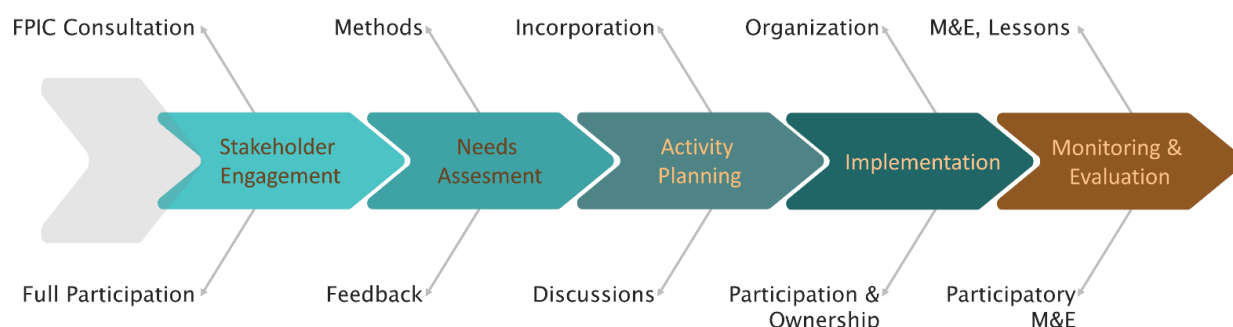
8.2.1 Implementation Process

With key barriers identified and priorities set forth above, the implementation process proposed below involves five key stages. It starts with Stakeholder Engagement, as a fundamental step and reiterative process, followed by Needs Assessment, Activity Planning, Implementation, and Monitoring and Evaluation. During this process, both EM peoples and PMU are involved in a collaborative and interactive manner. This aims to make sure the outcomes of this planning and implementing process lead to development of activities that the EM truly needs, and are carried out in a fashion that meet expected outcomes. These outcomes are also appropriate to EM – in terms of cultural appropriateness.

To demonstrate, the chart below outlines lead role of PMU above the arrow and lead role of EM peoples under the arrow. Both stakeholders are expected to assume key responsibility to make sure the activities are planned and carried out with satisfaction of both stakeholders, particularly the EM

people who are target beneficiaries and as such are expected to develop a sense of ownership of the development process and activities that need and make sure the activities they want bring them socioeconomic benefits that are culturally appropriate to them. It is noted during project implementation process.

Figure 41 – Engagement Process for IPP Planning and Implementation



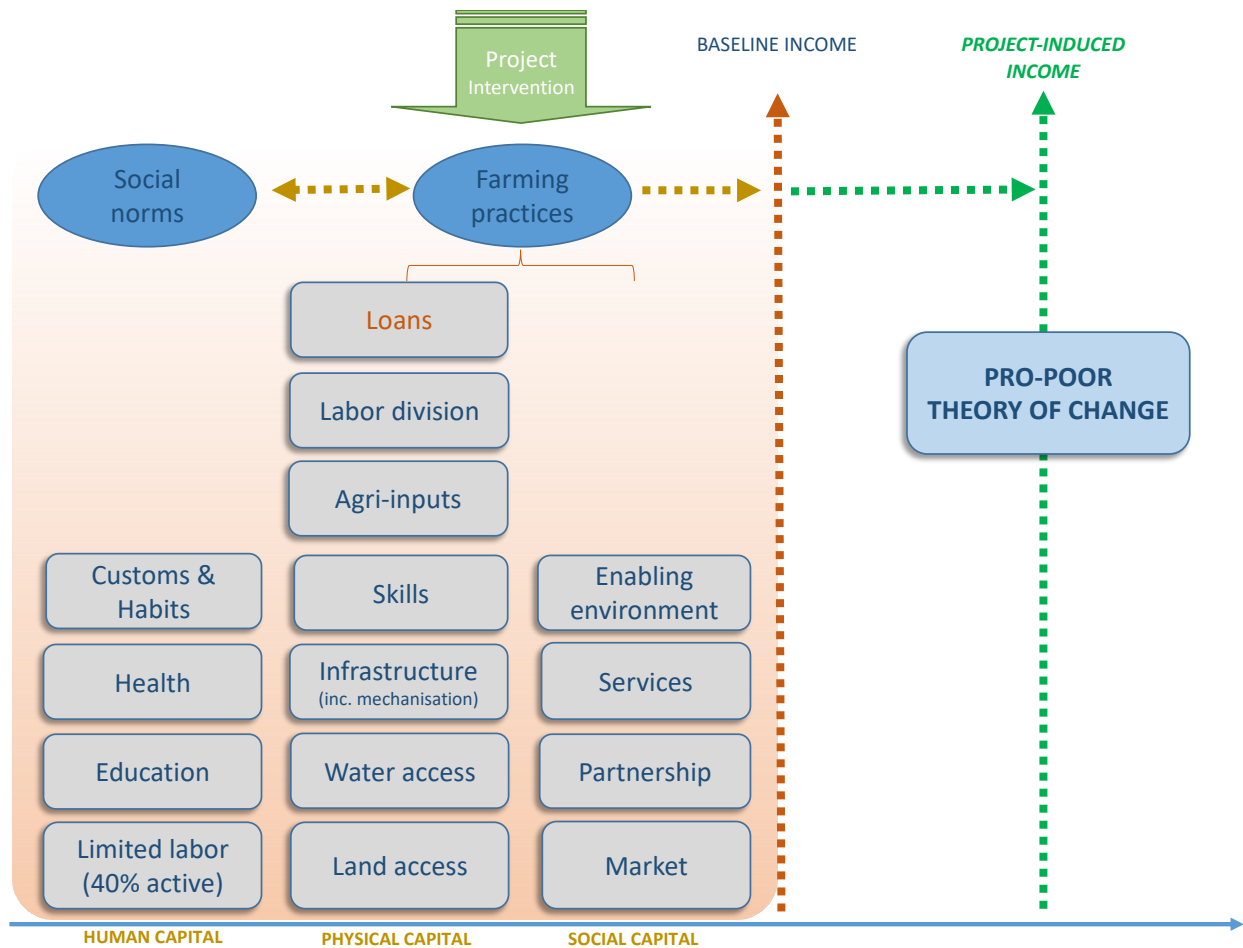
In addition to FPIC consultation that will be carried out with EM peoples, consultation with other relevant local organizations and NGOs who have development activities for EM peoples in the project area will be conducted. This aim to make sure that activities to be carried out under the project are unfold in harmony with development activities with other relevant local organizations and NGOs for maximum benefits for the target EM peoples in the project area.

8.2.2 Theory of Change

The activities proposed under this IPP follows the theory of change by which a pathway of change is proposed to ensure the activities done under this IPP contributes to achieving the overall objective of the projects. The following steps were adopted to develop the theory of change: 1) situation analysis, 2) clarification of IPP goal, 3) design of IPP, 4) development of causal pathway (based on project's logical framework), 5) formulation of assumptions (underlying model), 6) design of specific, measurable, achievable, reliable and time-bound indicators, and 7) convert/align proposed activities into project's logical framework.

This theory of change lays out how the IPP works. Project aims to improve current farming practices, through enhancing quality and technical support for in terms of agricultural inputs, farming condition such as soil fertility, water access, and skills and loan to improve produce quality and achieve entry into project's pro-poor value chain. Through improved farming practices, the project would improve gender equality – through more balanced work between male and female and more participation of female members in project's activities for enhanced economic empowerment on the part of femaly members. The project would focus on improving access to physical capital, thereby enhancing social capital and human capital in the long run. It also aims to help ensure reliable data collection and analysis, and helps timely and effective monitoring and evaluation, particularly at mid-term and end-of-project review.

Figure 42 – Flowchart of Project Intervention



8.2.3 Responsibilities

Provincial Peoples Committee

- Oversee all operational aspects of provincial PMU for the project, including the IPP annual planning and implementation (Please see Annex 2 for a Template of Provincial Annual IPP).
- Provide overall guidance to provincial PMU with regards to IPP implementation, particularly implementing the IPP as an integral part of provincial annual socioeconomic development program.
- Monitor regularly PMU's project activities and ensure that activities set forth in the annual IPP are implemented timely and effectively.
- Ensure FPIC consultation is applied by PMU consistently and appropriately as set forth in the IPP.

Project Management Board

- Responsible for overall implementation of the project, including preparing annual IPP as part of annual project implementation plan at provincial level.
- Prepare and submit provincial annual IPP to IFAD/GEF for review/approval prior to implementation.
- Ensure annual IPPs are prepared so that at least 40% of direct beneficiary households in the province are EM households by the end of the project.
- Ensure the annual Gender Action Plan are implemented in an integral manner with the annual IPP.
- Ensure funding is allocated sufficiently and timely for implementation of the planned activities
- Work as lead agency for IPP implementation and coordinate with other governmental agencies, such as Peoples Committees and functional agencies – at provincial, district and commune levels, to carry out planned activities.
- Ensure FPIC consultation is applied consistently and appropriately to circumstances that require the free, prior, and informed consent of the affected EM peoples or EM communities.
- Special attention shall be given to activities that require obtaining free, prior, and informed consent of EM peoples who are potentially adversely affected (see Chapter 5 above).
- Maintain regular monitoring of IPP implementation, at quarterly, bi-annually, and annually
- Conduct periodic review and evaluation of IPP implementation to ensure the overall progress and quality of IPP implementation is on track with the planned activities.
- Where necessary, update the IPP based on development needs and feedback from EM communities in the project area. These development needs should be in line with the overall objective and activities under project out outs and outcomes.

District Peoples Committee

- Support PMU in selecting communes that are potential for IP participation.
- Ensure potential IPs are invited to planning and participate in implementing activities proposed in annual IPP, including participatory monitoring and evaluation of IPs affected by project activities.
- Ensure the activities set forth in annual IPP are carried in a manner that is integrated with the overall annual Project Implementation Plan and with the socioeconomic development plan of the district, and in connection with other annual district development programs, to enhance the development impact that benefit the EM peoples living in the district.
- Provide overall guidance to commune PCs within the district in IPP implementation.
- Oversee the grievance redress resolution process, particularly for grievances that are submitted to commune PCs.
- Share lessons learned from the project to the IPs in the communes that have not had direct project support.

Commune Peoples Committee

- Collaborate and support PMU in selecting EM beneficiaries at commune and village levels.
- Support PMU in carrying out consultation with EM groups and ensure full, effective participation of EM peoples in planning and implementation of annual IPP.

- Support PMU in conducting FPIC consultation, particularly in cases where a project activity requires obtaining free, prior, and informed consent of the affected EM peoples.
- Ensure FPIC consultation is carried in a manner that is culturally appropriate to each of target EM groups in the commune.
- Provide regular support and encourage the participation of EM peoples, particularly the participation of women and youth in activities such as workshops, agricultural extension trainings, business development initiatives that aim to promote development of deforestation free value chains
- Responsible for receiving and addressing timely and effectively the grievances/complaints/inquiries that may be submitted by local EM residents.

Local people

- Participate in all meetings and events that are organized as part of FPIC consultation during project design and implementation.
- Women are encouraged to participate in public events, such as workshops, trainings that are designed exclusive for women to promote their participation and economic empowerment.
- Provide comments/suggestions/feedback, including raising questions for issues they are concerned about.

8.3 Update of IPP

In the event where a) additional development activities need to be done, b) planned activities need to be updated to reflect the needs of EM peoples (in relation to planned project activities, this IPP will be updated and will be re-disclosed.

8.4 Disclosure of IPP

During project preparation, the draft IPP will be disclosed prior to project appraisal. If update to IPP is required during project implementation, the updated version will be disclosed through the same channel to the target EM groups. Local languages of EM will be used in information sessions to ensure EM people fully understand the IPP, ask questions, and provide feedback on activities that affect them. IPP will be disclosed on the website of GCF, and websites of DARD of project provinces.

9. GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

During project implementation, any EM individuals and groups who think they are adversely affected by the project and wish to lodge grievances on any aspect of project activities, they can do so using the project's GRM. Project' GRM is in accordance with the Law on Complaints (Law No.02/2011/QH13, dated 11 November 2011), and is based on the following principles:

- **Project's GRM will be disclosed in public domains** (e.g. website of PMU, notice board at commune People's Committee...), and will be provided in hard copy (leaflet) to all affected households and people who are interested. Contact details of PMU are also included in project's GRM and information leaflet.

- **Complaint can be lodged in written or verbal²¹, and through different channels**, including direct submission (handing), courier, mail, email, and telephone, or through authorized representative. Verbal complaint is acceptable, which is useful to those who have difficulties writing formal complaint letter (the elderly, people with disabilities...). These people are assisted by governmental staff at commune, district and provincial Peoples' Committee when making verbal complaints.
- **Complainant can delegate a representative.** People raising a concern/grievance can ask assistance from their family or those whom they trust to transcribe their complaint, and act as their representative to present or submit their complaint.
- **Anonymous complaints are accepted through all project channels receiving grievances.** Anonymous complaints will be filed, and will be processed if sufficient information are provided to allow investigation.
- **Complaint will be registered in logbook** by parties receiving the complaints. Complaint resolution will be monitored by the parties in charge of complaint resolution. A grievance database will be established and maintained by PMU (through PMU GRM focal point).
- **Complainant will be acknowledged in writing.** For all levels (commune, district and province), within 10 days from receipt of the complaint, the person/agency in charge of resolving the complaint will notify complainants in writing and initiate the complaint resolution process.
- **Timeframe for grievance resolution is specified for each step/level**, including prescriptive period. All grievances will be registered and acknowledged within 10 working days and responded to complainant within (i) 30 working days of receiving the grievance for the first level (45 working days for complicated case or remote area); (ii) 45 working days of receiving the grievance for the second and third levels (60 working days for complicated case or remote area); (iii) 04 months of receiving the grievance for the administrative court.
- **A grievance resolution decision will be issued** in written and sent to the complainant, and the relevant parties within 3 and 7 working days following the date of issuing decisions for the first and second levels, respectively. Decision of the court is final decision that both defendant and complainant have to execute.
- **Affected parties bear no costs associated with the entire complaint resolution process.** Costs related to grievances arising as a result of project's impact will be borne by the project.

²¹ If verbal complaint are made at one-stop shop of Peoples Committee at commune, district, or provincial levels, the personal who receive the complainant at the one-stop shop will guide the complainant to fill in complaint form. If complainant does not know how to write, the person receiving the complainant will help the complainant write down his/her complaints and ask the complainant for their signature or fingerprint to the form completed (Article 8, Law on Complaints 2011).

- **Public disclosure of complaint resolution decisions** will be made after removing identifying information on complainants to protect their identities.

The following steps can be followed. But complainant can initiate a lawsuit at any stage of the grievance resolution process.

- **The first step – Commune People’s Committee (CPC).** Affected individual/household submits his/her complaint to the People's Committee of the ward/commune, or through the village head, in written or oral form. Within 10 days from the date of receiving the complaint, the person in charge of complaint resolution shall accept the complaint and notify the complainant in writing. The time limit for resolving a first–time complaint does not exceed 30 days after the complaint is accepted. For complicated case, this time limit may be extended but must not exceed 45 days after the complaint is accepted. If the time–limit for complaint resolution (30 days) expires but the case remains unresolved, or if the complainant disagrees with the complaint resolution decision, complainant may bring the case to the court of law.
- **The second step – District People’s Committee (DPC).** Upon receipt of a complaint, DPC will solve the case within 10 days. The time limit for settling a second–time complaint does not exceed 45 days after the complaint is accepted. For complicated case, this time limit may be extended but must not exceed 60 days after the complaint is accepted. If the time–limit for complaint resolution (45 days) expires but the case remains unresolved, or if the complainant disagrees with the complaint resolution decision, complainant may bring the case to the court of law.
- **The third step – Provincial People’s Committee (PPC).** Upon receipt of a complaint, PPC will resolve it within 10 working days. The time limit for settling a third –time complaint does not exceed 45 days after the complaint is accepted. For complicated case, this time–limit may be extended but must not exceed 60 days after the complaint is accepted. If the time–limit for complaint resolution (45 days) expires but the case remains unresolved, or if the complainant disagrees with the complaint resolution decision, complainant may bring the case to the court of law.

Provincial PMU will appoint a PMU’s staff as a GRM focal point. The GRM focal point will be responsible for documenting all grievance received, and follow up with agency responsible for grievance resolution. All costs associated with the grievance handling process related to settlement of complainant’s complaint are covered by the project.

10. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

10.1 Monitoring & Evaluation

Sustaining an M&E scheme that produces regularly, trustworthy, and relevant information is essential to enabling provinces to keep track of where they stand in IPP implementation process. In this project, each province will be responsible for monitoring and evaluation of their respective provincial IPP. During project implementation, in addition to PMU, EM peoples who are affected positively and

adversely, if any, will be engaged as part of project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan to monitor and evaluate the process and outcome of IPP activities that affect them.

Monitoring and evaluation of IPP activities will be carried out using M&E performance indicators proposed at Section 8.2.3. During project implementation, qualitative feedback will also be collected from affected EM peoples during IPP implementation. Monitoring will be conducted on a bi-annual basis, and consolidated annually to pave the way for updating IPP annually. Results of IPP implementation results will be reported to IFAD/GCF quarterly and annually as an annual review. The annual review will serve as opportunity to draw lessons learned as well as adjusting implementation approach based on IP feedback to improve IPP implementation results for coming years.

10.2 Reporting back to Stakeholder

Communicating back to stakeholders to provide a tangible response to the feedback raised is essential to maintaining continued participation of EM throughout project cycle. As mentioned above, feedback and grievances raised by affected EM peoples will be processed/resolved in due time and reported back to the affected people. The agencies directly responsible for grievance resolution will solve and report back. For general questions/comments/suggestions, responses will be provided to concerned people as soon as possible. For example, response will be made at consultation meetings if answer to questions could be given during the consultation. For questions/ comments/ suggestion that take time to consider, a summary of responses will be prepared and reported back to the affected and interested groups in the next consultation with the same group.

ANNEX

Annex 1 – SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Locations	Timing	No. of Participant	Forms of Consultation	Participants
Dak Dak Province				
▪ Ea Kar district	12 October 2021	1 (Male)	Key Informant Interview (KII)	Nguyễn Phi Tiến – Vice Director – Ea Kar Forestry Company
▪ Lăk district	15 October 2021	1 (Male)	KII	Nguyễn Trọng Bình – Director of Lăk Forestry Company
▪ M'Đrăk district	21 October 2021	1 (Male)	KII	Phạm Văn Châu – Chairman of M'Đrăk Forestry Company
▪ Krông Bông district	12 October 2021	1 (Male)	KII	Võ Sỹ Sáu - Chairman of Krông Bông Forestry Company
Dak Nong Province				
▪ Dak G'ong District (Dak Som commune)	25 August 2021	4 (Female)	FGD	(Ma ethnic group)
		4 (Female)	FGD	(Ma ethnic group)
		9 (Male & Female)	FGD	Ma and Kinh groups
		1 (Male)	KII	Bình An Farmers' Cooperative
		1 (Male)	KII	Dai Dong Tien Farmers' Cooperative
▪ Dak Song District (Dak Mol commune)	30 August 2021	5 (Male)	FGD	4 EM, 1 Kinh
		9 (Female)	FGD	Mnong, Ede, Nung ethnic group
		2 (Female), 3 (Male)	FGD	Kinh group
		1 (Male)	KII	Rừng Lạnh village, Đắk Hòa commune.
▪ Krong No (Dak Nang commune)	8 September 2021	6 (Male), 1 (Female)	FGD	
		9 (Female)	FGD	Ede ethnic group
		11 (Female)	FGD	3 H'mong, 8 Kinh
▪ Tuy Duc (Quang Tam commune)	30 September 2021	5 (Male)	FGD	3 Kinh, 2 EM
		8 (Female)	FGD	EM (M'Nong)
		4 (Female), 4 (Male)	FGD	3 M'Nong, 1 Tay, 3 Kinh
		1 (Male)	KII	Quang Tam Farmers' Cooperative
Ninh Thuan				
▪ Thuan Bac (Phuoc Chien commune)	28 October 2021	1 (Male), 7 (Female)	FGD	
		8 (Male)	FGD	EM
		7 (Female)	FGD	EM
		1 (Male)	KII	Suoi Da Farmers' Cooperative
▪ Ninh Hai (Vinh Hai commune)	29 October 2021	8 Male	FGD	EM
		5 Male, 4 Female	FGD	EM, Kinh
		7 Female	FGD	EM
		1 (Male)	KII	Thai An Farmers' Cooperative
▪ Ninh Son (Ma Noi commune)	1 November 2021	2 (Male), 6 (Female)	FGD	EM
		8 (Male)	FGD	EM
		8 (Female)	FGD	EM
		1 Male	KII	My Son Farmers' Cooperative

▪ Bac Ai (Phuoc Binh commune)	2 November 2021	2 (Male), 6 (Female)	FGD	EM
		6 (Female)	FGD	
		8 (Male)	FGD	EM
		1 (Male)	KII	Phuoc Binh Farmers' Cooperative
Lam Dong				
▪ Bao Lam District (Loc Ngai commune)		1 (Male)	KII	Binh Minh Farmers' Cooperative
▪ Lac Duong District (Da Chau commune)		1 (Male)	KII	Lac Duong Coffee Farmers' Cooperative
▪ Lâm Hà (Đạ Đờn commune)	28 May			
▪ Di Linh (Bảo Thuận commune)	30 May			
▪ Bảo Lâm (Lộc Bảo commune)	31 May			
Gia Lai				
▪ Krông Pa (Đất Bằng)	18/19 May	8 EM (Female), 8 EM (Male), 5M (Kinh)	KII	
▪ Chư Prông (Ia Ga)	19/20 May	7 EM (Female), 8 EM (Male), 7M (Kinh)	KII	
▪ Kông Chro (Chư Krey)	2 June	7 EM (Female), 6 EM (Male), 7M (Kinh)	KII	
▪ Mang Giang (Kon Chiêng)	3 June	9 EM (Female), 8 EM (Male), 7M (Kinh)	KII	
▪ Đắk Đoa (Đak Somei)	3 June	8 EM (Female), 7 EM (Male), 7M (Kinh)	KII	
Dak Nong, Ninh Thuan, Lam Dong	30 July- 30 November 2021	168 (Female: 71, Male: 97)	Household survey	Total male participant: 205 Total female participant: 148
Gia Lai, Dak Lak	June, July 2022	185 (Female: 77, Male: 108)	Household survey	

Annex 2 – TEMPLATE FOR PROVINCIAL ANNUAL INDIGENEOUS PEOPLES PLAN

Prepared by: PMU of _____ province
Submitted to: The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
Fiscal Year: _____

HOW TO USE THE TEMPLATE

- This template has two parts, including Part A (IPP Performance Indicators and Part B (Annual IPP Plan)
- Provincial PMUs needs to prepare and submit this Plan to IFAD before the start of each Fiscal Year to request budget allocation, especially for activities related to Project's Indigenous Peoples' Plan
- Provincial PMUs will discuss with provincial project's stakeholder and fill up targets in Part A before the beginning of each fiscal year such that targets tentatively set for Mid-line and End-line are achieved.
- For method of FPIC consultation, please refer to Section 8 (IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS) of Project's IPP for guidance on how to apply FPIC for consultation with involved ethnic minority people.

PLEASE NOTE

FOR PART A

- The percentage of EM household receiving project benefit are calculated based on the List of Project Beneficiary Households (not the count of any total EM households that receive project benefit) to avoid duplication of counting.

FOR PART B

- Activities proposed in the Annual IPP should be aligned with respective Component and Output (based on project's Logical Framework) to allow annual monitoring, and evaluative review by mid-term and project-end.
- Each proposed activity should come with proposed budget, indicating the period (in months) from activity planning to completion. Each activity should indicate the lead stakeholder who is responsible for the expected result of the activity, and relevant stakeholders who need to participate to realize the activity.

A. SUMMARY OF IPP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS								
No.	Themes	Indicators	TARGETS					
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 (Mid-line)	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6 (Endline)
1	Ethnicity	% of EM households (in total beneficiary households) receiving benefited from project			20%			40%
		% of Kinh households (in total beneficiary households) receiving benefited from project			30%			60%
2	Gender	% of FEMALE people who benefit from project			25%			40%
		<i>Of which % of EM female</i>						40%
		<i>Of which % of Kinh female</i>						60%
3	Youth	% of YOUTH people receiving <u>services promoted or supported</u> by project			15%			30%
		<i>Of which % of EM youth</i>						
		<i>Of which % of Kinh youth</i>						
		<i>Of which % of female person</i>						
		<i>Of which % of male person</i>						
		% of YOUTH people <u>with new jobs/employment opportunities</u>			15%			30%
		<i>Of which % of EM youth</i>						
		<i>Of which % of Kinh youth</i>						
		<i>Of which % of female person</i>						
		<i>Of which % of male person</i>						

B. ANNUAL IPP PLAN

PROJECT ACTIVITIES	BUDGET (in VND)	MONTHS												STAKEHOLDERS IN CHARGE			REMARKS
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	PMU STAFF INVOLVED	LEAD AGENCY IN CHARGE	RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS	
Component 1: Enabling environment for the planning and implementation of measures to reduce emissions																	
<i>Output 1.1 – Improved provincial policies and coordination to reduce deforestation and adapt to climate change</i>																	
ACTIVITY																	
ACTIVITY																	
ACTIVITY																	
ACTIVITY																	
CTIVITY																	
<i>Output 1.2 – Improved national policies and investments to reduce deforestation</i>																	
ACTIVITY																	
ACTIVITY																	
ACTIVITY																	
ACTIVITY																	
ACTIVITY																	
Component 2: Measures implemented to reduce GHG emissions from deforestation, promote sustainable agriculture and enhance climate resilience																	
<i>Output 2.1. Deforestation-free commodities and nutrition sensitive niche product value chains developed with improved access to credit</i>																	
ACTIVITY																	
ACTIVITY																	

ACTIVITY																		
ACTIVITY																		
ACTIVITY																		
<i>Output 2.2. Climate smart infrastructure established and operated for deforestation-free value chains and forest protection activities</i>																		
ACTIVITY																		
ACTIVITY																		
ACTIVITY																		
ACTIVITY																		
ACTIVITY																		
<i>Output 2.3. Collaborative forest conservation and management enhanced with effective benefit sharing</i>																		
ACTIVITY																		
ACTIVITY																		
ACTIVITY																		
ACTIVITY																		
ACTIVITY																		
Component 3: Project Management																		
<i>Output 3.1. Project coordination and management</i>																		
ACTIVITY																		
ACTIVITY																		
ACTIVITY																		
<i>Output 3.2. Measurement of project impact, including monitoring of safeguards and improving forest information</i>																		
ACTIVITY																		
ACTIVITY																		
ACTIVITY																		

<i>Output 3.3. Information exchange mechanism with NRAP implementation bodies</i>																		
ACTIVITY																		

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