Climate change: Ha Giang, Vietnam adapting to Climate Change

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Head of the Project funded by Finland Embassy: “Community based flash floods and landslides management, adapting to climate Change”
Vietnam is one of the top 5 most affected by CC (WB 2007)

There are 5 disaster areas: Northern area, Red River Delta, Central Area, Mekong delta, Central Highland
How climate change might affect Viet Nam

• Increase in air temperature (longer term)
  + 0.8-2.7°C by 2060s, and
  1.4-4.2°C by 2090s?

• Sea-level rise (longer term)
  Up to 1m by the 2100

• Implications for water resources as a result of melting of glaciers far upstream (longer term)
• Spatial and temporal changes in rainfall patterns (immediate to longer-term)
  - increases Aug-Oct; decreases Feb-Apr
  - increase in proportion of rain falling in heavy events

• Projected increase in intensity of extreme weather events? (immediate to longer term)
  - Flashfloods
  - Landslide
  - droughts,
  - typhoons
  - Heavy rainfalls
  - Others
Tropical Cyclones

• are *likely* to become more intense on the whole under a warmer climate as a result of higher sea surface temperatures

• but great *uncertainty* in changes in frequency, and changes to storm tracks

• Storms hitting in other provinces but affect Ha Giang seriously as well, causing deaths and lots of damages.
Ha Giang introduction

- Ha Giang is the northern mountainous province—one of the poorest provinces in Vietnam
- 26% of poverty rate
- Natural area: 7,946 km² (80% are hills and mountains)
- Height 800 – 1,000m
- 22 ethnic minorities
- Population: 701,872
Actions of Ha Giang

Mitigation:

**Policies:**
- Allocating the forest land for the local people
- Reforestation programme 661
- Supporting and attracting enterprises to process forests related products.
Challenges

- Traditional methods of disasters management focusing on search and rescue, emergency and reconstruction
- Knowledge and understanding of CC remains limited among government officials as well as communities
- Limited funding for adaptation and disasters management programmes
- Lack of good damage assessment
- Lack of scientific knowledge especially on forecasting and safe location assessment
- Lack of facility and finance to help communities to adapt and reduce poverty
- Not good enough mainstreaming CC and disaster management in social–economic development plan for Ha Giang.
Case Study of Kẹp A village, Minh Sơn commune, Bac Me district, Ha Giang

- **Geographical location:** Kẹp-A village, one of 17 villages of Minh Sơn commune
- Population: 67 hhs with 375 people (6 Dao, and 61 H’mong people)
- **Living conditions:** Kẹp-A livelihoods are based on subsistence agriculture, in poverty and hunger, with poor infrastructure and social services.
Disasters and climate change impact to Kep-A

Village’s Disaster History

- June 2008: Catastrophic floods and landslide.
- Nov 2008: Severe/damaging cold (third most severe than ever before):
- Sep 2007: Flooding (second most severe than ever before):
- July 2006: Catastrophic flood and landslide:
- August 2006: Typhoon
- June 2005: Landslide and catastrophic flood.
- May 2005: Landslide.
- July 2001: Landslide (biggest, never before):
Social-economic conditions of the village

Agro-forestry-animal husbandry:
• Reduced soil and land areas for cultivation
• Degraded soil
• Cattle died due to disasters
• Diseases va dich benh
• Not sustainable Affected infrastructure
• Not good constructed houses
• Poor environment and not good sanitation
• No utilization of cattle dung for composting yet

Food security:
• Reduced food supply
• Hunger increase

Health:
• There are many plagues after floods
• Unclear causes and not good monitoring and forecasting of disasters

Culture - Education:
• Children have to be off schools during and after disaster
• Local people’s lives are interrupted
Comparision of 10 year weather conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Normal weather</th>
<th>Abnormal weather</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drought from April to June</td>
<td>Drought from July- Dec.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heavy rainfall and floods from July-December</td>
<td>Flashfloods happen in June and lasting long time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wind intensity at 8, 9, 10 levels in Oct-Dec</td>
<td>Strong wind in August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cold spell from Jan.- Mar.</td>
<td>Cold spell from Nov. to Mar.</td>
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LOW CC’s KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL PEOPLE

Explanation of the local people in Kep-A village on CC

- Changing of seasons as of changes in climate
- More heavy and lasting longer time rainfall than before
- More drought in dry season from December to April
- More unpredictable and sudden floods
- More landslide
- More cracks
- Increasing of temperature
- Strange insects causing diseases for plants
- Strange diseases in human
- Forest fires and cutting still popular
- Storms and whirlwind ever happened
- Some varieties of crops are not suitable any longer (low yield and degrading, growing slowly)
- Seriously polluted water
- Unplanned construction, people are not guided
- Iron ore exploration by outsiders
- High Sloppy land
- Specious animals such as bears, tigers or monkeys disappeared
Needs and Recommendations from Ha Giang

- Scientific support: Better forecast, early warning, safe location of resettlement
- Better Search and Rescue capability at all levels
- Suitable land clearance for local people’s resettlement
- Support the local people and communities capability to organize themselves during the disasters
- Research on seeds and animals suitable to changing weather conditions and natural disasters and CC
- Financial and technical support for the local poor people adapting to CC and disaster management such as CBDRM measure
- Mainstreaming of CC and Disasters Management into the in to social-economic development plan of the province
Thank you for your attention

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