

"Capacity building for ethnic minorities in Thanh Hoa province to be ready to participate in the ERP in Thanh Hoa province as stakeholders through their legal entity" – Extension Proposal

Donor: FCPF through the World Bank

Co-coordinator: Tebtebba

Project implementer:

- Hoa Binh Co-operative on Agro-Forestry & Environment, Vietnam
- Centre of Research & Development in Upland Area (CERDA) – Technical supporter

Budget: 17,565.00 USD

Duration: March to 31 May 2020

Project area and target beneficiaries:

- Direct beneficiaries: 105 Self-governing Groups (SGGs)/cooperative members¹ (male-62, female-43).
- Indirect beneficiaries: 1,206 households in the four target commune in Nhu Xuan district, Thanh Hoa province, Vietnam. Ethnic groups include Thai, Tho, Muong and Kinh who comprise around 80%.

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1. Context: ERP implementation in Vietnam²

The Project on 'Support for REDD+ readiness preparation in Vietnam - Phase 2 (FCPF-2) was granted US\$ 5 million by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) through the World Bank (WB) to continue REDD+ readiness preparation activities in six provinces in the North Central Coast (NCC) region, namely Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri and Thua Thien-Hue from November 2016 to December 2020. The Management Board for Forestry Projects (MBFP) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) is the Project Owner.

During the three years of implementation, the FCPF-2 Project implemented many legal³ and

¹ 24 leaders of 4 co-ops/Nhu Xuan Alliance of Community Forest Owner Cooperatives (NACFO), of which 2 are female; 40 heads of 40 SGGs of NACFO/communities who are forest owners or forest protection contractors with the government; 40 key female members of 40 SGGs of 4 co-operatives or NACFO; and 01 district official.

² Reference source: Newsletter No. 8, December 2019 - Project on Support for the REDD+ Readiness Preparation in Vietnam - Phase 2 - www.viemam-redd.org.

³ a) Law on Forestry No. 16/2017/QH14 dated 15 November 2017; b) Decree 156/2018/ND-CP dated 16 November 2018 detailing the implementation of a number of articles of the Law on Forestry; c) Decree 01/2019/ND-CP dated 01 January 2019 regulating forest rangers and specialized forest protection force; d) Decree 06/2019/ND-CP dated 22 January 2019 regulating the management of endangered, rare and precious forest fauna and flora and the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; e) Decree 35/2019/ND-CP dated 25 April 2019 on the sanctioning of administrative violations in the forestry sector; f) Circular 27/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated 16 November 2018 on management and tracing of forest product origins; g) Circular on the critical level of protection forests and demarcation of forest boundaries; h) Circular 28/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated 16 November 2018 on sustainable forest management; i) Circular 29/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated 16 November 2018 regulating silvicultural measures; j) Circular 30/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated 16 November 2018 on the list of major forest tree species, - recognition of cultivars and cultivar sources: management of major forest tree cultivar materials; and k) Circular 32/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated 16 November 2018 regulating methods for pricing and forest price framework.

technical support activities to help Vietnam to get REDD+ ready. Some remarkable results include the support to the Government of Vietnam to develop the Emission Reductions Program Document (ER-PD) which was accepted by the Carbon Fund; capacity building on REDD+ readiness especially in the NCC region to be ready for the ER Program (ERP) implementation; and REDD+ readiness preparation in terms of capacity building, communication, Monitoring-Reporting-Verification (MRV), safeguards, improved legal frameworks; and completion of safeguards reports, including: Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), Process Framework (PF), Ethnic Minority Planning Framework (EMPF) and Gender Action Plan (GAP).

Vietnam thereby shall mobilize resources to implement the ER-P to reduce about 26 million tons of CO₂ and receive payments for the results verified in a transparent manner. The World Bank commits to buy 10.3 million tons of CO₂, equivalent to about 51.5 million USD of payment. With an adaptive collaborative management approach (ACMA), the ERP will be able to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, many of which are beyond forestry, in cooperation with different stakeholders in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of forest management and protection while providing the communities with various types of carbon and non-carbon benefits. Policies and measures include enhancement and implementation of the policy framework related to land use and land use planning, field interventions and deforestation to include livelihoods activities. At the moment, the FCPF-2 is supporting VNFOREST and MARD in negotiating commercial terms of the Emission Reductions Payment Agreement (ERPA).

For now, MARD is still waiting for an approval from the Prime Minister to negotiate the ERPA.

2. Context: the FCPF Capacity Building sub-project and the targeted communes

Hoa Binh Cooperative has benefited from a capacity building sub-grant under the FCPF Capacity Building Program through the project *“Capacity Building for the Ethnic Communities to be Ready to Actively Participate in REDD+ as an Independent Stakeholder through Their Legal Entities”*. This was up-scaled and focused on 4 communes of Cat Van, Thanh Lam, Hoa Quy and Xuan Quy in Nhu Xuan district, Thanh Hoa Province (within the ERP area of Vietnam). The sub-project was implemented from 31 May 2017 to 31 August 2019 with a budget of US\$78,320.36. Some achievements were:

- 2,011 members of 159 Self-Governing Groups⁴ (traditional group of households in nature, SGGs) benefited from a series of capacity building activities⁵. Their leaders were also trained as community trainers which they call ‘FPIC Teams’;

⁴ Nhu Xuan district, Thanh Hoa Province: 40 SGGs with 1,206 members from 4 co-operatives that formed the alliance of cooperatives called Nhu Xuan Alliance of Community Forest Owner Cooperatives or NACFO namely: i) Thanh Son Lam, 10 SGGs from 236 households in Cat Van commune; ii) Thanh Trung, 8 SGGs from 247 households in Thanh Lam commune; iii) Rung Xanh in Hoa Quy commune with 15 SGGs from 460 households. The SGGs are: Lang Chuoi 1, Lang Chuoi 2, Lang Chuoi 3, Lang Chuoi 4, Lang Chuoi 5, Lang Chuoi 6, Lang Chuoi 7, Tinh Lac 1, Tinh Lac 2, Tinh Lac 3, Tinh Lac 4, Tan Thinh 1, Tan Thinh 2, Tan Thinh 3, and Tan Thinh 4); and iv) Quyet Thang in Xuan Quy commune with 7 SGGs from 263 households. The SGGs are: Lang Chuoi 1, Lang Chuoi 2, Lang Chuoi 3, Thanh Huong 1, Thanh Huong 2, Xuan Huong 1, and Xuan Huong 2. Vo Nhai district, Thai Nguyen Province: 119 SGGs with 2,038 members from 6 cooperatives (Hoa Binh, 45 SGGs and Thong Nhat, 15 SGGs both in Binh Long commune; Phuong Giao, 13 SGGs in Phuong Giao commune; Ba Nhat, 10 SGGs in Phu Thuong commune; Trang Xa, 16 SGGs in Trang Xa Commune; and Dan Tien, 20 SGGs in Dan Tien commune.

⁵ Group 1: Citizen’s rights, Legal forest owner rights and duties, Legal interest of the natural production forest owner; Power and duty of forest ranger and local authority in forest management; Climate change and its causes, role of natural

- Two (2) cooperatives: Rung Xanh in Hoa Quy commune and Quyet Thang in Xuan Quy commune were organized with 22 SGGs comprising 723 households;
- The above SGGs signed a 7-year forest protection contract with the district government to protect 1,050 ha of natural protection forest and received payment for 2019; and
- An alliance of 4 cooperatives (Nhu Xuan Alliance of Community Forest Owner Cooperatives or NACFO) in Nhu Xuan district, Thanh Hoa was established.

The Bu Mun forest (see map below) has around 2,900 ha of natural protection and production forest. Of which, the forest use rights over 633.5 ha within Cat Van commune were allocated⁶ to members of Thanh Son Lam Cooperative (10 SGGs with 236 households) ; and 1,231.55 ha within Thanh Lam commune to members of Thanh Trung Cooperative (8 SGGs with 247 households). The remaining forest area of around 1,050 ha which are not allocated to any forest owners as defined by the law and under the temporary management of the Commune People’s Committee is covered by a 7 year (from 2019 to 2025) forest protection contract signed between the local government and members of Rung Xanh (15 SGGs with 460 households) and Quyet Thang (7 SGGs with 263 households) co-operatives in Hoa Quy and Xuan Quy communes, respectively.

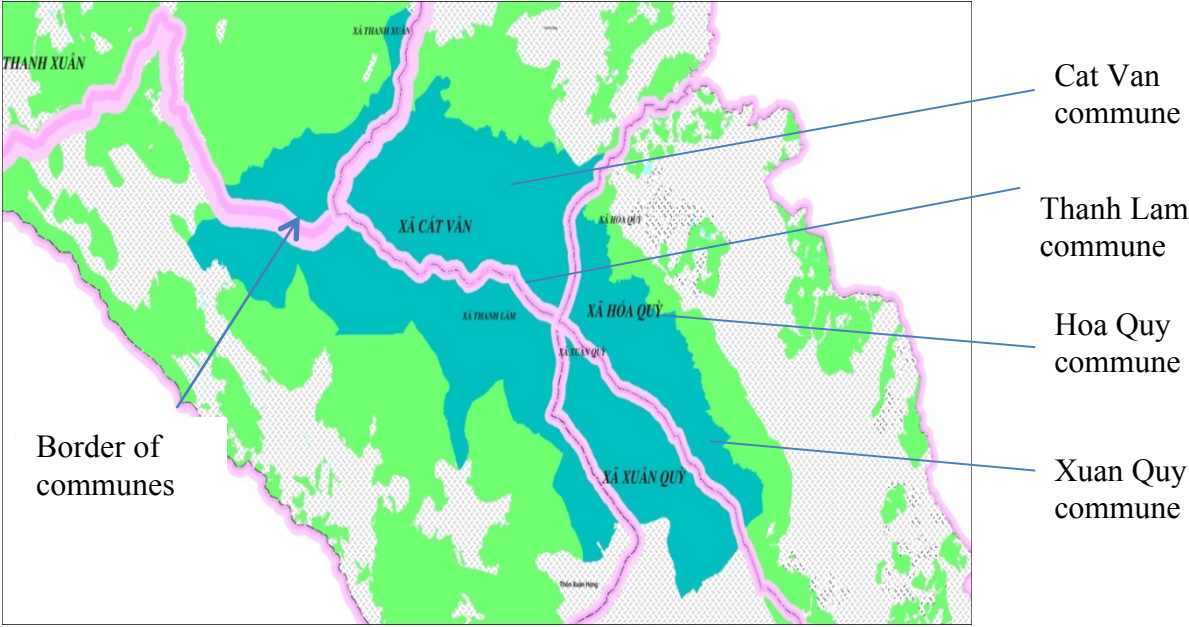
This proposal requests a cost extension to the sub-project to continue supporting the 40 SGGs in the same four communes by improving the capacity of the NACFO and its members, including the key female and male leaders of the cooperatives and heads of SGGs/community forest owners and forest protection contractors to be ready to participate in ERP implementation as a stakeholder. Under the previous capacity building sub-grant, the NACFO developed the initial ideas for the proposal "Community based initiative to reduce the emission by increasing the forest Carbon stock" applying the model "Inter-community – landscape base – customary laws forest protection"⁷ but it

forest and ecosystem, and What is REDD+; Group 2: REDD+ related issues (Cancun safeguard, result-based payment, benefit sharing, FPIC, grievance mechanism, MRV); Drivers of Forest degradation and Deforestation; Introduction of FCFP program; Group 3: National and provincial REDD+ policies; Opportunities and challenges and solutions for ethnic minorities and women to participate in REDD+ as an independent stakeholder; Introduction of model of "Community ownership based REDD+ initiative by enriching Forest Carbon"; lessons learned on 'Community-based forest monitoring and information system – CBMIS" in Binh Long commune, Thai Nguyen province; initial ideas of project development (Community based initiative to reduce the emission by increasing the forest carbon stock).

⁶ Forest use rights allocations to members of SGGs of Thanh Son Lam and Thanh Trung cooperatives were made possible through previous projects supported by other donors and implemented by CERDA.

⁷ The model of "Inter-community – landscape base – customary laws forest protection" means the 4 co-operatives are associated together (Alliance of Community Forest Owner Cooperatives or NACFO). Within NACFO, the 4 co-operatives sign a memorandum that includes some main points as follows: 1) The 4 co-operatives commit to protect their entire forest from the edges, at all times (day and night) and inform the leaders through the hotline of the co-operatives when they see people illegally entering the forest without access cards to forest. The cards are issued and managed by the director of each co-operative; 2) Each co-operative ensures that its members do not destroy the forest of other co-operatives; 3) The cooperatives support each other when forest is destroyed by outside loggers or burnt; 4) A community forest protection convention which includes a number of articles containing customary laws and state laws for example: Article 9: Prohibited acts in forestry activities; Article 22: Forest withdrawal; Article 73: General rights of forest owners; Article 74: General obligations of forest owners; and Article 84: Rights and obligations of communities who are allocated protection and production forest by the state is developed by the co-operatives in consultation with all members of the SGGs, approved by the district government and applies to all 40 SGGs and all the members of SGGs respect and comply. The leaders of the cooperatives/NACFO ensure that these are implemented in their entire forest, and approach the concerned government agencies to access the implementation of state policies. Applying the landscape approach, the co-operatives reduce forest patrol time and make better use of state policies. Moreover, all co-operatives become stronger with the active participation of all members of the 40 SGGs/NACFO in fighting with and preventing the illegal loggers from outside (not as single household/or some households like the way the government

still needs support to complete a full proposal ready to be submitted to the Thanh Hoa province ERP Management Board/FCPF Management Board 2 once ERP is implemented. This extension of the sub-project will also provide support to improve the capacity of NACFO in technical and project management skills to implement the same if the proposal is approved.



3. Project description

Objective: The sub-project’s cost extension will help NACFO with its 1,206 household members to participate in ERP as a stakeholder.

Expected outcomes:

- Leaders of 4 co-operatives/NACFO improve their knowledge and skills on proper use of GPS and on accurate measurement of forest area, wood, carbon in the tree layers of natural forest and monitoring forest change (forest area, wood, Carbon) in their allocated and contracted forest areas, and development of the database;
- NACFO is capacitated to implement the “Community based initiative to reduce the emission by increasing the forest carbon stock”⁸ applying the approach of “Inter-community –

signs the forest protection contract before) and they have the collective voice (each can contribute their own knowledge to the issue) to work with the relevant government agencies such as Forest Rangers, Commune and District People’s Committees on the issues relating to the forest. For example, participation in the State Forest Development Program through forest protection contracts or the much preferred forest use rights allocation.

⁸ The planned proposal will apply the landscape approach over the entire forest of the NACFO members covering around 2,900 ha. Support for capacity building will be requested for the further strengthening of the alliance and its member cooperatives/SGGs for them to participate fully and effectively in ERP implementation. Other activities will include gathering required data like wood volume and forest carbon stock and establishing a database based on national standards; preparation and implementation of a forest protection plan including participatory carbon monitoring and overall forest changes aligned with state policies and programs and respecting customary laws and practices; skills trainings on forest carbon calculation (emissions and removals); development of a benefit sharing plan for the cooperative members consistent with the consent of the all members; and discussions on issues related to results-based payment and the environment and social safeguards among others.

landscape base – customary laws forest protection” and participate in the ERP as a stakeholder.

Activities and expected results

	<i>Activity</i> ⁹	<i>Expected results</i>
1.1	Workshop in Nhu Xuan district to introduce the project at district level	Half day workshop for 35 participants conducted; district and commune officials, leaders of 4 co-ops/NACFO understand the project; the management project board is established; project summary is provided to all participants
1.2	Training course for the leaders of NACFO on the use of GPS (theory and practice in the forest)	01 3-days training course conducted for 24 participants who will acquire skills on the proper use the GPS
1.3	Training course for leaders of NACFO (theory and practice in the forest) on the accurate process for measuring the forest area, wood, carbon in tree layers of natural forests and monitoring the changes on wood, carbon and forest area	01 3-days training course conducted for 24 participants; the participants are enabled to measure the forest area, wood, carbon in tree layers of natural forests and can monitor the changes; Training modules is written by the consultant, ¹⁰ translated to English by the translator ¹¹ and submitted as part of the monthly report
1.4	Training course for the leaders of NACFO to develop the full proposal of “Community based initiative to reduce emissions by increasing the forest carbon stock” applying the “Inter-community – landscape base – customary laws forest protection” model	01 3-days training conducted for 24 leaders of NACFO and 01 district official; full proposal developed and ready for submission to Thanh Hoa province ERP Management Board (once ERP implemented)/ FCFP2 Management Board; the proposal is translated to English and submitted to Tebtebba
1.5	Training workshops to train and consult with the heads and key women members of SGGs about the proposal developed in Activity 1.4 above and model of Inter-community – landscape base – customary laws forest protection”	02 2-days training workshop conducted for 80 leaders (40 heads and 40 key women members) of 40 SGGs understand the proposal and they give comments, if any, to improve the proposal
1.6	Training course on project management and participatory monitoring skills focused on the above proposal implementation	01 3-days training is conducted for 24 leaders of NACFO, 8 key women members of SGGs and 01 district official acquire skills to manage and monitor the project when this is approved and implemented
1.7	Workshop to share the above proposal with the officials of Nhu Xuan District People’s Committee, Forest Ranger Station, Thanh Hoa province FCFP2 Management Board	A half day workshop conducted for 35 participants; government officials understand, give their comments and support the proposal
2	Project management	

⁹ Activity reports will be prepared as part of the reporting requirements to recipient organization.

¹⁰ Hoang Van Thang – Doctor – Vietnamese Academy of Forest Science.

¹¹ Vo Viet Cuong – Translator.

	Prepare monthly financial and narrative reports	03 Hoa Binh staff are being trained and worked on report preparation; Monthly reports are produced and sent to Tebtebba
	Audit	The audit is completed and report submitted to Tebtebba

4. Work plan

	Activity	March	April	May
1.1	Workshop in Nhu Xuan district to introduce the project at district level			
1.2	Training course for the leaders of NACFO on the use of GPS (theory and practice in the forest)			
1.3	Training course for leaders of NACFO (theory and practice in the forest) on the accurate process of measuring the forest area, wood, carbon in tree layers of natural forests and monitoring the changes			
1.4	Training course for the leaders of NACFO to develop the full proposal on “Community based initiative to reduce the emission by increasing the forest carbon stock” applying “Inter-community – landscape base – customary laws forest protection”			
1.5	2 Training workshops to train and consult with the heads and key women of the SGGs about the proposal developed in Activity 1.4			
1.6	Training course on project management and participatory monitoring focused on the proposal			
1.7	Workshop to share the above proposal			
	1.7.1. Training workshop to prepare the presentation and train the NACFO leaders as presenters			
	1.7.2. Workshop to share the proposal with the government officials of Nhu Xuan District People Committee, Forest Ranger Department, Thanh Hoa province FCFP2 Management Board.			
2	Project management and audit			
	Meetings to prepare the monthly financial and the narrative reports with the participation of the Hoa Binh co-op leaders & CERDA staffs in Ha Noi			
	Audit			

5. **Budget** (kindly see Annex 1)

6. **Results Framework** (kindly refer to Annex 2)