

HALF YEARLY NARRATIVE REPORT

A - General Information

- **Organization name:** Community Entrepreneur Development Institute (CENDI)
- **Project title:** Regaining Community Forestry and Livelihood Security through Land Rights and Ecological Land Use Farming for Ethnic Minority in Lao Cai, Ha Tinh and Kon Tum provinces."
- **Reporting period:** From January to June 2015
- **Date of submission:** 15 July 2015

B - Background and progress overview

1. Project progress overview

This report provides progresses of the project "*Regaining Community Forestry and Livelihood Security through Land Rights and Ecological Land Use Farming for Ethnic Minority in Lao Cai, Ha Tinh and Kon Tum provinces*". During this half-year implementation process, CENDI would like to acknowledge and thanks to the supports from NPA and wonderful collaboration and contribution from villagers, local authorities, functional offices and colleagues at SPERI, CODE, CHESH and CIRUM.

Our goal is to contributing towards securing community forestland rights title to ethnic minority community as well as recognition of customary forest/land governance system. We also facilitate pilots adopting 'rain-forestation farming approach' as the strategy for sustainable land/forest uses in the post-land rights for long term livelihood security.

Three major components for 2015 are:

- A community forestland certificate will be handled to community with about 174 ha forestland in Violak village, Po E commune, Kon Plong district, Kon Tum province.
- Customary law over forest governance of local community will be formally recognized.
- 5 pilots will be developed adopting 'rain-forestation farming approach' as the strategy for sustainable land/forest uses in the post-land rights for long term livelihood security and with strong regards to the principles of 'self-sufficiency, security, sustainability and smart'.

2. Implementation/Progress versus Planning

PLAN	EXPECTED INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT	PROGRESS	ACTIVITIES WILL BE FURTHER DONE
Output 1: <i>A community Red Book Title will be handled to Community with about 174 ha for Hre</i>	A community title to be handled to Violak community with 174 ha, Violak village.	Very well	

PLAN	EXPECTED INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT	PROGRESS	ACTIVITIES WILL BE FURTHER DONE
ethnic minority			
1.1.Capacity building for community participatory on traditional landscape mapping analysis	<p><i>A comprehensive study with villagers to produce long set of village-based information:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Location of Violak. . History of settlement/resettlement of Violak village. . Topography map of Violak. . Traditional landscape mapping of Violak. . Ecological transects of Violak village (divided into 10 topographical zones) . Local calendar of ecological livelihoods of Hre community . Yearly clock of traditional community festivals . Map & traditional design of Hre house. . Map of every household/family location . Mapping of water irrigation system by villagers . List of names of members of forest protection patrolling teams . Map of traditional social community structure . Function and role and responsibilities of key persons and different clans . Distribution of forestland (in %) by stakeholders within the commune . Distribution of forestland uses by stakeholders by areas (in %) . Land use and management status . Update of areas of certain crops on cultivation fields 	Very well	
1.2.Capacity building for Community Participatory in Contradiction Reconciliation on border overlapping with State Watershed Management Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . A series of community meetings and minutes to discuss and share about local customary rules on forest governance (agreed and signed by 72 households). . Customary law of Hre community on forest governance (13 pages, 7 chapters) signed by key persons and stamped by Po E communal people's committee. . Traditional landscape mapping of Violak conducted with villagers self-drawn the map and identify areas of significance. . A written request by villagers' representative board and their Elder 	Very well	

PLAN	EXPECTED INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT	PROGRESS	ACTIVITIES WILL BE FURTHER DONE
	<p>Council proposed to Po E CPC, Kon Plong DPC, and Thach Nham MBPF of the certification/recognition of Customary law of Hre community on forest governance.</p> <p>. A letter of request from Po E CPC to Kon Plong DPC of approval of Customary law of Hre community on forest governance of Violak village.</p> <p>. A working minute of the formal meeting between Kon Tum PPC, Head of Forestry Department, Vice Head of Forestry Department, representative of KUSTA, delegates of Kon Plong DPC (Vice Chair, Administrator, Head of Forestry Unit, DONRE, DARD), delegates of Po E CPC (Forestry, Land unit, Culture and Information), delegates from Violak community, CODE, CIRUM, CENDI/SPERI; Thach Nham MBPF; (PCC) Economic Commission upon (a) findings from above comprehensive village-based study; (b) Customary law of Hre community on forest governance of Violak village; (c) request of transferring land and forest from 21 households (174 ha) to community title; (d) propose to relocate/allocate a part of spiritual forestland areas currently under management of Thach Nham MBPF to Violak village.</p>		<p><u>Continued proposing and lobby/advocacy for relocation/allocation</u></p> <p>and/or co-management strategy of areas of community spiritual forestlands currently under management of Thach Nham MBPF to Violak village and nearby villages</p>
1.3. Inter-village meeting for border solving and inter-community awareness raising	. A meeting for 4 villages nearby including Violak village organized mid-late June to discuss: (a) remained villages wish to have also their community customary laws formally recognized as Violak, (b) formation of the forest patrolling team that consists of members from cross villages (each village with 2 people then the team consists of 8 people).	On-going & completed.	
1.4. Field measuring and mapping (50% for the first six-month)	. A field measurement involved 5 young key villagers of Violak to conduct forest assessment (measure tree heights, diameters) . Calculating forest volume is on-going.	On-going	
Output 2: A	Recognition of customary forest/land	Very well	

PLAN	EXPECTED INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT	PROGRESS	ACTIVITIES WILL BE FURTHER DONE
legalization of community customary law will be legitimized	governance system of the Hre community by communal and district authorities		
2.1. Legitimacy the customary law and documentation	<p>Filings for recognition of customary law over forest governance of Hre community in Violak village included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . A written request by villagers' representative board, Party secretary, and Elder Council and village head proposed to Po E CPC, Kon Plong DPC, and Thach Nham MBPF of the certification/recognition of Customary law of Hre community on forest governance. . A letter of request from Po E CPC to Kon Plong DPC of approval of Customary law of Hre community on forest governance of Violak village. . List of 72 households with 72 signatures. . Customary law of Hre community on forest governance (13 pages, 7 chapters) signed by key persons and stamped by Po E communal people's committee. 	Very well	
2.2. Compared research on community forestry and state watershed management board for policy analysis and advocacy (50% for the first six-month)	. 1 research-paper leading up as the case study. The case study has been finished up and will potentially contribute to the Bhutan GNH conference in November 2015.	Very well.	
2.3. National Conference for policy recommendation on Community Ownership to Forestry		Joint financing with other donors	Next phase
2.4. Published Book "Customary Based Community Forest Preservation instead of State Watershed Based Depended	Final version for Hre case study (56 pages length) and will be contributing as a case study for the Bhutan conference on livelihoods sovereignty and village well-being	Very well	On-printing

PLAN	EXPECTED INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT	PROGRESS	ACTIVITIES WILL BE FURTHER DONE
Contract Protection for Livelihood Security of Minority People' for Lobbying 'Forest Law 2016' (50% for the first six-month)			
Output 3: 05 pilots farm land "self-sufficiency, security, sustainability and smart" in Ha Tinh province			
3.1. Conduct study ethno-botany on potential sites, local knowledge on native species, identify mother trees for recommended solutions	. Conducted a research proposal and organize field trips to Ha Tinh region to study the 25 valuable native species that have been popular at use.	On-going	. Expected to organize a workshop involved 15-20 participants to comment for the study and contribute towards the final recommended list below.
3.2. Provide small grants for enrichment following eco-farming/rain-forestation farming for households and communities	3 farms 90% survival rate for forest tree species. 50% survival rate for bamboo species (take 1 year-cycle to observe actual survival) 100% survival rate for palm trees.	May monitoring. Late June monitoring.	. Continued care-taken for trees already planted needed and keep good records of growth/survival/death so to find out relevant strategies.
3.3. A recommended list of native trees and other plants for Ecological Economy Farming Awareness Raising and lobbying the Local District Vocational Technical School (50% for the first six-month)	. 12 tree species are currently documented on process of harvesting seeds and nursing into seedlings (Vàng, Mỡ, Dẻ, Lim, Trường mật, Xoan đào, Xoan đầu, Cọ kè, Mây, Me, Sấu, Cồng). . 10 tree species are documented by photos/images (each species is captured by trunk, foliage cover, leaves, flowers and fruits)	On-going	. Expected additional funding for printing/release of the list and distribute to local and district and vocational schools in the region.

	Farms/Species	Trám đen	Cồng	De	Tro kè	Tre mạy	Sao đen	Mít	Tre măng	Tổng	Site
3	Vườn lim		281			40	11			332	NPA
4	Nhà 7 gian		30		30	37	9			106	NPA
5	Linh Mộc		90		42	23				155	NPA

Photos attached:



Figure 1: Villagers meeting to discuss their customary law on forest governance (March, 2015).
Figure 2: A village representative represented the customary law to everyone (March, 2015).



Figure 3: Villagers discuss their traditional mapping analysis on the formal map (April, 2015).



Figure 4: Meeting held in the Kon Plong DPC involved multi-stakeholders including villagers’ representative board, Elder Council, Thạch Nham MBPF, PCC Economic Commission, Land department, Forestry departments at CPC/DPC/PPC attended to listen to findings and proposals from Violak villagers (April, 2015).



Figure 5: Villagers assessing their forest resources (11 June, 2015).

Figure 6: Villagers assessing their forest resources (11 June, 2015).



Figure 7: Inter-villages meeting on 19 June 2015 between Violak village and the other 03 villages – Vi K Oa village, Vi K Tau village, and Vi Pờ E village on jointly protecting forest management and informally forming forest patrolling teams.



Figure 8: Forest trees planting in Bai lim area (updated mid May, 2015).
Figure 9: Palm trees 100 survival rate (updated mid May, 2015).



Figure 10: An area experimenting forest trees planting by rows (updated mid May, 2015).



Figure 11: Forest trees planting in Linh Moc farm area (updated mid May, 2015).



Figure 12: Palm tree great survival (5 June 2015).



Figure 13: Care-taken for trees in farms in Ha Tinh province (June 2015).



Figure 14: Cay Cong goes well in the farms (June 2015).

Figure 15: Cay Sao den goes well in the farms (June 2015).



Figure 16: Bamboo growing well in the farms (June 2015).

Figure 17: Certain bamboo trees are dying out due to long period of drought (April – June: hot weather hitting the region).

Other remarks:

- **The comprehensive study & findings conducted by villagers facilitated by colleagues were presented in the meeting jointly attended by CPC, DPC, PPC and other management authorities.** Findings and presentation conducted by villagers were highly regarded by local authorities and agencies. The information is evaluated to be significantly contributing to the forest management strategies at the broader scale, as well as providing inputs for socio-economic development and eco-tourism direction for the Mang Den region. Findings and results from this study will be as foundation for further facilitation of development activities in not only Violak but also nearby villages.
- **Findings from the study have been used and developed into a research-paper and case study** to be presented at the upcoming Bhutan GNH conference on themes: livelihoods sovereignty and village well-being (organized from 3-6 November 2015 in Bhutan).
- **Process of obtaining a community forestland title to be allocated to Violak community over 174 ha** in Violak village, Po E commune, Kon Plong district, Kon Tum province was approved and is in the process of finalizing the filings.
- **Customary law over forest governance of Violak community was formally recognized, first time ever** in Vietnam, certified by DPC dated 25 June 2015 at Decision 76/UB of approval.
- **Inter-villages meeting:** after learning about the customary law over forest governance of Violak village, villagers in other villages also express their wish to formally recognize their community customary law over forest governance. An informal network was generated from the meeting, whereby villagers from the 04 villages felt that they could go together to patrol the forest (2 persons each village). It is nicer to collectively join-hands to co-protect the common forest i.e. Vang Ha Ro area in a team (currently now has 08 people/04 villages). After hearing the results from transferring 21 titles into a community forestland title of the Violak case, villagers from other villages (Vi K Oa, Vi K Tàu and Vi Pờ Ê) whom share their uses in Vang Ha Ro area (about 33 households over 290 ha) also express their wishes to transfer from household titles to a community title. This may offer an interesting future opportunity to work to expand the benefits for the grassroots in terms of securing common forest resources.
- **Forest resources assessment:** local villagers were invited/engaged into the assessment of their forest resources. What was found out that villagers assessing their forest with value at 100-120 m³/ha which is higher than one estimated by formal data (DPC and its relevant agency estimated with value at 77 m³/ha). This may offer a new/innovative area for further development, documentation and comparison between villagers' assessment and technical team's assessment in link to carbon accounting, REDD+ assessment at grassroots level.
- **Strategy on co-management of forestland** between Thach Nham management board of protection forest and Violak villagers. This is an on-going strategy with activities.
- **For pilots on land/forest uses currently developing trees scheme of valuable species and expecting to be as a recommended list for rehabilitation at the district, or provincial level:** overall, most of the native tree species have shown a great resilience towards survival and growth (even during the hot season lately hitting the Ha Tinh area). Species such as Cồng, Sao đen, Cọ kè have indicated great survival. However, for bamboo species, there are about over 50 trees that needed further attention. The bamboo leaves show signals of dying-out given intense heat temperature. Continued observation and tracking records of trees species/growth for all sites is continuous until end of year. For bamboo, conclusive statement can only be made at end of year after its one-year cycle.

Site NPA	Monitoring 20/6/2015
Species	Number of trees with dying leaves
Tre Mây	65
Cồng	18
Cọ kè	5
Sao đen	0

Once trees are monitored over a year-long for growth rate and other attributes, these would provide further inputs for live lobby-advocacy lessons both to farmers and policy makers on live pilots and hence strategies for forestland uses after land rights secured (i.e. small holders should promote/use and plant valuable native trees following rain-forestation farming scheme) to move forwards to self-sufficiency and sustainability pathways.

3. Deviations

There is little change compared to proposal.

4. Unexpected effects

- Villagers in other villages (Vi K Oa, Vi K Tàu và Vi Pờ Ê) further express their wish to formally recognize their community customary law over forest governance.
- Villagers in other villages (Vi K Oa, Vi K Tàu and Vi Pờ Ê) whom share their uses in Vang Ha Ro area (about 33 households over 290 ha) express their wishes to transfer from household titles to community title(s).
- Villagers assessment of their forest resources is valued at 100-120 m³/ha which is higher than one estimated by formal data (technical team). This requires further examination and cross-examination, and possibly should be developed in a case study.

5. Challenges and mitigation measures

- During the field trips, some households in Violak village use herbicides and pesticides, particularly on the area of sloping cultivating land. This is a concern that should be raised and worked with other agency to raise awareness and behavioural change.
- During the field trips, certain areas have been accelerated for cutting down trees replaced by cassava plantation given the presence of nearby cassava production plant raising interests for cassava sold for animals feed and noodles making.