

ANNUAL 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 July to December 2015
- **Date of submission:** 15 December 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".

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	INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT	PROGRESS	FURTHER ACTIVITIES
Output 1: A community Red Book Title will be handled to Community with about 174 ha for Hre ethnic minority	A community forestland title was officially handed to Violak community with 174 ha, Violak village by Decision 510/QDUB issued by the Kon Plong District People's Committee dated 30 July 2015.	Completed	Continued lobby/advocacy for co-management strategy of areas of community spiritual forestlands currently under management of Thach Nham MBPF to Violak village and nearby villages
1.1. Capacity building for community participatory on traditional landscape mapping analysis		Completed	
1.2. Capacity building for Community		Completed	

PLAN	INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT	PROGRESS	FURTHER ACTIVITIES
Participatory in Contradiction Reconciliation on border overlapping with State Watershed Management Board			
1.3. Inter-village meeting for border solving and inter-community awareness raising	. An inter-villages networking towards protecting common forests by customary laws was formally initiated and on-going	Completed	
1.4. Building capacity for villagers and youths to measure forest resources	. 5 villagers do well with measuring timber volume per tree, timber volume per sampling area, and timber volume in cubic meters.	Completed	
Output 2: A legalization of community customary law will be legitimized	Recognition of customary law over forest/land governance of the Hre minority community was first time officially approved by communal and Kon Plong district people's committee authorities by date 26 June 2015.	Completed	
2.1. Legitimacy the customary law and documentation	<p>. Organize meeting with Council of Elders, village leaders board to discuss on the planning, contents of the 2nd draft of community customary law.</p> <p>. Organize meetings with entire villagers to go through this 2nd draft of community customary law for the final version before submitting to the communal and district authorities.</p> <p>. Entire 21 households with full consensus to voluntarily handing their family titles to be merged into the community forestland title for entire Violak village.</p> <p>. Organize a meeting with Po E communal authority to go through this version of customary law for approval.</p> <p>. To prepare other supportive documents for presenting and submitting to the district authority.</p> <p>. Working with the Natural Resources and Environmental management office on the Economic Contract on procedure towards granting legal title for community forestland for Violak village/community.</p> <p>Procedure towards legalization and merging of 21 family titles to community forestland title.</p> <p>. Working with Justice/Legal office of Kon Plong district, and also the Natural Resources and Environmental management office to propose changes and amendments on community customary law.</p> <p>. Organize a meeting with Council of Elders, village leaders</p>	Completed	

PLAN	INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT	PROGRESS	FURTHER ACTIVITIES
2.3. National Conference for policy recommendation on Community Ownership to Forestry	<p>board to final review of the final version of customary law; this was the 4th version. Also, discuss and obtain approval on Letter for asking for forestland re-allocation, Land uses planning and options, Contents and Responsibilities division.</p> <p>. Organize another training, review on forest assessment, resources monitoring for Vang Ha Ro area with 12 participants. (Know-how).</p> <p>. Organize a meeting with Po E communal peoples committee to finalize all the paper works.</p> <p>. Work with the Natural Resources and Environmental management office of the Kon Plong district to proceed further the granting of legal documents.</p> <p>. Succeed with participation of 70 participants and conference proceedings, increasing in awareness and reinforce of importance of community rights and ownership of spirit forest, role of forestland and customary law based conflict resolution in ethnic minorities in highland areas; and also inter-villages networking towards protecting the common forests (joint actions and hearing from villagers from Sa Thay district);</p> <p>. Succeed in presenting in front of all participants the re-issuance/official stamp and recognition of Violak village community forestland title to the village head;</p> <p>. Further demand from other villages nearby Violak whom also wish to relocate their family forestland rights into community forestland titles in order to avoid external grabbing and interventions;</p>	Completed	
2.4. Published Book	<p>Book well received at the Bhutan conference on livelihoods sovereignty and village well-being in Bhutan, reflecting upon the Violak village case example.</p> <p>GNH Conference in Bhutan see here http://www.bhutanstudies.org.bt/conferences/2015-gnh-conference/concept-note/</p> <p>A H're village leader, representative of the village presented at the Conference the case study of Hre and book http://www.bhutanstudies.org.bt/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/CONFERENCE-PROGRAM_04.11.15.pdf</p>	Completed	<p>500 copies</p> <p>Distributed 22 copies</p>
2.5 Organize the inter-villages meeting network towards managing and protecting forests across villages in Po E commune	. An inter-villages with 17 members networking informally set up towards protecting common forests by customary laws and on-going	Completed	
Output 3: 03 pilots			

PLAN	INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT	PROGRESS	FURTHER ACTIVITIES
<i>farm land "self-sufficiency, security, sustainability and smart" in Ha Tinh province</i>			
3.1. Conduct study ethno-botany on local knowledge on native species, mother trees	. A field study of valuable native species that have been popular at use conducted for both Ha Tinh and Kon Tum provinces.	Completed	. Combined with TOA event with Kon Tum farmers to ask for inputs already.
3.2. 3 farms for enrichment plantings	<p>After almost an entire year observation and twice monitoring (one in March, one in December), in terms of species assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . 89.4% survival rate for forest tree species, very successful; . 4.7% survival rate for bamboo species, very unsuccessful; . 84.5% survival rate for palm trees, very successful; <p>After almost an entire year observation and twice monitoring (one in March, one in December), for all the farms, rate of success for all species per each farm is followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Farm 1: 73.2% survival, good. More low land, more shade, better care? . Farm 2: 62.3% survival, relatively okay. More upslope, more sun-direct, more vulnerable for bamboo species. Died from bamboo. . Farm 3: 69.7% survival, still good. Still upslope, a bit sun-direct and vulnerable for bamboo species. 	Mid November and December monitoring.	. Continued care-taken for year 2016 and keep good records of trees growth is needed
3.3. A recommended list of native trees and for Ha Tinh and Kon Tum regions towards regeneration and restoration for sustainability Other publications used NPA supports for benefits of the themes fighting for	<p>. A publication contains 51 pages (colored printing) divided into 2 regions Ha Tinh and Kon Tum for native species recommended for restoration and reforestation for Ha Tinh province and also sacred species recommended for conservation and daily-life use and proper management for Kon Tum province.</p> <p>. 1000 copies on spirit forestland, customary law and indigenous ethnic minority communities in Vietnam (co-funding between NPA, Caritas and CCFD)</p>	Completed	300 copies

Table 1: Data gather Feb-March 2015.

	Farms/Species	Cồng	Tro kè	Tre mạy	Sao đen	Tổng
NPA site	Vườn lim	281		40	11	332
NPA site	Nhà 7 gian	30	30	37	9	106
NPA site	Linh Mộc	90	42	23		155

Table 2: Data monitoring December 2015.

	Farms/Species	Cồng	Tỷ lệ sống (%)	Tro kè	Tỷ lệ sống (%)	Tre mạy	Tỷ lệ sống (%)	Sao đen	Tỷ lệ sống (%)	Tổng nay
NPA site	Vườn lim	225	80			8	0.2	10	90.9	243
NPA site	Nhà 7 gian	27	90	25	83.3	5	13.5	9	100.0	66
NPA site	Linh Mộc	72	80	36	85.7	0	0.0			108

Table 3: Comparison of changes between March and December 2015 for rate of survival for trees.

	Farms/Species	Total sum before	Total sum now	Differences	Rate of survival
NPA site	Vườn lim	332	243	89	73.2
NPA site	Nhà 7 gian	106	66	40	62.3
NPA site	Linh Mộc	155	108	47	69.7

Table 4: Number of direct beneficiaries including participating during entire project

	First half of year 2015	Number of women	Second half of year 2015	Number of women
Total number of direct beneficiaries on-the-ground level	248	49	289	39

Photos attached:



Figure 1: Villagers working at inter-villages networking meeting (October 2015).



Figure 2: Villagers meeting up with NPA representatives (October 2015).



Figure 3: NPA representative from Norway visited the Violak village (October 2015).



Figure 4: An official red book, or community forestland title granted to Violak community (August – September 2015).



Figure 5: A Chon, an Hre village leader with SPERI farmer/activist group in Bhutan (November 2015).



Figure 6: A Chon, an Hre village leader with SPERI leader presented at GNH conference in Bhutan (November 2015).



Figure 7: Palm tree great survival (November 2015).



Figure 8: Care-taken for Cong trees in farms in Ha Tinh province by international volunteer (November 2015).

Figure 9: Cay Sao den goes well in the farms (November 2015).



Figure 10: Cay Cong goes well in the farms (November 2015).



Figure 11: SPERI colleagues monitored trees survival through counting (December 2015).



Figure 12: SPERI colleagues monitored trees survival through counting (December 2015).

Other remarks:

- **The Bhutan GNH conference** with sub-panel discussion with presentation of the Book on H're as well as Mr. A Chon as H're village representative on livelihoods sovereignty and village well-being (3-6 November 2015 in Bhutan) was successfully applauded and very supportive by many international friends, activists and scholars.
- **Inter-villages meeting:** an informal network of 17 villagers already initiated and on-going commit to protect their sacred forests as to protect their lives and find out ways to maintain and restore rare species through other project's scheme.
- **Strategy on co-management of forestland** between Thach Nham management board of protection forest and Violak villagers and the near-by villagers continue to be an on-going strategy.
- **For farm pilots on forestland uses currently experimenting trees scheme of valuable species:** overall, most of the native tree species have shown the highest successful rate of survival, resilience and growth. Species such as Cồng, Sao đen have indicated very high rate of success. However, for bamboo species, it was a big fail for this project which still needs to study more and gain consultation for improvements (during selection of species and or site(s) for experimenting). After nearly a-year-long cycle, what has been successfully shown is that it appears wisely when post-land rights (i.e. small holders should promote the use of valuable native trees for restoration and development, try to grow them in mixture, under shade at first and having good care, during weeding avoid damaging the trees and allow minimum sunlight penetration). Palm trees also appear growing really well for other subsistence needs for farm houses.

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) also 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) also express their wishes to transfer from household titles to a community title. This has been successfully secured under CARITAS funding scheme.

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. Seeking in different project.
- 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. Continue raising in forums, workshops.