



**Community Entrepreneur Development Institute (CENDI)  
in collaboration with  
Kon Tum Union of Science and Technology Associations (KUSTA)**

**ACTION PLAN**

***Project “Securing community forestland rights and local knowledge for upland livelihoods for villages in Dak Nen and Mang Canh communes”***

***From January 2020 to December 2021***

In order to support IEMs in Mang Canh and Dak Nen communes of Kon Plong district, Kon Tum province of Central Highlands, CENDI, in collaboration with KUSTA and other district and communal functional bodies have agreed upon the implementation of the project “Securing community forestland rights and local knowledge for upland livelihoods for villages in Dak Nen and Mang Canh communes”.

**I. Objectives**

1. Secure community land and forest rights; effective forest management and protection in accordance with customary laws of villages<sup>1</sup> in Mang Canh commune to preserve the M’Nam cultural identity.
2. Have lessons learned and appropriate solutions to stabilize post-FLA livelihoods of villages.
3. Contribute consultation and recommendations to the Government of Vietnam for policy adjustment to support forest-dependent upland IEMs and those in the resettlement areas.
4. Strengthen capacity and raise awareness among communities and stakeholders in co-management, use, protection and benefiting from sustainable forest resources.

**II. Outputs**

1. Villages are allocated forest and land in accordance with Forest Law 2017.
2. Village regulations on forest, land and water protection and development are legalized by local authorities in accordance with Forest Law 2017.
3. Inter-village and inter-commune networks for forest monitoring, supervision, management, protection and development based on community customary laws are legalized by local authorities at all levels and put into the district and communal People’s Council’s resolution for implementation (an integration of 3 Groups: i) Group of Updating and Propagating/Disseminating government policies and laws; ii) Community Supervision Group; iii) Community Development Support Group as the

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<sup>1</sup> The institution with special social structure

key force of YIELDS-AGREE, representing the communities to implement tasks of forest management, protection and development).

4. Have lessons learned documented regarding community solutions based on their wisdom and customary laws for livelihood stabilization, and recommendations to government authorities at all levels for further adjustment of the existing inappropriate policies.
5. Have convincing indicators of methodology regarding economic effectiveness, livelihood and ecology to further co-operation with authorities at all levels to promote agro-ecological models at community and family levels after the FLA.

### **III. Implementation**

1. Mang Canh communal People's Committee is responsible for facilitating and collaborating with CENDI/CODE and KUSTA to implement the project;
2. The village leaders and village Elder's Councils in Mang Canh and Dak Nen communes shall mobilize their human resources to implement project activities at their villages;
3. Kon Plong District People's Committee (DPC) and relevant agencies (People's Committee, Office of Justice, Office of Natural Resources and Environment, Cultural Office, Office of Land use registration, Forest Protection Division, Thach Nham WBM, Forestry Enterprise, Farmer's Association, Woman' Association, Youth Union) are responsible for legal procedures and providing support;
4. DHF Consultant Firm is responsible for providing technical support for community-based FLA under the CENDI/CODE methodology;
5. KUSTA is responsible for providing legal support, advising method of implementation and assigning personnel to engage in the project activities;
6. YIELDS-AGREE (key farmers<sup>2</sup>) in Po E, Dak Nen and Mang Canh communes are responsible for implementing the project activities to achieve the above mentioned outputs.

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<sup>2</sup> Key farmers network of farmers, youths and women in all villages has been implementing community development programs facilitated by CENDI/CODE in Kon Plong district. The network has been formed on the basis of 3 Groups: (Group of Updating and Propagating/Disseminating government policies and laws; Community Supervision Group; Community Development Support Group. These groups lay the foundation for further strengthening and expanding the YIELDS-AGREE network in Kon Plong district.

#### IV. Main activities

No	Activities	Outputs	Participants	Time
<b>I</b>	<b>Preparatory activities</b>			
1	Legal procedures	A legal document made by Kon Plong DPC to allow and collaborate with CENDI to implement the project.	DPC, KUSTA, district functional units; Mang Canh and Dak Nen communes; CENDI	November to December 2019
2	Preliminary research for making an action plan	A preliminary report with an action plan		January 2020
<b>II.</b>	<b>Activities in Mang Canh commune</b>			
<b>1</b>	<b>Conduct a research on the M’Nam customary law before implementing FLA to community</b>	A detailed research report on the M’Nam local wisdom, customary law, and their understanding of management, protection and development of forest, slope land and valley.	YIELDS-AGREE <sup>3</sup> ; village elders from Mang Canh, Dak Nen and Po E communes; Cultural Office; Office of Justice; Office of Agriculture; Forest Protection Division; KUSTA, CENDI, CPC; DHF	February to June 2020
1.1	Learning customs regarding the M’Nam perception on the ownership of forest, land, water, stream for the FLA preparation.	A preliminary document proving the differences between 2 logics <sup>4</sup> over the ownership of forest, land, water and stream.	YIELDS-AGREE; village elders from Mang Canh, Dak Nen and Po E communes	
1.1.1	M’Nam perception on the ownership, culture of use, village regulation on distribution in identifying traditional boundaries and living space.	A set of indicators proving characteristics of forest, land, water, streams according to the community wisdom and customary law as a basis for community economy and values of solidarity economy based on the community voluntariness, <i>for further comparison and analysis of barriers in terms of assets perception over land, forest, water, river, stream in the market economy, in which upland has been overexploited for industrial cassava plantations for GDP purposes</i> <sup>5</sup> .		

<sup>3</sup> Five-step participatory research –TEW 1995-2005-2015-2025.

<sup>4</sup> Traditional logic on community ownership under Marxism vs. modern logic on ownership

<sup>5</sup> The large industrial cassava plantations on upland area have caused adverse impacts on agro-economy at the community and family levels toward community economy and agro-cultural tourism in Kon Plong district which is known as the richest district in forest in Vietnam.

No	Activities	Outputs	Participants	Time
1.1.2	Identify traditional ownership <sup>6</sup> over traditional boundaries: village forest areas and family forest areas. What types of village forests? spiritual forest, cemetery forest, forest for worshipping practices (in an area with a few trees, or in an area as large as hundreds of square meters); sacred forest, forest (where reside Nature Spirits or a sacred waterfall is located); family forest and upland farm			
1.1.3	Identify non-traditional/current/legal ownership and management (owned /managed by villages, companies, CPC, or under contracts (between CPC and other villages/organizations)			
1.1.4	Village/inter-village meetings to agree upon the allocation method: identify forest location (to be allocated to villages or households); identify the area of forests to be allocated to villages or households, or adjustment among villages; or recommendation-based areas/forests allocation associated with dissemination of the new Forest Law and Land Law			
1.2	Research on customary law on methods of organization, distribution, benefiting and management of benefits distribution over natural resources of forest, land, water and stream.	A preliminary database of 2 logics on distribution, benefiting and management of benefits distribution over natural resources of forest, land, water and stream.	YIELDS-AGREE; village elders from Mang Canh, Dak Nen and Po communes; Cultural Office; Office of Justice; Office of Agriculture; Forest Protection Division; KUSTA, CENDI, CPC; DHF	
1.2.1	Research on history (of relocation), culture, names of villages (in specific historical periods)			
1.2.2	Village institutions (village elders, Elder's Council, groups of households)			
1.2.3	Village regulations on forest protection, benefiting, division and distribution			
1.2.4	Village regulations on punishment and reward			
1.2.5	Village rituals			
1.2.6	Village regulations on inheritance of production materials			
1.2.7	Village regulations on distribution of production materials			
1.3	Village communities together consolidate their perception on ownership, distribution, benefiting and management of benefits distribution based on their customary laws in combination with training on government policies on natural resources management and development	Sets of village regulations objectively reflect their perception on ownership, customs of benefits distribution of natural resources.		
<b>2</b>	<b>Prepare FLA profile:</b>	A profile prepared legally by functional units and DHF to be submitted to the relevant agencies, requesting re-allocation of land, forest and streams to the villages		From June to August 2020

<sup>6</sup>According to the M'Nam perception

No	Activities	Outputs	Participants	Time
2.1	Village communities make an official request for FLA <sup>7</sup> in writing	A legal profile made by the villagers to be submitted to the functional units, requesting re-allocation of land, forest and streams to the villages		
2.2	Procedure for withdrawal upon the agreed plan (following the activity 1.1.4			
2.3	Field survey and measurements (field work)			
	Desk work			
2.4	Prepare FLA profile (based on results of measurements, maps, village regulations, related documents co-signed by enamoring forest owners (upon agreement on boundaries/verification of non-overlapping boundaries)			
<b>3</b>	<b>Appraisal of the FLA profile at field, in villages<sup>8</sup> with two or three appraisal documents enclosed)</b>	The FLA profile has been appraised by functional units in accordance with law.		September 2020
3.1	Appraisal of forest			
3.2	Appraisal of land			
3.3	Appraisal of village regulations Results of appraisal process to be publicly informed to villagers of all villages			
3.4	Submit the appraised FLA profile to DPC			
<b>4</b>	<b>DPC issues a decision on FLA and granting of Land use Certificate</b>			December 2020
<b>5</b>	<b>Conduct landmarking, organize ceremonies of granting Land use Certificate to villages</b>			October to December 2020
<b>6</b>	<b>Propagating and dissemination of the FLA results and make recommendations to resolve pending issues</b> 6.1 Dissemination and collect public opinion in each village and among villages 6.2. Organize a regional workshop for sharing the FLA methodology and conflict resolution	An organized workshop		By 2021
6.1	Dissemination and collect public opinion in each village and among villages			
6.2	Organize a regional workshops for sharing the FLA methodology and conflict resolution			

<sup>7</sup> After implementing activities 1.1 & 1.2, villagers of the villages better understand their rights and confidently request the local authorities at all levels to conduct the FLA to secure their rights to forest and land.

<sup>8</sup> Names of spiritual and sacred sites on the map are shown in their original names called by the IEM.

No	Activities	Outputs	Participants	Time
III	<b>Activities in Dak Nen commune</b>		YIELDS-AGREE <sup>9</sup> Village elders from Dak Nen commune; Cultural Office, Office of Justice, Office of Agriculture, Forest Protection Division , KUSTA, CENDI, CPC, DHF	
1	<b>Research for lessons learned from the resettlement of the Dak Rinh hydro-power resettlement regarding the compensation and livelihood stabilization</b>	Lessons learned in identifying resettlement locations that are appropriate to customs, practices and socio-economic conditions of the local people. .		From January to October 2020
1.1	Experience in identifying resettlement locations to ensure livelihood of local people			
1.1.1	Research on inadequacies regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spiritual dimension (location, forest availability for worshipping/ rituals, etc.)</li> <li>- Culture, customary law (house, kitchen, toilet, etc.)</li> <li>- Natural resources: water, land, forest, transport, environment</li> <li>- Lack of production land? flooding?</li> </ul>			
1.1.2	Comparative research for lessons learned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Village traditional relocation process</li> <li>- Village top-down relocation process under the resettlement program</li> </ul>			
1.2	Research on experience regarding compensation and livelihood support	Lessons learned on compensation and livelihood support during the resettlement		
1.2.1	Research on inadequacies regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compensation of production land (with or without forest, how sufficient it is according to the Ka Dong expectation? Requirements for quality and irrigation conditions of the compensated production land?</li> <li>- Land reserves for next generations?</li> <li>- Appropriateness in changing occupation/job?</li> <li>- Food support?</li> </ul>			
1.2.2	What are the lessons learned?			
1.3	Experience in resolving community concerns over resettlement compensation			
1.3.1	What are they concerned about? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Insufficient types of land?</li> <li>- Insufficient area?</li> </ul>			

<sup>9</sup> Five-step participatory research – TEW 1995-2005-2015-2025.

No	Activities	Outputs	Participants	Time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On-land assets?</li> <li>- Price?</li> <li>- Delay in compensation</li> </ul>			
1.3.2	Experience in how to resolve			
1.4	Experience in overcoming pending issues of local community and authorities at all levels.	Lessons learned in overcoming pending issues of the local community and authorities at all levels.		
1.5	Research on urgent issues and solutions for ensuring the daily life and livelihood of resettled communities.	Appropriate recommendations have been made to resolve urgent issues of the current daily life and livelihood of the resettled communities.		
2	<b>Research on sustainable livelihood development (agro-forestry livelihood)</b>	Solutions have been made to collaborate with DPC to facilitate reliable sustainable livelihood models, i.e. agro-ecological after the FLA.		From January to October 2020
2.1	Research on local knowledge of forest – upland farming - rice valley farming- animal raising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ecological interactions in the inter-relations among ecological components: forest – upland farm – rice valley farm – stream/river – animal raising area.</li> <li>- Economic interactions in the ecological inter-relations among forest – upland farming – rice valley farming and animal raising, contributing to seasonal income of each household</li> </ul>			
2.2	Research on local knowledge in upland (slop land) farming) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Criteria for selection of location?</li> <li>- Design of upland farming model: location? Crops?</li> <li>- Varieties of crops for diversity</li> <li>- Seasonal rituals</li> <li>- Local knowledge of land restoration: For example, rotational upland farming/forest farming for how many years? Use of leaves for restoration.</li> <li>- Use of local species and ways to save seeds through voluntary labor exchange</li> <li>- What time to work ? (to avoid mist in the morning and mosquitoes in the afternoon)</li> </ul>			
2.3	Current upland farming situation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is still existing</li> <li>- What is lost? How ?</li> <li>- What are the current adverse impacts? Any potential risks? The current situation of economy, environment, climate change, market and society?</li> </ul>			

No	Activities	Outputs	Participants	Time
2.4	Possibilities for local knowledge application? What will be the restoration of local knowledge in case of being lost?			
2.5	Proposal of a plan for collaboration with local authorities at all levels to apply local knowledge-based upland farming models for sustainable livelihood			
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Multi-stakeholder workshops for sharing research outcomes and findings</b> <i>1.1. Community level</i> <i>1.2. Regional level</i>	Organized workshops at community and regional levels		From October to December 2020
<b>V.</b>	<b>Enhance capacity and study tour for sharing</b> <b>1. Training and study tour to visit local models</b> <b>2. Training and study tour to visit models abroad</b>	Organized training courses and study tours	YIELDS-AGREE <sup>10</sup> ; village elders from Dak Nen, Mang Canh and Po E communes; Cultural Office, Office of Justice, Office of Agriculture, Forest Protection Division; KUSTA, CENDI, CPC, DHF	In 2020
<b>VI.</b>	<b>M &amp; E</b> <b>1. 6 month</b> <b>2. One year</b>		CENDI/CODE – KUSTA  Donors  Independent experts (from relevant agencies in charge of ethnic affairs, land and natural resources management)	From 2020 to 2021

<sup>10</sup> Five-step participatory research – TEW 1995-2005-2015-2025.



