



**Social Policy Ecology Research Institute (SPERI) and Mekong Community Networking
and Ecological Trading (MECO-ECOTRA)**

Program Application
For Co-Funding

**Regaining Livelihood Sovereignty for
Indigenous Ethnic Minorities in the
Mekong Sub-region
MECO-ECOTRA/SPERI (2013-2016)**



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List of Acronyms

AIPP	Asian Indigenous Peoples Pacts
AVID	Australian Volunteer International Development
BftW	German Brot für die Welt (Bread for the World)/ Evangelische Kirche Deutschland (EKD, Evangelical Church in Germany)
CBO	Community Based Organization
CBSEs	Community Based Social Enterprises
CCFD	French CCFD-terre solidaire
CEDAC	Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation
CHESH	Center for Human Ecology Studies of the Highlands
CIRD	Center for Indigenous Knowledge Research and Development
CIRUM	Culture Identity and Resource Use Management
CODE	Consultancy Institute on Development
CSIP	Center for Social Innovative Promotion
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DAD	Department of Administration
DECODE	Department of Community Development
DEF	Department of Finance
DEFO	Department of Foreign Relations
DES	Department of Development Studies
DET	Department of Education and Training
FFS	Farmers' Field School
FK	Fredskorpes
HEPA	Human Ecology Practice Area
ICCO	Dutch Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation
INEB	International Network of Engaged Buddhist
ISEA	Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia
KFM	Kalayana Mitta Foundation
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MECO-ECOTRA	Mekong Community Networking and Ecological Trading
METTA	Metta Development Foundation
MOLISA	Ministry of Labor, Invalid and Social Affairs
MoNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
NESDP	National Social Economic Development Plan

NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NKF	National Key Farmers' Networks
NPA	Norwegian People's Aid.
NTFPs	Non-Timber Forest Products
PADETC	Participatory Development Training Center
PES	Payments for Ecosystem Services
PRI	Permaculture Research Institute
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation "plus" conservation
SPERI	Social Policy Ecology Research Institute
TEW	Towards Ethnic Women
TOA	Toward Organic Asia
TOR	Term of Reference
UNDRIP	The United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UN-REDD	United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
WTO	World Trade Organization
YIELDS	Youth Indigenous Ethnic Minority Leadership Development Strategy

1 General information

1.1 Name of organization and address

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1.2 Title of the project

Regaining Livelihood Sovereignty for Indigenous¹ Ethnic Minorities in the Mekong Sub-region; MECO-ECOTRA²-SPERI 2013-2016

1.3 Project history and financing

The Social Policy Ecology Research Institute (SPERI) was formed in 5 June 2006 through the merging of three Vietnamese NGOs: Towards Ethnic Women (TEW), Center for Human Ecology Studies of the Highlands (CHESH), and the Center for Indigenous Knowledge Research and Development (CIRD). SPERI proposes the project 'Regaining Livelihood Sovereignty for Indigenous and Ethnic Minority Farmers in the Mekong Sub-region; MECO-ECOTRA-SPERI 2013-2016' as a continuation of MECO-ECOTRA 2010-2013, which itself was a continuation of MECO-ECOTRA 2006-2009; and in turn of the National Key Farmer Network of six inter-thematic action networks since the early 1990s and from 1995-2005.

The current program 'The Continued Proposal on Mekong Community Networking and Ecological Trading (MECO-ECOTRA 2010-2013)' is the second three-year phase of the MECO-ECOTRA program. It is funded by the Dutch Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO), the French CCFD-terre solidaire, the German Brot für die Welt (Bread for the World)/ Evangelische Kirche Deutschland (EKD, Evangelical Church in Germany), and Norwegian People's Aid.

Both MECO-ECOTRA and SPERI have worked inter-dependently in partnership with grassroots-supporting donor ICCO from 1995 to 2010³. In 2010, BftW, CCFD and NPA joined the partnership, with shared understanding and funding of about 40% (ICCO has maintained 60% funding from 2010). We would like to continue this enlarged partnership for the next 10 years, from 2013 to 2023, in order to fulfill the 'Regaining Livelihood Sovereignty' framework, we would prefer co-funding between ICCO, BftW, CCFD and NPA in order to benefit from the synergies that would flow from the combined strengths of different donors. We believe this enlarged partnership will allow growth in regional

¹ SPERI uses the term "indigenous" for people who are the first settlers in an area to which they have been led by the spirits of their ancestors, and who, on the basis of the belief that there is a link between the spirits of their ancestors and the nature spirits of the area in which they have settled, develop regulations governing their behavior toward nature. These regulations govern the ancestral practice of nature worship, contemporary practices of land use, and the pattern of village settlement, i.e. the location of individual households in relation to one another and in relation to the natural features of the landscape. Over time, these regulations become customary laws that are followed voluntarily out of respect for the ancestors, and the behavior that they prescribe become the norms that define the group's identity

²MEkong COmmunity networking and ECOlogical TRAding

³Funding from IWDA (1994-1998) for Land Rights program which supported Sinh Mun vulnerable target group in Son la province; of Canadian Partner (2000-2012) under Forestland Rights to Black Thai target group in Nghe an province.

networking and mutual capacity building while allowing MECO-ECOTRA and SPERI to continue with its bottom-up driven approach.

SPERI's original donor ICCO has a long tradition of supporting bottom-up participation in project development so that projects always reflect endogenous solutions. To this end, they have supported pre-project research (e.g. needs assessment studies, as a first step in preparing project proposals. At the same time, ICCO is really concerned about how to open up opportunities internationally⁴ for key civil society activists of both MECO-ECOTERA and SPERI in building up our organizational and institutional capacity in order to gain confidence, and become aware of world-wide lessons learned and seek appropriate linkages with political, social, and academic institutions, such as connecting our Key Farmer and Key Political Stakeholders⁵ worldwide for learning and awareness raising. On this basis, SPERI has a very strong horizontal and vertical network action within and between indigenous key farmers and high-ranking officials built up over the last 20 years, which has attracted other donors (CCFD, BftW and NPA) and given them the opportunity build on and develop it and themselves further.

BftW respects pre-project research, which fits very well with SPERI's way of working, which is never to proceed without first learning from the people so that projects will truly reflect the people's needs. On the other hand, BftW is also very dynamic in connecting partners region-wide for mutual capacity building beyond national boundaries, and this is important to share with ICCO as ICCO has become limited⁶ in this area since 2010. CCFD is very active in connecting partners in different countries, and in building capacity for worldwide campaigning and social action⁷ in the agro-ecology area and young small-scale farmers worldwide for global campaigning and advocacy.

NPA is very new to community development funding, but very willing to learn from their partners, and they have supported SPERI to continue with very sensitive issues like community right to land and Spirit Forest. They understand that when working with indigenous people, the situation can change rapidly, and that there is a need for project flexibility if the realistic needs are to be met.

Through working with co-funding, donors can learn from the strengths and experiences of each other, solutions can be enriched, challenges and difficult can be shared amongst, and SPERI can gain from the results of each, with the result that the reach of the MECO-ECOTRA/SPERI Livelihood Sovereignty Strategy will be greatly expanded and enriched regionally and internationally.

1.4 Project period

Regaining Livelihood Sovereignty for Indigenous Ethnic Minorities in the Mekong Sub-region, MECO-ECOTRA-SPERI 2013-2016 project will run from July 2013 - June 2016.

1.5 Funding period

The funding period requested is throughout the 'Regaining Livelihood Sovereignty for Indigenous and Ethnic Minority Farmers in Mekong Sub-region; MECO-ECOTRA-SPERI 2013-2016' project period, from July 2013 – June 2016.

⁴1) Northern Farmer Network Foundation, EMPECT, Regional Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development Study (RCSD) - Chiangmai University, Thailand; 2) Human Rights Foundation in Hong Kong; 3) Permaculture Research Institute (PRI) in Australia; 4) Institute of Social Study (ISS), Netherlands; 5) International Agriculture School of the Netherland, 6) Netherland Embassy, 7) Organic Farmers of the Netherland, 8) Parliament members in Netherlands; 9) European Parliament.

⁵From 1995 to 2005, ICCO offered different opportunities for SPERI to network with independent media, researchers, civil society activists, intellectual activists, politicians world wide in Mekong countries as well as other continents such as Latin America, and Central European and European Parliament, and communities in Vietnam, Thailand, Lao, Cambodia, Myanmar and Yunnan China, NTFP in Indonesia, Philippine and Profound in Netherland.

⁶Strategic approaches and understanding between ICCO Program Officer since 2010 and SPERI not went well.

⁷ TOA, INEB, IFOAM, the Agro-ecology Farmer Movement in Latin America, Africa and Southeast Asia and Bhutan.

1.6 Total costs of the project

The total cost of the project is 897,959 Euros.

1.7 Other aid agencies proposals and funding amounts

The amount requested from BftW is 35 % of the total budget (312,979 Euros). The amount requested from the NPA is 25% of the total budget (226,210 Euros). The amount requested from CCFD is 23% of the total budget (205,672 Euros). The amount requested from ICCO is 17% of the total budget (150,000 Euros).

Table 1. Total costs of the project and percentage

Funding source	Amount in Euros	Percentage of Total Budget
BftW	312,979	35%
NPA	226,210	25%
CCFD	205,672	23%
ICCO	150,000	17%
Total	894,227	100%

1.8 Overview of the Achievements and Lessons Learnt of MECO-ECOTRA/SPERI

1.8.1 Achievements

The overall goal for the last 20 years for MECO-ECOTRA/SPERI has been to demonstrate to governments in the Mekong region the value of retaining indigenous ethnic minorities in their traditional lands as the natural protectors of forests and preservers of biodiversity, self-governance and self-sufficient economic development. Many problems in terms of isolation, lack of confidence, and no-ownership in pilot communities have been tackled as the result of network actions by MECO-ECOTRA.

1.8.1.1 MECO-ECOTRA Development

One of the long-term goals of SPERI and its predecessors has been the formation of an independent regional network run by the indigenous 'key farmers' themselves. Networking is combined with capacity building and advocacy, all of which seek to address the three root causes of Structural Poverty⁸ among indigenous communities in the Mekong sub-region.

To achieve these ends, SPERI has built up National Key Farmers' Networks (NKF) together with the traditional wisdom holders and young key farmer activists. These NKF have developed and expanded over across borders to become MECO-ECOTRA, a regional network of traditional elders and key-farmers, as a grassroots foundation for traditional CSOs and institutional development beyond national, ecological, ethnic and political borders. MECO-ECOTRA is representative and reflective of grassroots civil society who have been isolated and excluded from the political system, lack of confidence to voice their own situation and deprived of ownership of their own territory in the Mekong sub-region. MECO-ECOTRA is also a vital basis that provides and drives daily lessons learned, solutions and meanings for SPERI to

⁸Structural Poverty is defined by SPERI by the three interrelated problems of: 1) Being isolated in participation in decision making, 2) In-confident to protect their own basic rights, 3) No-ownership.

design its visionary and strategic plans as well as approaches to avoid misunderstanding and misappropriation during working with the indigenous ethnic minorities.

Over the years, the key strategy of MECO-ECOTRA and SPERI for overcoming Structural Poverty in the Mekong Sub-region has been to: 1) Fight against top-down centralized policy making approaches to forestland management; 2) Connect indigenous traditional wisdom holders (knowledgeable and prestigious elders) and young key-farmer activists who are strongly practicing their traditional values of community governance and NRM according to the customary laws, spiritual beliefs, and local knowledge, to build up community capacity and confidence; and 3) Stimulate diverse grassroots CBOs for strengthening the traditional CSOs and Institutional Development locally, nationally and regionally.

As a result, six thematic networks were established, including: 1) Customary Law in Community Governance and Natural Resources Management; 2) Community Ownership of Spirit Forest and Bio-Cultural Diversity Preservation; 3) Eco-Farming Knowledge for Sustainable Land Use Planning and Livelihood Security; 4) Herbal Medicinal Wisdom for Community Healthcare and Bio-diversity Preservation; 5) Women's Wisdom in Natural Dying and Embroidery of Textile Handicrafts; 6) Farmer Field School (FFS) for Teaching by Learning, Learning by Doing towards Leadership in Democratization and Decentralization.

1.8.1.2 Strong MECO-ECOTRA's Coordination

Key farmers and coordinators of different thematic networks of MECO-ECOTRA are actively involved in planning and decision making in all aspects at commune level. They have capacity to run MECO-ECOTRA independently at commune, district and provincial levels. In accordance with SPERI's advocacy strategy, key farmers in collaboration with local progressive authorities, CSOs, expert advice from eminent personalities and media are playing active and often leading role in lobby at both the local and national levels for the issues faced by indigenous ethnic minorities i.e. land and forest rights in the coming amended Law on Land, Law on Forest Protection and Development and other relevant legislative documents.

1.8.1.3 Legal Recognition of Community-based Institutions in Forest Management

1.8.1.3.1 Integration between customary law and formal law

SPERI/MECO-ECOTRA have successfully lobbied district and provincial authorities to allocate forestland rights certificates, namely "Red Books" in Vietnam in the name of individuals/households, and also recently local communities. Local communities are officially recognized as collective right holders, and the recognition of the communities' customary law. Local authorities also recognized the participatory and customary-law based approach on forestland allocation for replication. At the legislative level, the right to community forest is recognized in the Law on Forest Protection and Development in 2004.

1.8.1.3.2 Legal recognition of women name on the 'Red Book'

Since 1994, SPERI has prioritized the recognition of women's role in land use rights mainly on indigenous women, i.e. a change in the Vietnamese Law on Land in 2003, Article 48 point 3c to recognize that women's names are included along with their husbands' as equal co-holders on the 'Red Books'.

1.8.1.3.3 Regaining the forestland resources and customary law based governance

Since 1995, under the SPERI's support, a total of 51,706.90 ha have been allocated to a total of 6,439 individuals and 36 community organizations. The total area allocated during the present MECO-

ECOTRA program phase (since 2010) amounts to 2,995.9 ha, allocated to 59 individuals and 5 community organizations. In which, the names of women are equal with their husbands on the 'Red Books'. Community forest management has also been effective in protecting and thus facilitating the regeneration of degraded forests after the communities were given forestland use rights certificates.

1.8.1.4 'Teaching by Learning - Learning by Doing' Farmer's Field Schools (FFS) for Sustainable land use planning at commune level and Young Indigenous Ethnic Minority Leadership Development Strategy (YIELDS) in the Mekong sub-region

SPERI has facilitated to set up FFSs networks from household, community to regional levels. System of on-site teaching curriculum and teacher's associate especially traditional prestigious leaders, key farmers, are at the FFSs. FFSs have so far empowered over a hundred of indigenous minority youths in Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and India via a practical training courses on eco-farming. Some graduates have already become human resources for MECO-ECOTRA, mobile teachers at FFSs, eco-specialized farmers and leaderships at their local communities.

1.8.1.5 Emergence of Community based Social Enterprises (CBSEs)

Given the basis of the formal recognition of forestland rights, methodological approaches and pilots on sustainable land use planning at commune level were initiated. Over the years MECO-ECOTRA has improved living conditions based on models of local self-sufficient economies and small-scale pilots on CBSEs for ecological products such as herbal medicine plants, handicraft textiles, organic vegetables in Vietnam and Laos have been established.

1.8.2 Lessons Learnt

While the problems of Structural Poverty remain, and may even be growing outside SPERI/MECO-ECOTRA project areas, SPERI and MECO-ECOTRA do not have the resources to engage in Structural Poverty alleviation for the whole country or region; nor do they see it as their role to do so. Instead, SPERI/MECO-ECOTRA sees their role as pointing the way toward more equitable forms of socio-economic-political development so that others might follow. In this role, they need to be flexible in their response to changing situations and have the capacity to adjust their program mid-stream when the need arises. Just such a need has arisen with the recent changes in laws and policies regarding forest and land in Mekong Sub region (further described in section 2).

Current developments seriously challenge the basic rights of indigenous people and the MECO-ECOTRA/SPERI solution to these problems has been to encourage recognition of the environmentally protective values of indigenous peoples in the Mekong region and the sustainability of their ways of life. Rather than displace indigenous peoples from their forest homes, governments should support their ongoing occupation of those areas in return for the voluntary environmental services they provide such as forest protection and biodiversity preservation. To this end, SPERI is engaged in building up and supporting selected viable indigenous forest communities as demonstration pilots for this future cooperative relationship, and our program for 'Regaining Livelihood Sovereignty' is aimed at expanding and consolidating such models.

2 Project Background

2.1 In the Mekong region

The Mekong Region is rich in diverse mosaics of natural and cultural heritage. It is shared by six countries (Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Yunnan China) and is home to around 70 million indigenous people and other marginalized ethnic groups, whose traditional modes of livelihood and social organization are supported by its rich natural diversity. The ecosystems of the Mekong Region form the basis of traditional livelihoods and traditional civil society, which are the inherently accepted and respected, self-maintained living heritage of these communities.

These Mekong countries are becoming increasingly interconnected to the global market and are inevitably being affected by the processes of globalization, industrialization and international flows of capital and technology. The trans-border development program namely 'East West Corridor' attempts to reduce the gap and boost the economies of the above six Mekong countries. Myanmar has recently opened the door for western investments, reducing the monopoly of the government and increasing democracy; Vietnam and Laos are in the process of reforming their policies to fit with the regional and global economic trends and maintaining the communist political system. Moreover, the tendency is that these states are influenced by the increasing demand for the economic boom of China.

The shifting political and economic systems of the region lead to natural resource exploitation and new development programs that drive the process of globalization and frequently devastate areas rich in biodiversity and cultural heritage. The development schemes of governments in the region fail to address the actual needs and concerns or to improve the quality of life for marginalized people. There is a lack of community consultation and participation that creates disparity in the social structure, this goes together with the governments' immature view of the value that traditional civil society and local knowledge has to offer.

Too often, the vision of local and centralized governments is too narrow to see the inherent organizational and practical strengths of traditional civil society. Spurred on by the drive of globalization and glimmering dreams of becoming more 'developed' governments systematically and forcibly undermine traditional civil society in the Mekong. Resettlement programs, introduction of cash crops, unsustainable forestry operations, promotion of industrial agriculture and timber plantations, establishment of 'new rural areas', privatization, and exploitation of natural resources are all examples of forced development schemes that have failed and are causing problems for local people. Not only do these projects ignore the reality and needs of marginalized people they also are inconsistent with solutions that offer a bright future in the context of current world environmental challenges such as global warming and an unstable global economy based on the supply of dwindling energy reserves and resources.

The more intelligent and insightful way to approach development is to support the strengths of traditional civil society while providing the resources, information and skills required for its flourishing within the context of current world challenges. Given the crisis state of the environment and dwindling reserves of energy and resources, traditional civil society has something to offer for our future long-term development context. Traditional civil society may provide us with the practical and time-tested solutions to meet the requirement to shift to lower energy and resource-dependent economies in the context of increased ethical concern and respect for the environment.

Current developments seriously challenge the basic rights of indigenous people and the MECO-ECOTRA/SPERI solution to these problems has been to encourage recognition of the environmentally protective values of indigenous peoples in the Mekong region and the sustainability of their ways of life. Rather than displace indigenous peoples from their forest homes, governments should support their on-

going occupation of those areas in return for the voluntary environmental services they provide in terms of forest protection and biodiversity preservation. To this end, SPERI is engaged in building up and supporting selected viable indigenous forest communities as demonstration pilots for this future cooperative relationship, and our program for 'Recovering Livelihood Sovereignty' is aimed at expanding and consolidating such models.

2.2 In the Project Areas

In Laos and in Vietnam SPERI and MECO-ECOTRA have developed FFS on the regional and household level, helped indigenous communities to gain rights to the land, and helped to network local communities, young eco-farming activists, and elders for the transfer of traditional knowledge and for activism toward a better situation for indigenous people.

2.2.1 Vietnam

The Vietnamese political context has a history of centralization and control. Still today, concepts of decentralization and participation are only partly understood and practiced. Influence of Vietnamese people to policy makers is limited, especially for people living in rural areas far away from the national decision making process. Indigenous ethnic minorities have even less political influence because of living in isolated areas, but more importantly because of their marginalization by society. The majority Kinh (Vietnamese) looks down upon indigenous ethnic minorities and considers them to be backward and destroyers of natural resources by their use of shifting cultivation.

The opening up of the economy in Vietnam since 1986 has led to remarkable poverty reduction. The economy is currently growing 6 to 7% per year, with per capita GDP at around 1,600 USD. However, the market economy also brings new challenges: Industrialization has led to an increased demand for hydropower, the construction of which has resulted in the relocation of thousands of minorities out of their traditional lands; Emerging economic zones and industrial parks are encroaching on agricultural land leading to the resettlement of rural populations and loss of their land; The agricultural sector's focus on large-scale production and cash crops has left many small-scale farmers behind, especially in the mountainous areas where indigenous ethnic minorities live.

The over-representation of indigenous ethnic minorities in the poorest groups of society and the increasing economic distance between poor and non-poor are visible trends in Vietnam. At least fifty-four different ethnic groups live in Vietnam. They make up 14% of the total population and more than 30% percent of the poor.

Indigenous ethnic minorities depend for their livelihood mainly on natural resources and agriculture. Also, their culture, customs, and beliefs are closely linked to their natural environment. Land as seen by indigenous ethnic minorities is not only an economic resource; it also encompasses spiritual sites, ancestors, the natural environment, and other resources like water and forests. Land is the basis for the indigenous people's social organization, economic system and cultural identity. Centralized planning and the current influence of the market economy lead to the loss of ethnic identity and culture, especially if minorities lose access to their land. Many indigenous ethnic minorities lose their self-confidence and are marginalized in society. They hardly benefit from the economic progress. These social groups face frequent crises and feel disbelief at the formal system.

2.2.1.1 Recent policy changes in Vietnam

In September 2009, the Vietnamese Government signed an Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations to implement the first phase of 'United Nations Reduction of Emissions and Degradation through Deforestation (UN-REDD) Vietnam' program to be implemented during 20 months with total

budget of 4,504,756 USD. The objective of the program is “to assist the Government of Viet Nam in developing an effective REDD regime in Viet Nam and to contribute to reduction of regional displacement of emissions”. This will contribute to the broader goal of ensuring that “by the end of 2012 Viet Nam is REDD-readiness and able to contribute to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation nationally and regionally”.

In January 29th, 2011, in order to meet the time frame of REDD, subsequent legal papers for fulfilling REDD were issued: 1) a join circular 07/TTLT-BNNPTNT – BTNMT and 2) Directive 1019/TTg-DMDN dated June 26th, 2011 by the Vice–Prime Minister which directed: “People’s Committees at provincial and City under Central government levels to co-ordinate with Ministries: Resources and Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development in guiding the closing of land lease contracts, the issue of certificates of land use rights over the acreage of State forest enterprise (limited liability companies with one partner, unlimited liability companies with two or more partners, joint stock companies) which are anticipated to be retained for the management of their deployment in productive enterprise objectives.”...“Completion to be effected by the end of 2011. In 2012, complete determination of boundaries, pegging out boundaries, survey of pegs and boundary lines for land use by State forest enterprise and units responsible for public utility provision.” (Re-arranging renovation of State-owned forest Enterprises - Item 1).

In October 31st, 2012, the Resolution No.19 – NQ/TW session 6th of Communist Party Central Congress Term XI wrote: “Continuously reforming land law and land policy in order to promote Vietnam moving forwards into industrialization towards modern nation by the year 2020”. It means that those legal papers aiming at handing over the forest and land right titles to state forest enterprises, companies and individuals by the end of 2012 must be completed in order to offer a convenient environment and condition for the REDD pilot in Vietnam, and on the other hand, for capitalist investors to exploit the natural resources faster in the last 2 years while offering very few opportunity to the 15 million indigenous ethnic minorities to access forest and land, even their ancestral forest and land lost two years ago through the above legal papers. Pending changes in Land Law prefigured by ‘Circular 07/TTLT/2011’ to facilitate the transfer of land from poor farmers to rich investors, and ‘Circular 1019/TTg/2011’ instructing authorities to complete this process as soon as possible, have created a situation of extreme urgency to act in defense of indigenous ethnic minority farmers to secure their land from this legislative land grab and save the country from internal conflict. The pending changes to ‘Vietnam Land Law 2013’, which will have lasting impact of the rights of indigenous ethnic minority farmers has also increased the urgency for concerted lobbying to secure their long-term protection.

2.2.2 Laos

The Laos communist party follows the lead of Vietnam and generally implements the policies and practices of the Vietnamese communist party 10 years later. With a population of just over 6 million and a GPD per capita of 1,300 USD Laos is moving more slowly than Vietnam but is much richer in natural resources. Laos has officially recognized 49 indigenous ethnic groups, but the number could be higher.

The Laos government is currently working on implementing policies for economic development through the exploitation of natural resources. They are actively welcoming investors and transnational companies to exchange their natural resources for economic development and cash. A recent new government policy came into effect in 2010 ‘Decree on State land Lease and Concession, 2009’ allowing foreign companies to lease land for periods of from 30–70 years. Also, a recent loan has been received from for a railway line to be built for the transporting of extracted raw materials from Laos to China.

Now, with Laos becoming a WTO member, the process of land being taken over by foreign companies for mining, hydropower, commercial plantations, and logging will be quicker than ever (refer 3.1.).

2.2.3 Recent policy changes in Laos

National Social Economic Development Plan (NESDP) for the period from 2011-2015 which is based on the Socio-Economic Development Strategy until 2020 aims to achieve sustainable economic growth and reduce poverty (and inequality), and guide the country graduating from its Least Developed Country status by 2020. The plan underscores the importance of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), protecting the environment, maintaining political stability and peace, having an open economy integrated into the regional (ASEAN community) and world economy, and focusing on the quality of growth. The plan aims to modernize agriculture and forestry sector by i.e. introducing modern technologies and diversifying the crop and livestock regimes. The NESDP targets creating a detailed land management plan at both macro and micro levels, and land use plans in villages and village clusters across the country. It also aims to complete issuing one million land titles in a systemic and regulated manner without conflict and achieving a three-fold increase in land revenue (or equal to 5% of the national revenue).

3 Problem description

According to MECO-ECOTRA and SPERI, Livelihood Sovereignty is defined by five fundamental interrelated rights for Indigenous People in Mekong Sub-region: 1) The right to land, forest and water (basic); 2) The right to maintain one's own religion in one's own land, forest and water (unique); 3) The right to live according to one's own culture on one's own land, forest and water (practice); 4) The right to operate according to one's own knowledge and decide what to plant, initiate, create and invent on one's own land, forest and water (holistic), and 5) The right to co-manage or co-govern natural resources with neighboring communities and local authorities (strategic).

The following is a brief description of the rationale and reasons for the project, the target group to be addressed as well as the social, political and economic background. It is framed as a social, economic, and political analysis in relation to what SPERI defines as 'Livelihood Sovereignty' of the indigenous and ethnic minority people in Mekong Sub-region. The descriptions below address the roles of MECO-ECOTRA and SPERI on the advocacy and policy as well as on the more direct impact level for the indigenous communities.

This next ten-year program aims at strengthening and expanding the models developed in the last 20 years. In the coming period 2013-2023, MECO-ECOTRA, SPERI and their alliance have re-conceptualized the way forward out of the conditions of Structural Poverty⁹ facing indigenous ethnic minorities in the region. They have done this by defining a number of steps toward 'Regaining Livelihood Sovereignty', listed as basic rights above.

⁹Structural Poverty is defined by SPERI by the three interrelated problems of: 1) Being isolated in participation in decision making, 2) In-confident to protect their own basic rights, 3) No-ownership.

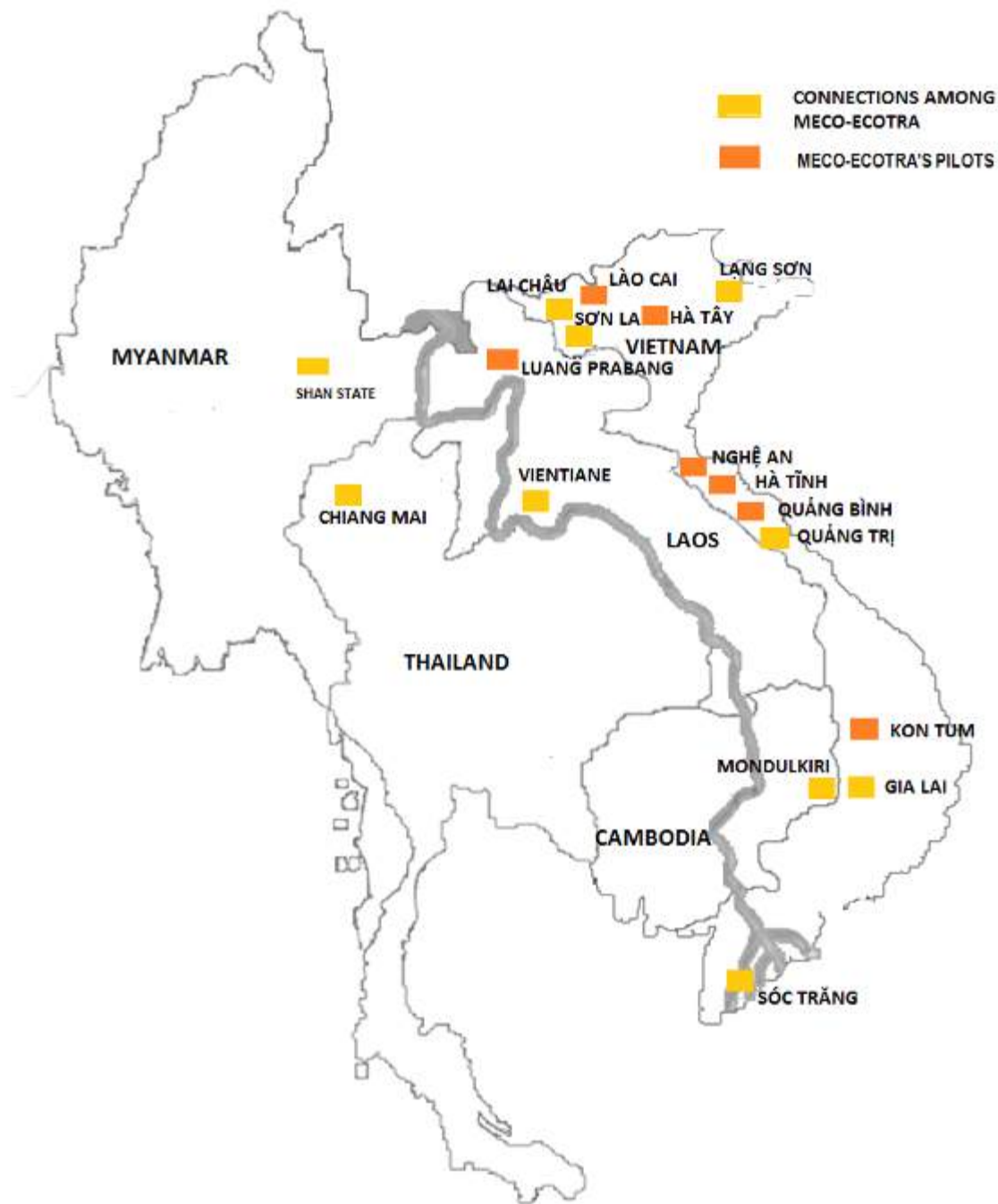


Figure 1. Map of networking and pilot areas

3.1 Conditions and problems to be addressed in the region

The following is an outline of the general conditions and problems intended to be addressed through the networking activities of MECO-ECOTRA and SPERI from 2013-2016. These activities cover the interrelated issues of loss of livelihood sovereignty and security as well as the loss of biodiversity. It aims to influence the Mekong countries, which are increasingly connected to global markets and international flows of capital, technology and people that drive the exploitation of natural resources, with devastating consequences for areas rich in biodiversity and cultural heritage.

In coming 2013-2023, MECO-ECOTRA and SPERI will strongly focus on the four selected watershed countries: Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar. These are among the richest in the world for biological and cultural diversity, and are home to about 36.7 million indigenous people living according to their belief in nature spirit and their own customs, with a combined population of 172 million people of which 21.3% is indigenous. Their livelihood and environment is under threat from forest and land grabbing by multinational companies for mining, hydropower, industrial mono-crop agriculture (rubber and palm oil) and other extractive industries. These developments are resulting in the devastation of large areas with deforestation, land degradation, soil erosion and flooding costing billions of dollars each year, with thousands of people losing their livelihood by being forced from the land. For instance, 18% of the villages in Laos have been affected by at least one land grab, pushing thousands of people off their land and into poverty. An estimated 420, 000 people in Cambodia have been affected by land disputes since 2003.

In Vietnam, 10,712,900 hectares of land are vulnerable to desertification, and poverty is 21.5%. The hottest issues are plantation agriculture, mining and hydropower. In Laos, 84,079 hectares of land are vulnerable to desertification, and poverty is 44%, with hottest issues plantations, mining and hydropower. In Cambodia, 16,388,600 hectares of land are vulnerable to desertification, and poverty is 25.8%, hottest issues mono-plantation and mining. In Myanmar, 30,536,700 hectares of land are vulnerable to desertification, and poverty is 32.2%. The hottest issue being forced relocation.

Indigenous ethnic minorities have been managing and protecting the forest and its diversity in the Mekong region for a very long time. The governments of the region need to support them *in situ* to continue their good and mostly voluntary work. Moving these people of their land and replacing them with government bodies or companies to manage the forest doesn't work and is often wasteful. It also signals the destruction of their traditional way of life and condemns them to poverty and unemployment.

We see current government policies, which are aimed at natural resource extraction for short-term financial gain, as destructive of the natural environment, with eventual long-term devastating social and environmental consequences. We also see government policies aimed at resettling indigenous peoples out of the forest and their replacement by government funded forest protectors as wasteful, unnecessary, and destructive of viable ways of life. The alternative means of livelihood offered by governments - wage employment - are not only inimical to the maintenance of indigenous cultural identity, but also cannot be guaranteed. Their consequence will be identity loss, unemployment, Structural Poverty, and despair from many millions of formerly self-sufficient farmers.

Commercial encroachment upon land and forest for plantation agriculture, mining and hydro-electric developments, and politically motivated resettlement programs are resulting in the on-going loss of land; political and market pressures to convert to mono-cash-crop agriculture are depriving land owners of the right to decide for themselves how they wish to use their land, while the uncritical promotion of modern industrial agricultural technologies is destroying traditional knowledge of native species and customary forms of ecologically adapted agriculture; the new dominant alliance between business and government is destroying the capacity of local farmers to co-govern their land with their neighbors in ecologically sustainable ways. Finally, all of these industrial and commercially driven developments are being led by a worship of money, which is undermining the traditional cultural and religious moral basis of sustainable rural livelihoods.

3.1.1 Encroachment and Displacement for Industrialization

The governments of the Mekong Region want to industrialize their countries to raise their status from 'underdeveloped' to 'develop' by following the modernization and industrialization model of western capitalism. However, they want to do this without the process of democratization that has accompanied capitalist development in the west. This makes the populations of these countries extremely vulnerable as

they have limited access to decision making processes, and decisions can be made at the political level without the interests of the people affected being considered (see section above on recent policy changes in Vietnam and Laos).

Governments are being persuaded to accept the western model of industrialization by foreign resource companies that have much to gain from the process. For instance, A recent new Laos government policy came into effect in 2010 'Decree on State land Lease and Concession, 2009' allowing foreign companies to lease land for periods of from 30–70 years. The promise is that commercial resource exploitation will not only generate jobs, tax revenue and infrastructure development, but also fuel a large number of 'downstream' production and service industries, which will generate further investment opportunities, create jobs and increase government revenue. One major problem is the widespread grant of so-called Economic Land Concessions (E.L.C.). Under Cambodia's 2001 Land Law, the government is allowed to make use of all "private state land" and lease up to about 10,000 hectares to a company for as many as 99 years.

Furthermore, people in remote area have been educated into the belief that cash¹⁰ cropping is the best way for development, not recognizing that it invariably results in indebtedness and ultimately in the loss of land. Vietnam currently has more than 9 million hectares of barren land, accounting for 28% of the country's total land area, of which 2 heavily-degraded million hectares. The processes whereby this indebtedness and land loss occurs needs to be analyzed and the results used to encourage the commitment among farmers to more traditional market-independent forms of livelihood. When people have their own land and resources and are able to manage them according to their own laws and their own knowledge they can achieve a level of livelihood security well above those who have become dependent upon volatile market forces and unscrupulous business people over which they have no control.

3.1.2 *Forced Appropriation/Grabbing Land & Natural resources for Exploitation*

Because the Mekong sub-great region including Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos is so rich in natural resources land grabbing is becoming a controversial issue. Most of the land grabs are under the foreign investments via development projects in mono-cultural tree plantations, agriculture, and mining. In which, Cambodia is seen as leading country in the number of concession and lease projects by which over 2 million hectares of land are grabbed. Myanmar has become the latest flash point in an alarming the trend of global land grabs. However, this country is standing a second amongst above countries with about 1.75 million of hectares grabbed so far. Recently, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Laos just shows the frightening amount of land grabbing in whole country with total 1.1 million hectares of fertile agricultural land are under the leases and concessions from foreign / trans-national companies.

Resource exploitation takes the form of mining, hydroelectric power generation and the appropriation of farm and forestlands for commercial and industrial crop production. At greatest risk in these developments are first, the millions of people whose cultures and livelihoods are dependent upon those resources, and second the climate, biodiversity and soil fertility of the region. The driving force behind the over-exploitation of Mekong resources is 1) the quest for profits by multinational companies from highly industrialized countries, e.g. Australia and the US, 2) the quest for resources by foreign countries wishing to fuel their industrialization, e.g. China; and 3) the quest for tax revenue and investment funds

¹⁰To fit a model of industrialization, education systems are being reworked to suit a high paced development approach. State vocational training curricula have been revamped with an industrial focus. There is an emphasis on mechanical skills and a focus on shifting an agrarian population to more urban sectors such as tourism, entertainment, and other services. For instance, the latest proposal from the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs in Vietnam targets to train 1 million farmers per year of which 700,000 will be trained in the non-agricultural sector; and 300,000 in mechanical and modernized agricultural skills. Indigenous youth in the highlands are often not well accommodated for in the formal educational system. The shift towards industrial topics at vocational training schools represents a move away from the forms of knowledge and methods of teaching that suit these youth. Indigenous youth will continue to be marginalized in the new system and at the same time will lose future prospects of a traditional farming career, with associated traditional forms of knowledge and community education lost forever.

by cash-poor but resource-rich countries like Laos and Vietnam to pay for their own industrialization and modernization.

Modern urban industrialization does not have the capacity to provide the number of jobs that will be required to absorb the displaced farming population, and the urban informal sector is being squeezed from two ends – at one end oversupply of informal income seekers and at the other end Government policies aimed at eliminating informal trading. These modern forms of industrialization do not have the capacity to absorb independent farm workers displaced from the countryside. Those workers need to be kept on the land where they can support themselves and at the same time perform the important national service of environmental and biodiversity protection; this service can most effectively be performed by people who have preserved their traditional customs and beliefs. New development programs not only fail to address the needs and concerns of the local indigenous peoples, they create serious new disparities in the social structure. Furthermore, given the precarious state of the environment today, problems of resource depletion, and the fragility of the expectation for continuous economic growth, they put at risk the very societies that may contain the needed solutions to meet the requirements of the new lower-energy, less-resource-dependent economies of the future.

It must be remembered that biodiversity, once lost, can never be recovered and that the cheapest and most effective way of maintaining biodiversity is to keep those people whose lives are dependent on it, and whose cultures are intimately linked to it, on the land.

3.1.3 Loss of Livelihood Sovereignty

The loss of Livelihood Sovereignty is the process of losing the five vital rights for basic living. The expectation is that large numbers of people now dependent for their livelihood on a direct relationship to the land will be removed from it as it is taken over by large commercial enterprises. The expectation is that the displaced people will in future earn their livelihood by working for the companies. Their lives will change from being independent farmers to being dependent waged workers, with the promise that their wages will give them greater access to modern commodities. What they will lose however is their traditional culture and system of belief that is closely tied to the land. For the companies and governments concerned, however, this is not seen as a loss, as traditional cultures and belief systems are seen as 'backward' and an obstacle to modernization and economic development.

The promise of wage employment in exchange for an independent farming livelihood will most likely prove false. Modern commercial resource exploitation and industrial agriculture is highly mechanized and requires little labor input. The majority of former independent farmers will have to move to towns and cities in search of employment. There they will face the disadvantage of having inappropriate skills, lack of social networks and high living costs. They will be facing with a very long and difficult period of hardship, culture loss and social disintegration.

Mono-development mindset by political power over rural villages without bottom up participation where the indigenous and ethnic minority people living in the project areas are under pressures of 1) No land, or not enough land for farming, leading young people to fly to the cities to earn their daily basic survival; 2) Young indigenous people not having the capacity to catch up with the high professional technology required by industrialized standards, resulting in jobless pushing young people to return to their villages with no land for farming and bringing back social evils leading to internal social and cultural conflict between the younger and older generations and the breakdown of traditional community values; 3) The young becoming in crisis and not knowing what values to follow or where to re-start their lives; 4) increasing grabbing of natural resources where indigenous and ethnic minorities are living in Vietnam, Lao 5) more mono-cash-cropping and industrialization making more vulnerable the indigenous and ethnic minority people. All together, these pressures have been creating the eradication and devastation of almost all traditional diversity values and self-sufficient ways of livelihood of the indigenous and ethnic

minority people, with them no longer having any appropriate life examples left for young people to mirror their ways of livelihood, as well as no stable security for their own future.

In the coming 5 to 10 years, social structure and values as well as social relationships in term of economics, ethnicity, religion and political characteristic for the indigenous and ethnic minority people in the project areas will become the biggest obstacles, not only socio-economically, but also potentially for political and civil conflict between ethnic minority and majority, while speculation in land and forest by capitalist investors without using it will lead indigenous people to more anger, and they will destroy all forest for their daily survival without any consideration leading to internal cultural eradication, and they will forget their own values just because forest and land are no longer belong to them. Both biodiversity preservation and cultural diversity conservation for both people and states in the project areas will be lost. Societies and states are in a lose-lose situation. Potentially, there may occur internal political civil conflict between minority and majority just because development by grabbing instead of sharing with millions people who live in a society where they should not and must not be excluded consciously. In general, the indigenous people from these project areas suffer from distrust of outsiders, businesses, and governments, and feelings of crisis among themselves.

3.2 Problems to be addressed in the pilot areas

The ‘Regaining Livelihood Sovereignty for Indigenous and Ethnic Minority Farmers in Mekong Sub-region; MECO-ECOTRA-SPERI 2013-2016’ project will focus on some of the poorest regions of northern, central north and central highland Vietnam, northern Laos. These are key vulnerable cross-border areas sharing concerns geographically, cultural-ethnically, politically, economically, and ecologically for many indigenous and ethnic minority people.

3.2.1 Policy

The problems faced by indigenous people in these areas are many, and many of them stem directly from the mindset of the political system and top down policies. The Laos and Vietnamese governments’ renewed commitment to policy of rapid industrialization dependent upon foreign investors will increase the pressure from those investors for the privatization of land, with serious consequences against the efforts to promote community land-ownership (of e.g. spirit forests). Greed-driven practices of wealthy investors and high-placed politicians will continue obtaining land rights certificates for the purpose of mortgaging the land to finance speculative investments, not only depriving farmers of productive livelihoods but leading the countries into the same financial and banking crisis now threatening economies in the west.

At this moment, many governments in the Mekong region (especially Vietnam) are in economic crisis. While this has negative effects for the society as a whole, one positive effect may be a slowing of the process of land grabbing, thereby providing a period of grace during which resistance to the forces leading to land loss can be strengthened. In addition, it should be noted that small-farmers practicing their own knowledge using their own native species are far better equipped to survive economic crisis than the market-dependent large-scale cash croppers do. The opportunity should be taken, therefore, to promote small-scale eco-farming as one way of ensuring surviving in times of global economic crisis.

The customary governance that once protected traditional local knowledge and traditional farming practices, leading to real livelihood sovereignty for the indigenous people, are now being lost to acculturation. Rather than continue to follow the wisdom of the ancestors and nature the leaders follow the party directives. Consequentially, spirit forests are lost and threatened as they are not yet recognized officially and the management boards take no action in cases of abuse and conflicting land-uses from encroaching outside communities.

3.2.2 Loss of traditional Cultural

There are big changes underway that are uprooting the traditional way of life and leading to the loss of traditional culture, biodiversity and agro-biodiversity and ultimately to a life of poverty for the indigenous communities who depend on these resources. These communities must adapt to and adopt the policies and practices of the industrializing and market driven society that surrounds and overwhelms them. This shift toward market economies and industrialized society destroys local knowledge and the traditional way of living in reverence to community and nature.

3.2.2.1 Education and acculturation

The free education indigenous youth receive through the schools follows the government policy (e.g. Vietnam's Resolution 30a/2008/NQ-CP). It is not an education that helps young indigenous people learn anything about local knowledge, traditional practices, or traditional farming; it is instead specifically focused on the modernization of rural areas. The young people are left with a poor education without the appropriate skills and knowledge to participate in the modern economy and for the industrialization and modernization agenda. They are also left knowing very little about practical traditional farming and cultural practices. Having been given an education for modernization and little time for traditional knowledge, young people are migrating away to urban areas to take up low wage employment and live as urban poor.

3.2.2.2 Loss of traditional farming and forestry practices

The communities and leaders not only follow the educational directives they must also follow the directives of the party (e.g. Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) to train farmers for mass production. This exacerbates the loss of native species in the traditional farming and wild collection practices.

The industrialization and modernized agriculture is a major issue in the region. Agricultural diversity and sustainability, as well as the use and protection of native species is lost as the people become more reliant on chemical and high yielding hybrid monoculture crops. As wild collection and traditional cultivation (rotational shifting cultivation) are replaced by continual farming in steep narrow areas, the farms are experiencing serious soil erosion, toxic chemicals and a reliance on imported seeds and agronomic prescriptions.

3.2.3 Loss of biodiversity

Loss of biodiversity due to deforestation and forest degradation are major issues in the project areas. Forests are giving way to plantations of teak, rubber, other cash crops and general forest degradation caused by illegal timber sales. Much of the forests and biodiversity have already been lost, few native wild or domesticated species are left and even these are seriously threatened.

3.2.4 Income generation

Due to the lack of land and loss of traditional culture, the indigenous people are forced to find new means of income generation according to the market driven industrialized society. There are factors making people, especially the young to leave for the cities, often also voluntarily, hoping an easier live. Some households have attempted to access markets directly with agricultural and forest products but are rarely able to make a living and still earn less than their counterparts (in the Lao Lum (Laos) and Kinh (Vietnamese) ethnic majority). In response to poverty, young people leave the community to go somewhere else for a living work for companies, in urban areas or in the black markets (e.g. prostitution

and smuggling). Other indigenous people also participate in illegal smuggling of timber and anything else that will sell.

3.2.5 *Loss of Land*

Indigenous populations face the, major problem of loss of land through multiple pressures such as resettlement for large-scale projects, land grabbing, and contract farms from outside investors.

3.2.5.1 *Land resources grabbing*

Land grabbing and resources grabbing as well as forest conversion to rubber plantations are major issues. State owned enterprises now own major portions of the forests of the area and the local people do not have much say. Companies and state owned enterprises of the forestry, hydropower, and rubber industries are taking the land and making it impossible for indigenous people to practice their traditions and to maintain livelihood sovereignty.

3.2.5.2 *Resettlement*

Indigenous people in the project areas are being moved from the forests and areas where they practiced traditional knowledge (wild collection, herbal medicine, farming, etc.) and resettled for large projects such as hydropower, plantations, industrial areas, and national parks. They are allocated residential land, production land, and wet rice field but this is often too little land and much of the soil is too poor for agricultural production. The communities are left with a lack of production land for cultivation and for traditional practices in nature. Living space for families and communities is unsuitable for family growth and food production and households are forced to clear what is left of the forests (e.g. for cassava and upland rice) for an inevitably low productive cash crop and no possibility of food security. As these indigenous communities lose their land, they find themselves in an extremely vulnerable situation and become dependent on the market.

Furthermore, the government resettlement programs create land conflicts between ethnic groups. Land allocation does not take into account the potential conflicts between the indigenous groups. The resettlement actively causes conflict, especially through the 'village cluster development' of merging smaller villages into bigger ones.

3.2.6 *Gender-specific situation analysis*

The traditional structure of many indigenous communities is gender balanced and in the case of some traditional practices like herbal medicine, women are playing main role. However, gender issues are changing quickly with the acculturation process leading to gender disparity. Women often become oppressed through the adoption of formal structures and ways of life from outside majority communities. Young women now frequently lack the opportunity to study and take up positions in politics and they are not allowed to participate in community and political meetings. Indigenous women have lost their traditional role and are ill prepared to live in the new structure. They often have to stop studies early to get married and take care of family, household, and agricultural production systems or, even direr, they are prone to illegal trafficking and prostitution.

The largely women-lead tradition of herbal medicine is also vulnerable to market access as traditional remedies replaced by industrial medicine and the traditional knowledge is subject to stolen copyright and bio-piracy.

4 Target Group

The target groups can be seen on two levels. On the level of policy influencing the work of MECO-ECOTRA and SPERI targets the Mekong region including Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar, and on the direct pilot project level the project targets the indigenous communities of Vietnam and Laos. The target for the project can also be seen on the interconnected social and environmental levels.

4.1 MECO-ECOTRA communities

Approximately 52, 720 indirect beneficiaries of the MECO-ECOTRA networking include communities in Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Myanmar (see table 2). The table 2 shows the existing and expanded networking and pilot areas for MECO-ECOTRA and SPERI for the next three years - 'Network' indicates the beneficiaries and actors in the MECO-ECOTRA network; 'Pilot' indicates direct involvement in pilot projects, with about 9,540 direct beneficiaries (see table 4) – in 'Regaining Livelihood Sovereignty for Indigenous and Ethnic Minority Farmers in Mekong Sub-region; MECO-ECOTRA-SPERI 2013-2016' pilot projects.

Table 2. MECO-ECOTRA networking and pilot areas for 2013-2016

	Location	Identities	Pilot	Network
Vietnam	Bun To commune (Lai Chau province)	Black Thai		X
	13 communes in Simacai (Lao Cai)	Hmong	X	X
	Ta Phin commune in Sa Pa (Lao Cai)	Dzao		X
	Ba Vi commune (Ha Tay)	Dzao	X	X
	Phieng Khoai, Muong Lum, Chieng Dong communes (Son La)	Black Thai, La Hu, Hmong and Xinh Mun		X
	Dong Thang, Minh Son, Hoa Son communes, Bac Lang (Lang Son)	Tay, Dzao, San Chi, Nung		X
	Hanh Dich, Tri Le	Thai and Hmong	X	X
	Son Kim I commune (Ha Tinh)	Kinh	X	X
	Lam Hoa, Kim Hoa, Ngu Hoa, Cao Quang, Hoa Son, Hoa Phuc, Thuong Hoa, Thuong Trach, Lam Trach, Xuan Trach, Hoa Thanh, Hoa Tien communes (Quang Binh)	Ma Lieng, Ruc, A Rem, Ma Coong, Sach, Kinh		X
	A Luoi, A Doi communes (Quang Tri)			X
	Buon Tri A, Buon Tri B communes (Dak Lak)	Ede, Mo Nong		X
	Nghia Hoa and Hoa Phu communes (Gia Lai)	Gia Rai, Ba Na		X
Soc Trang	Kho Me		X	

	Location	Identities	Pilot	Network
	Kon Tum	Ro Ngao, Ede, Gia Rai, Muong	X	X
Laos	Xieng Da, Nam Kha, Peen, and Na Xam Phan of Luang Prabang province	Hmong, Lao Lum, Kho Mu, Lu		X
	Long Lan, Phon Xa Vat, and Den Xa Vang of Luang Prabang province	Hmong, Lao Lum, Kho Mu, Lu	X	X
	Nong Het district, Xieng Khoang	Hmong		X
	Bo Keo province	Kho Mu and Lao Lum		X
	Luang Nam Tha province	Hmong		X
	Vientiane	Lao Lum		X
Thailand	Mesamai and Noong Tao villages in Chiang Mai	Hmong and Karen		X
Cambodia	Mondolkiri	Phnom		X
Myanmar	Shan State	Thai		X

4.2 Pilot areas demographics

The project will focus on some of the poorest regions of northern, central north and central highland Vietnam and northern Laos. These are key vulnerable cross-border areas sharing concerns geographically, cultural-ethnically, politically, economically, and ecologically for approximately 810,000 indigenous ethnic minorities from 162,000 families. The tables below describe some of the more specific information about the pilot area communities. Indigenous ethnic minorities make up significant portions of the populations of the pilot areas and all pilot areas are experiencing poverty and loss of biodiversity as was described above.

Table 3. Indigenous ethnic minority populations in pilot provinces

	Province	Ethnic groups*	Total population	Indigenous Population	Percent Indigenous
Laos	Luang Prabang	Khmu, Hmong, Yao, Yi, Ho and Kho	452,900	276,270	61%
Vietnam	Lao Cai	25 different groups incl. Hmong, Thu Lao, Tay, Nung, Dzao, Sa Pho	614,595	402,061	65.4%
	Nghe An	20 different groups incl. Hmong, Thai, Khmu, etc.	2,912,041	422,089	14.5%
	Ha Tinh	5 different groups incl. Kinh, Ma Lieng, Lao, Thai and Muong	1,229,197	12,291.97	1%

	Province	Ethnic groups*	Total population	Indigenous Population	Percent Indigenous
	Ha Tay	6 different groups incl. Dzao, Nung, Thai, Kinh, Muong	2,386,770	26,254.47	1.1%
	Kon Tum	22 different groups incl. Ro Ngao, Ede, Gia Rai, Mnong, etc.	443,368	234,985	53 %

*Ethnic groups include the ethnic majority (Kinh in Vietnam and Lao-Lum in Laos)

Table 4. Population, indigenous groups and poverty rates of pilot areas

	Pilot Areas / Communes*	Population	Indigenous ethnic minorities	Poverty rate
Laos	Long Lan, Den Xa Vang, Phon Xa Vat of Luang Prabang province, and the Luang Prabang Hmong Association with 25 villages	12,500	Hmong, Kho Mu, Lao Lum and Lu	approx. 50%
Vietnam	Si Ma Cai, Thao Chu Phin, Ban Me, San Chai, Lung Sui, Man Than, Can Ho, Sin Cheng, Lu Than, Quan Than San, Can Cau, Nan Sin and Nan San of Lao Cai province	30,697	Hmong (80.4%)	53.8%
	Hanh Dich of Nghe An province	3,294	Thai (98%)	68.8%
	Tri Le of Nghe An province	9,184	Hmong (34%)	78%
	Son Kim 1 commune of Ha Tinh province	7,596	Lao (3.5%)	27.7%
	Ba Vi commune of Ha Tay province	1,918	Dzao (98%)	5.2%
	Ho Moong commune, Sa Thay district, Kon Tum province	5,850	Ro Ngao	approx. 81%

*Exact gender distribution in the regions is unknown (roughly 50%)

5 Expected outcome and impact

5.1 Development goal

The Goal of the program is “**To contribute to regain livelihood sovereignty for indigenous ethnic minorities in the Mekong Sub-region**” through protection and proper implementation of the five livelihood sovereignty rights (described in section 3). This is an innovative approach to regain and ensure the sustainability of livelihood sovereignty for indigenous ethnic minorities of the Mekong Sub-region, with a focus on the marginalized youth and women in Vietnam and Laos.

In the coming three years SPERI/MECO-ECOTRA along with national, regional, and international alliances will put more positive focus on ‘regaining livelihood sovereignty’ by strengthening the institutional and organizational capacity of vulnerable indigenous ethnic minority communities, CBOs and dynamic grassroots CSOs. These entities will be empowered to become more self-reliant to push for improvement and better implementation of relevant legal frameworks and development programs toward the recognition and protection of the livelihood rights, entitlements and other endowments of indigenous ethnic minority people. The approach will follow socio-political-ecological economic feasible strategies to escape structural poverty, secure livelihood sovereignty, and give indigenous ethnic minorities opportunities to develop their own capacity and regain ownership and endowments. The work will help indigenous communities to escape structural poverty and protect their rights to livelihood sovereignty which are recognized fully or partly under UNDRIP¹¹, through legal frameworks of the Mekong Sub-region countries, particularly in Vietnam and Laos.

5.2 Program Components and Objectives

The action from 2013- 2016 is the follow-up from the achievements, new challenges and recommendations of MECO-ECOTRA of the period 2010-2013¹². It will aim to achieve three primary interrelated components¹³, including: A) Livelihoods Pilot Demonstration Development; B) MECO-ECOTRA’s organizational and Institutional Empowerment, C) SPERI’s Organizational Reforming. These three components are interrelated via the specific objectives as follows:

5.2.1 Specific Objective for Component A

The specific objective for component A: “the existing pilot demonstrations on three interactive thematic couples¹⁴ under the leadership of Laos-Vietnam MECO-ECOTRA’s key farmers, young eco-farming activists will be reinforced and replicated to other indigenous ethnic minority communities”.

Expected indicators are: 1) Livelihoods of about 5,740 indigenous ethnic minorities, especially marginalized women, (1,100 families) from pilot villages secure access and entitlements to forestland resources (e.g. NTFPs), with higher sustainable yields of eco-farming production and self-efficiency via

¹¹For instance, the right to land, territories and resources in articles 3, 4, 5 (among others); right to culture in various articles, more specific article 12 on religion and spirituality; Article 20: the right to ‘engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities’; Article 20 and others i.e. 12 referring to the right to self-determination and participation in decision-making

¹²Evaluation of The Continued Proposal on Mekong Community Networking and Ecological Trading (MECO-ECOTRA 2010-2013)

¹³See in details in annex 01

¹⁴For the new phase of the program, six inter-thematic networks of MECO-ECOTRA will focus on 3 couples: 1) Community Ownership of Spirit Forests coupled with Customary Law in Community Governance and Natural Resource Management; 2) Eco-farming in Land Use Planning (promoting local knowledge participation in farming) coupled with Farmer Field Schools at all levels (household, community, region and inter-nation) for building up practical eco-farming curriculum for local vocational training and governing in food sovereignty and transmission of farming knowledge from generation to generation; and 3) Herbal Medicinal Wisdom in Community Health Care and Bio-cultural Diversity Preservation coupled with Eco-Food and Textile Production, moving forward MECO-ECOTRA’s “Community based Eco-Enterprises” in order to initiate local niche market networks for food security and self-sufficiency. The three strategic theme couples will together promote the five Rights of Livelihood Sovereignty, which will then be mobilized vertically throughout the Mekong sub-region via social actions by indigenous and ethnic minority people, from the basic household level, to community, regional, national, and international levels.

local niche markets created by the community based social enterprises; 2) The traditional practices of 10 pilot indigenous minority communities gain self-determination in community governance and natural resources management via customary laws and rituals; 3) Pilot communities including as many as 2,200 villagers, 80 traditional, formal village leaders, heads of CBOs, and 60 relevant district and provincial authorities, especially women will better manage and use over 2,500 ha of the titled forestland resources, land use planning, community governance and self-efficient income generation, etc. This will promote sustainability of management and use of local natural resources, and contribute to the improvement of government guidelines, processes and policies via lobbying and advocacy.

The program's strategic approaches to address above outcomes will be applied, as follows:

SPERI, in collaboration with its Forest and Land Right Network, MECO-ECOTRA, provincial and district coordinators, and other Vietnam and Laos CSOs propose to expand the community forestland pilots. This will further the entitlement of rights to spirit forestland domains and local knowledge based land use plans and contribute to secure livelihood sovereignty, and promote customary law based natural resources (co)governance towards local sustainability. The program will emphasize to strengthen the capacities of indigenous ethnic minority leaderships, as well as CBOs and CSOs representatives so that they can defend their forestland rights and promote community governance. Participation among minority villagers, especially women and youth, CBOs, CSOs representatives, and local authorities will address the complex issues and disputes regarding resources management and resources grabbing. SPERI will also promote interactive networking actions among indigenous ethnic minority villagers, CBOs, CSOs actors, local authorities, progressive policy makers, experts, media/journalists, and bilateral and multilateral organizations on forestland rights to extend public participation in order to influence policy-making processes and encourage the recognition to the community rights to spirit forestlands.

The program will give priority to the continuity of improvement for the existing eco-farms at all levels, and seek alternatives for expansion to the wider extent via on-going experiments / applied research on environment ecology friendly and low input farming alternatives. The strategy will empower eco-farm owners, especially young (female) indigenous farmers through a series of short-term and long-term courses on eco-farming in FFS HEPA (Ha Tinh province - Vietnam) and FFS Long Lan (Luang Prabang, Laos), exchange-visits, internships and workshops among MECO-ECOTRA's eco-farming networks in Laos, Vietnam with other local and regional CSOs i.e. AIPP, PADETC, ECOLINK, TOA, FK, INEB, KFM, Myvillage and formal vocational training centers in Vietnam and Laos. Graduates may then become trainers and lead activists to push for the stronger movement in eco-farming nationally and regionally, and provide training and share best practices with other farmers in their localities. The program emphasizes on-going ethno-studies and applied researches for development of FFS's practical training curriculum, methodologies and contents, sharing information, then connection with other the existing eco-farming networks and organizations in the Mekong Sub-region, as well raising public awareness on eco-farming practices and values.

With the continuous strategy of empowerment for young (female) indigenous farmers, as well updating local knowledge, difficulties, challenges, solutions and initiatives on eco-farming in different locations in Laos and Vietnam, the program will provide incentives to support initiatives of the FFS's graduates to enhance their knowledge and capacity via setting up and small scale eco-farms. The program will then facilitate the organization of alumni among the FFS graduates, as well in connections with MECO-ECOTRA/SPERI existing networks provides enabling opportunities for FFS graduates to attend different national and regional events on eco-farming i.e. on-site seminars, study exchanges, internships and workshops. So that, the FFS's graduates and young indigenous farmers are able to form initiatives to develop, expand and upscale the values and knowledge of eco-farming.

SPERI will cooperate with several national and regional institutions on social enterprise / entrepreneurship i.e. Center for Social Innovative Promotion (CSIP) and Institute for Social

Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA) to conduct a series of studies and trainings for leaders of the existing / newly established small scale community based social enterprises (CBSEs), so that they are capable to manage their business, and make connections to expand to other locations of MECO-ECOTRA. Then, the formation of small-scale community-based social enterprises in accordance with the potential eco-products of MECO-ECOTRA is a consequence of the sequence of above results with aim to create niche markets, contributing to stabilize the indigenous peoples' livelihood by local sustainable self-sufficient economies.

5.2.2 Specific Objective for Component B

Specific Objective for Component B: "Institutional and organizational capacity of MECO-ECOTRA in Vietnam and Laos will be strengthened. This aims to promote stronger local, national and regional grassroots civil society and young indigenous leadership empowerment via the wider connections with the strategic organizations / networks in order to put forward lobby / advocacy for the issues of indigenous ethnic minorities in Vietnam and Laos particularly, the Mekong sub-region in general".

Expected Indicators are: 1) As much as 8,540 peoples, especially marginalized women, from MECO-ECOTRA pilot areas in Vietnam and Laos will get benefits i.e. forest land rights, capacity/knowledge in eco-farming, sustainable income generation from CBSEs, etc. through the work of MECO-ECOTRA's Coordination Board (Executive Board and Secretariat) through the implementation of activities stated in Component A; 2) 30 indigenous minority youths including female representatives under the Youth Indigenous Ethnic Minority Leadership Development Strategy (YIELDS) / Farmer's Field Schools become coordinators for different thematic networks of MECO-ECOTRA, human resources of community leadership, and pioneers for eco-farming movements from local, national to regional levels; 3) Feedback and recommendations about the process of making and implementing relevant policies regarding indigenous ethnic minorities are made by local, national, and regional civil society in accordance to the thematic networks of MECO-ECOTRA in connections with existing indigenous communities and organizations in the Mekong sub-region, and under MECO-ECOTRA's Coordination Board.

The program's strategic approaches to address above results will be applied, as follows:

SPERI will facilitate MECO-ECOTRA to reform its existing structure and then integrate the network's institutional coordination into FFS HEPA and FFS Long Lan. It expects to have a Coordination Board, including Executive Council of MECO-ECOTRA and Secretariat, which includes (female) indigenous youths, especially the FFS's graduates. The reformed MECO-ECOTRA's institution then specializes for different themes i.e. capacity building/training, participatory action research and communication, technical exchange and support, and social enterprise. Along with such process, SPERI in collaboration with regional CSOs i.e. TOA, FK, AIPP, PRI, KFM and AVID will put emphasis on empowering the coordination, facilitation, monitoring, documentation and communication capacity of MECO-ECOTRA's Secretariat via a range of trainings, study-exchanges and internships.

The program will put more emphasis on empowering the coordination and facilitation capacity of MECO-ECOTRA to promote the larger involvement of the existing networks, CBOs and communities, as well as taking up the issues of indigenous peoples in different geographical areas into a common agenda for the network. So that, MECO-ECOTRA via its Coordination Board, under the supervision of SPERI, the Land Right Alliance, and other national, international CSOs are capable to lobby local governments to legalize the traditional spirit forestland and cultural spaces of indigenous villages in Vietnam and Laos. Accordingly, the MECO-ECOTRA's Coordination Board will support provincial coordinators to promote indigenous communities to (re)organize the traditional rituals with the sake of strengthening the community governance, particularly in relations with forestland management and local knowledge based land use planning.

Along with the strategy of widening the thematic networks to other geographical locations in Vietnam and Laos, the program will empower the MECO-ECOTRA Secretariat for up-scaling the network's initiatives, results and voices at national and regional levels; so that they are capable to seek and create more connections and linkages with the indigenous organizations and networks in the Mekong regional countries such as Cambodia (i.e. CEDAC), Myanmar (i.e. METTA, Land-core Group and KFM) and Thailand (e.g. Northern Farmer Network, IMPACT), as well other regions i.e. Youth Buddhism Society (India), Sewalanka Foundation-Sri Lanka, etc. Furthermore, the action expects that the MECO-ECOTRA will be acknowledged as member of any regional and international networks of the indigenous peoples.

5.2.3 Specific Objective for Component C

The specific objective for component C: "SPERI will be professionalized in order to meet higher capacity of MECO-ECOTRA, and push for improvement, and support better implementation of the existing (and future) legal framework to regain the livelihood sovereignty of indigenous people in the Mekong region".

Expected Indicators are: 1) SPERI becomes more focused and operationally enhanced through clarifying and defining its internal mandates, policies, business plan, professional departments, and human resources, in accordance to the principles of social enterprise governance; 2) The organizational and financial sustainability of SPERI is improved through fund raising and self-financing through its capacity in providing services in research, publication and training; 3) Public awareness raising and recommendations i.e. policy analysis, policy briefs, guidelines, processes regarding the issues of indigenous minority peoples in the Mekong sub-region, particularly in Vietnam and Laos, are proposed for district, provincial and central authorities' consideration and reference in the process of policy making and implementation.

In order to address above results, the program aims to reform SPERI to become a professional research-training-lobbying institution which operates on the basis of social entrepreneurship governance with clear mandates and processes, specialized departments, and strong capability of adaptability and innovation to meet the higher needs and capacity of MECO-ECOTRA, especially the demand for up-scaling and/or expansion of models and strategies to other locations in Vietnam, Laos and the Mekong Sub-region. The action expects that SPERI will be empowered in terms of self-generation of income with clear strategic and mid-term business plan, and fund-raise policy in order to deal with organizational financial sustainability. Furthermore, SPERI will broaden its alliance and seek cooperation with strategic Vietnam and Laos CSOs, international NGOs, (multi) bilateral development agencies to support the better operation of MECO-ECOTRA.

5.3 Expected Results (ERs) and Indicators

For the following results, outcomes and impacts are expected by the program during the period from 2013-2016 to achieve. These expected achievements are designed based on the results, recommendations from the period from 2010-2013, clearly presented in the annual reports and the final evaluation report. In order to have a basis for the measure the effectiveness and impacts of the program during the period from 2013-2016, the program will conduct survey in pilot areas to set up baseline data. This activity will be conducted right after the program is approved. The baseline survey will be implemented by SPERI, MECO-ECOTRA's Coordination Board and provincial/district coordinators under the supervision of external experts, possibly from BftW.

5.3.1 Expected Results and Indicators for Specific Objective of Component A

Expected Result 1.1. 10 indigenous ethnic minority villages¹⁵ have obtain the collective rights to management and use over 2,500 hectares of the community forest and land in accordance with both customary and statutory law.

The program aims at lobby local governments to allocate the titles to as much as 2,500 hectares of the community spirit forestland, and official recognition of the traditional practices of governance, local knowledge of 10 indigenous ethnic minority villages. Then, the program pushes more emphasis on capacity building and empowerment of representatives, particularly women of such pilot villages, CBOs, MECO-ECOTRA, local CSOs, local authorities and relevant functional agencies. Therefore, they are mobilized and actively involved in the forestland rights claim, at all stages, during and after the action. They will be able to better ensure and enforce forest and land rights to local communities, based on the traditional norms, customary laws and formal policy as well as effective and sustainable use of forestland resources in accordance to the local knowledge.

The program will reinforce representatives of the pilot villages such as Village Management Boards (village heads, elderly, healers and prestigious people), Village Mass-Organizations (Youth's Association, Farmer's Union and Women Union), CBOs, traditional grassroots groups, MECO-ECOTRA, local authorities / officials/technicians at the commune and district levels; so that they will be able to better engage and integrate both customary and formal systems to deal with broader governance issues e.g. natural resources use, management and benefit distribution, conflict resolutions, land concession and natural resources grabbing. Furthermore, they will better involve setting up and coordinating co-management systems of the forestland resources for equitable benefit distribution.

The program expected to achieve the provincial guideline on community based forestland allocation and conflict resolution for better implementation of the Payment of Ecological Service (PES)¹⁶. The program will further give rise to raise public opinions and feedbacks on the policy on the spirit forest and land domains to indigenous ethnic minorities. This will provide relevant voices in order to lobby for the full recognition of forestland rights for indigenous minority communities in the context of coming amendments of forest and land policies.

Expected indicators are: 10 new community forest pilots (500 households with 2,100 peoples, roughly 50% female) are entitled to 2,500 hectares of the traditional spirit forestland areas under the relevant legal documents. They are able to assert the exclusive rights to the community forestland domains; 2,500 hectares of community traditional spirit forests in 10 pilot villages are managed accordance to the integration between customary regulations and formal system for application to a wide range of stakeholders; 10 sets of map, local knowledge based forest land plans for 2,500 hectares of the community spirit forestland in 10 pilot villages are officially recognized; 10 customary law based forest land regulations of 10 pilot villages are officially recognized and integrated into local governing systems; About 60% of leadership of villages and CBOs with female representatives in 10 pilot villages gain better capacity and are actively involved in community based forestland allocation, management and resolving disputes; they are also able to prepare formalities to request forestland rights to local government; 70% of district and provincial authorities / officials / technicians from functional agencies who participated in the action gain more knowledge and skills in community based forestland allocation, land use planning and land conflict resolutions; 10 community forestland users better engage in co-management of forestland towards equitable distribution and local sustainability; 01 provincial guideline for customary based forestland (re)mapping/zoning and (re)allocation and land conflict resolution for Payment of Environmental Service (PES) which will apply at district and provincial level; A series of dialogues for

¹⁵Lao Cai and Nghe An, Kon Tum provinces (Vietnam), and Luang Prabang province (Laos)

¹⁶This activity is only taken place in Lao Cai province as among the provinces where the pilots are implemented only Lao Cai has implemented PES.

policy analysis, feedback regarding spirit forests, productive forest and community based forestland planning in ethnic minority communities in upland areas.

Expected Result 1.2. Eco-farming models at household (15), community (2) and region (2) levels for the application of newly adaptable solutions with local knowledge and techniques are maintained and expanded.

The program will aim to improve the existing eco-farms at all levels through on-going experiments / applied researches on environment ecology friendly / low input farming alternatives with basic facilities to become practical training/education sites. Those training sites will be available for capable trainers who are farm owners, FFS's graduates and knowledgeable members of MECO-ECOTRA, as well as sets of practical FFS's training curriculum, case studies, booklets, training program (methods and contents), guidelines and database regarding eco-farming. Accordingly, a series of practical training, internships, on-site exchanges etc., will be held for farmers, FFS's students and graduates in MECO-ECOTRA regions, as well concerned stakeholders in Vietnam/Laos and Mekong sub-region.

For the continuous strategy of empowerment for indigenous youth farmers, as well as updating local knowledge, difficulties / challenges, solutions and initiatives on eco-farming in different locations in Laos and Vietnam, the program will aim to achieve the stronger of organization of alumni / network amongst the FFS graduates, engagement of indigenous young farmers and FFS's graduates in the national and regional eco-farming movement. Small grants for FFS's graduates will be further provided by the program with the aim of enhancing their skills and knowledge, and expanding values of eco-farming at the larger scale.

Expected Indicators are: 15 household on-site training / exchange eco-farms, 02 human ecology planning and practice communities¹⁷ and 02 regional human ecology practice and training / education sites¹⁸ are accessible and capable to meet the needs of eco-farmers; Available and accessible sets of practical curriculum, case studies, booklets, training program (methods and contents), guidelines and database regarding eco-farming, landscape design, ethno-botanic and native species preservation, practices of natural resources management, local knowledge and species rain reforestation, appropriate techs and solutions on farming, customary law for community governances, food processing and storage, farm management and social marketing; Available network of knowledgeable and prestigious trainers who are eco-farm owners, traditional leaders, healers, FFS ex- students, volunteers, activists, reputed researchers and lectures from training and education institutions; 2,000 attendances (about 35-40% women) take part in two year training program, short-term / refresh training, on-site exchanges, workshops/conferences and internships on eco-farming better understand and practice eco-farming knowledge, techniques and solutions; 50 indigenous students (35-40% women) are empowered to involve in coordinating MECO-ECOTRA, become human resources of local governance, specialized farmers and mobile teaching assistance on eco-farming; 03 project proposals via initiatives regarding community development, ecological preservation and production at community level i.e. gardening / farming, livestock, cultural identity preservation, forest protection and capacity building; 10 FFS graduates are able to organize exchanges and provide practical trainings on their farms; Better engagement and feedback of FFS graduates on eco-farming practices at local, national and regional levels via exchanges and attendance of FFS's alumni to events and conferences and other organizations (TOA, FK, INEB, etc.).

Expected Result 1.3. 03 small-scale community-based social enterprises (CBSEs)

¹⁷Pom Om (the Thai ethnic) in Hanh Dich commune, Que Phong District, Nghe An province (Central Vietnam), and Long Lan (the H'mong) in Luang Prabang district, Luang Prabang province, Laos

¹⁸FFS_Simacai, Lao Cai province and FFS_HEPA in Ha Tinh province Vietnam

The formation of small scale CBSEs regarding i.e. herbal medicine, eco-farming production, micro credit and forest products is a consequence of the sequence of results achieved from the above ER.1.1, ER.1.2 and ER.1.3. This aims to create niche markets for eco-products of MECO-ECOTRA thematic networks, communities, contributing to stabilize the indigenous peoples' livelihood by local sustainable self-sufficient economies. As well, CBSEs will become living curriculum for FFS's students, and places for exchanges of farmers in pilot regions in Vietnam and Laos.

Expected Indicators are: 1) 03 small scale CBSEs which involve about 300 villagers are able to self-operate after the 3 years of empowerment, and started to expand to the wider scale; 2) 01 guideline / manual on approach for promotion and expansion of CBSEs; 3) 03 small scale CBSEs become practical training and field studies for FFS's students.

5.3.2 Expected Results and Indicators for Specific Objective of Component B

Expected Result 2.1. MECO-ECOTRA in Laos and Vietnam is institutionalized and capable to coordinate and facilitate the network activities.

Towards an independent MECO-ECOTRA with its scope of operation not only at commune/district and provincial levels, but that at national and trans-border scale, the current MECO-ECOTRA organization of coordination will be reformed and institutionalized with capable personnel, available basic infrastructure and facilities. The MECO-ECOTRA's reformed institutional coordination is then integrated into FFS HEPA and FFS Long Lan. With such a reforming, it expects to have a Coordination Board of MECO-ECOTRA, including Executive Council and Secretariat, which involves indigenous youths, especially the FFS's graduates and key leaders of indigenous communities. The reformed MECO-ECOTRA's institution then specializes for different themes i.e. capacity building/training, participatory action research and communication, technical exchange and support, and social enterprise in order to meet the higher needs and capacity of the members not only in Vietnam, Laos, but also in connection with other networks, organizations and communities of the indigenous peoples in the Mekong Sub-region.

Expected Indicators are: 1) An Executive Council of MECO-ECOTRA set up and specialized for different themes i.e. capacity building/training, participatory action research and communication, technical exchange and support, and social enterprise; 2) Secretariat for MECO-ECOTRA Executive Council is capable to facilitate and coordinate activities of the networks in Vietnam and Laos, and make connections with other networks, organizations of indigenous peoples in the Mekong region; 3) A range of trainings, exchanges-studies, internships, workshops and seminars with purpose of capacity building, raising public awareness and lobby are coordinated and facilitated by MECO-ECOTRA's Secretariat and Executive Council.

Expected Result 2.2. MECO-ECOTRA in Vietnam and Laos gets more recruitment from the existing CBOs, networks and communities of indigenous ethnic minorities.

The program expects the MECO-ECOTRA's three couples of networks during this period will be expanded into other locations within pilot region as well as other provinces of Vietnam and Laos. So that, it expects the capacity of MECO-ECOTRA's Coordination Board and district/provincial coordinators of different thematic networks will be empowered. Communication amongst the MECO-ECOTRA will be improved. Under the supervision of SPERI, the Land Right Alliance, and other national, international CSOs, MECO-ECOTRA's Coordination Board and provincial/district coordinators are capable to lobby local authorities and functional government agencies to recognize and legalize the traditional spirit forest and land resources and cultural spaces of indigenous villages in Vietnam and Laos. Accordingly, they will promote and facilitate indigenous communities to (re)organize the traditional rituals with the sake of

strengthening the community governance, particularly in relation to forestland management and local knowledge based land use planning.

Expected Indicators are: 1) 10 indigenous villages are entitled to 2,500 hectares of the traditional spirit forestland under the relevant legal documents; 2) Customary laws based institutions, local knowledge based land use plans and herbal medicine forests of 10 indigenous villages are officially recognized and integrated into the formal systems; 3) At least 10 traditional rituals of indigenous villages are maintaining annually under the community spirit forests; 4) At least 05 traditional rituals or community based institutions of indigenous villages are promoted under supports of MECO-ECOTRA's Executive Council, Secretariat and provincial coordinators of thematic networks.

Expected Result 2.3. Have more strategic indigenous organizations / communities / networks in the Mekong sub-region connected with MECO-ECOTRA in Vietnam and Laos.

The program expects the MECO-ECOTRA's three couples of networks during this period will have more connections, linkages and collaboration with other indigenous organizations, communities and networks in the Mekong sub-region such as Cambodia (i.e. CEDAC), Myanmar (i.e. METTA, Landcore Group, KFM) and Thailand (e.g. Northern Farmer Network, IMPACT), as well other regions i.e. Youth Buddhism Society (India), Sewalanka Foundation - Sri Lanka, etc. So that, it expects the capacity of MECO-ECOTRA's Coordination Board, particularly the Secretariat will be empowered in terms of facilitation, coordination, communication and publication. They are then capable to coordinate a number of relevant regional events such as workshops, conferences and study-exchanges. The program further expects that MECO-ECOTRA will become a member of any regional and international networks of indigenous peoples. So that, MECO-ECOTRA will gain more bargaining power to push for the improvement of implementation of the current policies toward indigenous ethnic minorities within Vietnam and Laos.

Expected Indicators are: 1) At least 02 indigenous based allies per each country (Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand) regularly get connected with MECO-ECOTRA in Vietnam and Laos; 2) Themes and strategies implemented by MECO-ECOTRA in Vietnam and Laos are interconnected with perspectives and issues at the Mekong region level; 3) A range of the following up plans of action for the collaboration and connections between MECO-ECOTRA and communities, networks and organizations of the indigenous peoples in the Mekong sub-region are implemented.

5.3.3 Expected Results and Indicators for Specific Objective of Component C

Expected Result 3.1. SPERI's reforming becomes a professional research - training - lobbying organization based on social entrepreneurship governance

During this period, the program expects that SPERI will become a professional research-training-lobbying institution which operates on the principles of social entrepreneurship / enterprises with clear mandates and processes, specialized departments and strong capability of adaptability and innovation. This reforming is to meet the higher needs and capacity of MECO-ECOTRA, especially the demand for the up-scaling and/or expansion of strategies to other locations in Vietnam, Laos and the Mekong region, the question of the tendency of external funding deduction that requires the sound strategy for organizational financial sustainability. SPERI's professional departments and staffs are expected to be higher specialized capacity. SPERI will be empowered in terms of self-financial generation with long-term and short-term business plan, clear fund-raise strategy.

Expected Indicators are: 1) SPERI's revised organization mandate, professional departments with clear focuses, adaptability and innovation in accordance with the principles of social entrepreneurship / enterprise including clear long/mid-term business plans, capable specialized human resources who could

lead key topics in the organization, and standardized organizational profile, procedures / processes, monitoring and evaluation system; 2) SPERI is capable to provide advises for the higher needs, challenges and dynamics of MECO-ECOTRA, as well reliable services on research, training and lobby on eco-farming, land use planning, land use right and natural resources management; 3) 01 Resources Raise Department with clear fund-raising strategy and plans, capable specialized human resources in order to deal with the organizational financial sustainability in the context of external funding shortage; 4) 01 Professional Media Team with reliable, accessible and updated means i.e. website, internal newsletter, etc. to deal with publications, public raising awareness and lobby/advocacy.

Expected Result. 3.2. SPERI has more relevant strategic alliances on three interactive theme couples in Laos and Vietnam particular, and Mekong region in general.

During this period, SPERI will still maintain and promote its strategic existing groups of stakeholders¹⁹ to support MECO-ECOTRA higher needs and capacity. At the same time, SPERI will join efforts with other selected local and international NGOs, (multi) bilateral development agencies to gather more collective will and bargaining power in the process of lobbying for the trans-border issues of indigenous ethnic minorities in Vietnam, Laos in connection with Mekong sub-region perspectives.

Expected Indicators are: 1) 10 strategic existing groups of stakeholders are maintained and promoted to support MECO-ECOTRA; 2) 07 new strategic national and international CSOs / bilateral organizations get involved with SPERI to work on research and lobby/advocacy for the issues of indigenous ethnic minorities in Vietnam, Laos as well as the Mekong sub-region.

5.4 Intended sustainable impacts of the program on the target groups / beneficiaries

Table 5. Intended sustainable impacts of the program per set of activities corresponding to each/cluster expected result

<i>ER.1.1</i>	<i>10 indigenous ethnic minority villages have obtain the collective rights to management and use over 2,500 hectares of the community forest and land in accordance with both customary and statutory law.</i>
Technical	10 community customary law based governing systems are capable to manage effective titled spirit forestland, as well resolve natural resources conflicts and land grabs; Local knowledge of 10 pilot villages will be preserved so that contributing to the sustainability of land use planning; As many as 70% of villagers among 2,200 beneficiaries from 200 households (50% women) better understand their rights to forestland; Capacity of 50 CBOs representatives and MECO-ECOTRA's district and provincial coordinators including women to coordinate effective local forums/networks to request for forestland reallocation in other communities; 10 coordinators of MECO-ECOTRA are capable to replicate experiences in other locations; 30 district and communal technicians/officials /authorities are capable to implement community-based forestland allocation, community based land use planning, resolve land conflicts peacefully and integrate customary regulations in forest management in other locations; Associates of the SPERI's Land-Right Alliance gain experiences applicable in other similar settings.
Economic	As much as 50% of populations, particularly women and poor in 10 communities gain income from collection of NTFPs, and REDD+/PES schemes from 2,500 hectares of the titled community forest; Equitable benefits-sharing from forest use and management agreed amongst the land users contribute to improve income for local villagers and subsequently security of their livelihoods; Voluntary participation of the pilot villages by the customary laws in forest management contributes to the reduction of costs compared to the local government bureaucratic system.
Social	The titled community spirit forests could generate more job opportunities, especially for poor women in 10 pilot communities and neighborhoods from NTFPs production so that reduce the

¹⁹See detailed in annex O2 on SPERI's stakeholder analysis

	situation of fleeing to big cities for jobs which could easily get HIV/Aids; Conflicts over forestland will be peacefully solved by active involvement of local stakeholders; Rights of 10 pilot villages to spirit forest and land areas, customary governance are recognized and protected under relevant policies / laws; Trust among local actors i.e. authorities/officials/ technicians and villagers strengthened; Villagers, particularly women gain confidence in dialogue with local authorities, negotiation with outsiders regarding forestland rights; Increased number of community leaders and representatives of CBOs actively taking part in local governance for forest management; Land conflicts and social tension reduced; Contribute to get more understanding among local authorities about the value of spirit forestlands and customary laws in natural resource management.
Environment	Cases of illegal logging reduced, addressing deforestation problem and maintaining availability of water resources for agricultural production and livelihoods of pilot villages; Lessen forest violation cases, forestland resources are better planned and used.
<i>ER.1.2</i>	<i>Eco-farming models at household (15), community (2) and region (2) levels for the application of newly adaptable solutions with local knowledge and techniques are maintained and expanded.</i>
Technical	As many as 2,000 farmers, especially indigenous youths and 100 FFS's students and graduates and other indigenous young farmers in project areas (35-40% women) get better understanding and capacity (techs and solutions) on eco-farming i.e. through experiments, on-site exchanges, study visits, on-site curriculum and FFSs' trainings; Alternatives which combine systems of local knowledge, native species and available organic materials and newly adaptable solutions contributes to sustainability of agricultural practices of pilot farms; Capacity building for indigenous youths especially FFS's graduates in applied researches i.e. ethno-botanic and experiments of environment friendly solutions.
Economic	Alternative self-efficiency economies contribute to the security of livelihood of local families in pilot areas; Alternatives for sustainable self-efficient economies from the action will be replicated by MECO-ECOTRA in other communities to improve livelihoods; The creation of training sites in place contributes to reduce opportunity costs / financial loss due to have to send their children to study in Uni./College in cities. Contribute to the reduction of economic losses by dealing with the increased investments on fertilizers, chemicals, varieties, etc., natural disasters, environmental damages and mitigation in the pilot farms.
Social	Contribute to have capable and ethnical human resources in pilot areas; Contribute to create more job opportunities in place, especially for youths; Reduce the situation that indigenous youths, especially girls in pilot areas fleeing to big cities for job seeking which could easily get HIV/Aids and other social problems.
Environment	Contribute to improvement of agricultural production, land use planning, effective use and management of natural resources in pilot farms; Reduce externalities caused by the current commercial agriculture in pilot farms; Contribute to reduction of natural disasters i.e. flooding, landslides, promote bio-diversity preservation of native species.
<i>ER 1.3</i>	<i>03 small-scale community-based social enterprises (CBSEs)</i>
Technical	Capacity of 03 CBSEs get better in terms of social marketing, management, as well as expansion of their business at the larger scale; As much as 60 peoples including females who are managers of 03 CBSE pilots, coordinators of the MECO-ECOTRA Coordination Board get better knowledge and skills in social business via trainings, workshops and study exchanges; SPERI (staff) gets more experiences and capacity and knowledge in facilitate / advise pilots on CBSEs; Capacity building for FFSs' students, especially graduates in eco-farming chain of production via FFS's curriculum and field studies in the above CBSEs; Contribute to have solutions to maintain local knowledge, techniques and solutions which involve in the process of producing eco-products supplied for CBSEs.
Economic	The creation of niche markets for eco-products of the MECO-ECOTRA will contribute to stabilize indigenous peoples' livelihoods by local sustainable self-sufficient economies.
Social	Contribute to make availability of job opportunities in place for indigenous people, particularly youths, girls and the poor in pilot villages so that reduce the situation of job seeking in big cities which could easily get HIV/Aids and other social problems; Contribute to reduce the dependence of pilot villages from outsiders (market) by small scale sustainable self-sufficient productions; The stability of livelihood by local sustainable self-sufficient economies which could reduce the tension in families - causes of domestic violence.

Environment	Contribute to raise awareness of villagers in pilot villages and other businesses in terms of environmental responsibilities so that biodiversity, native species, local knowledge and local solutions preserved.
<i>ER.2.1 & ER.2.2</i>	<i>MECO-ECOTRA in Laos and Vietnam is institutionalized and capable to coordinate and facilitate the network activities / MECO-ECOTRA in Vietnam and Laos gets more recruitment from the existing CBOs, networks and communities of indigenous ethnic minorities.</i>
Technical	MECO-ECOTRA's Coordination Board particularly members of the Secretariat including indigenous youths, as well provincial and district coordinators of thematic networks in different geographical areas get better capacity on planning, coordinating, monitoring and documentation/publication of the network activities; Hundreds of members of the thematic networks get better knowledge and skills for instances farming, forest management, etc. The customary law based institutions, particularly natural resources governance of 10 pilot villages get more strengthened after they obtained the community forestland titles; The local land use planning practices gain more improved.
Economic	The revision of MECO-ECOTRA structure will reduce the coordination costs in itself; Create more income opportunities of local peoples via the facilitation of MECO-ECOTRA's Coordination Board in setting up CBSEs; On-site exchanges / visits and pilot models facilitated by the networks will bring economic benefits for local peoples.
Social	Contribute to increase the social responsibility among MECO-ECOTRA members for the issues of indigenous and ethnic minorities; Contribute to make stronger social cohesion and maintain cultural practices, local knowledge of indigenous communities within MECO-ECOTRA pilots.
Environment	The contribution of MECO-ECOTRA's Coordination Board via lobby local governments for the community rights to forestland, community forest management, promotion of eco-farming, herbal medicine plant protection, biodiversity, lessen natural disasters and reduction of CO2 emission, etc. in pilot villages.
<i>ER.2.3</i>	<i>Have more strategic indigenous organizations / communities / networks in the Mekong sub-region connected with MECO-ECOTRA in Vietnam and Laos.</i>
Technical	Capacity of MECO-ECOTRA's Secretariat and Executive Council in networking and communication is better improved; Members of MECO-ECOTRA particularly provincial and district coordinators will get more knowledge and capacity from sharing/ exchanges with other networks / communities / organizations in the Mekong sub-region.
Economic	Lessons learnt and best practices from exchanges with other networks/communities/organizations in the Mekong sub-region contribute to make more effective the coordination of MECO-ECOTRA activities; Better operation of pilot models on CBSEs for the sake of sustainable self-efficient economies for pilot villages' families.
Social	Best practices and lessons learnt from the sharing / exchanges in return contributes to make stronger thematic networks of MECO-ECOTRA - grassroots CSOs, as well preservation and promotion of the values of local communities i.e. customary laws, local knowledge and etc. so that getting more local peoples to involve in MECO-ECOTRA.
Environment	Lessons learnt and best practices in terms of farming, forest protection, etc. from the exchanges will be applied to resolve environment problems in different pilot villages of MECO-ECOTRA in Vietnam and Laos.
<i>ER.3.1 & ER.3.2</i>	<i>SPERI's reforming becomes a professional research - training - lobbying organization based on social entrepreneurship governance / SPERI has more relevant strategic alliances on three interactive theme couples in Laos and Vietnam particular, and Mekong region in general.</i>
Technical	Organizational capacity in research-training-lobbying, especially social enterprise, as well specialized departments will be strengthened; Capacity and knowledge SPERI staff in different functional tasks i.e. program/project management get better improved.
Economic	Improvement of financial efficiency due to the enhancement of management of organization; Collaboration with other organizations contributes to save costs of program implementation while the efficiency get better; Experiences sharing and exchange with other organizations contribute to reduce opportunity costs due to SPERI has send staffs to different study courses inside and outside countries; Experiment on social enterprise within SPERI could bring additional short-term and

	strategic alternative for income generation of the organization.
Social	Promote SPERI's sharing/co-responsibility with other organizations for the issues of indigenous peoples in Vietnam/Laos and the Mekong sub-region; Effectiveness of organizational operation as well as its quality of research-training-lobbying services would lift-up roles and images of SPERI, as well make the wider and larger networks /alliance of SPERI with other local/regional/international CSOs and multi/bilateral institutions.
Policy	SPERI's mandate, policies, system of procedures / processes, and practices are improved via capacity building and organizational reforming, so that meet the higher needs and capacity of MECO-ECOTRA; Consolidate / improve SPERI's policy and procedures in terms of development cooperation

5.5 Intended sustainable impacts for the project areas and wider environment

Table 6. Intended sustainable impacts of the program corresponding to each/cluster expected result

<i>ER.1.1</i>	<i>10 indigenous ethnic minority villages have obtain the collective rights to management and use over 2,500 hectares of the community forest and land in accordance with both customary and statutory law.</i>
Technical	Contribute better land use planning at communal and district levels; The customary governing system, local knowledge / techniques of indigenous communities get consolidated; Experiences on forestland allocation to local communities are replicated in other locations; The action is an example for the provincial and central MARD and MoNRE to study for better policy implementation.
Economic	Contributes to the reduction of economic losses by dealing with conflicts and deforestation; Lessen expenditures of public budget due to engaging involvement of local stakeholders in forest management and conflicts resolution; Equitable benefits-sharing guidelines from forest use and management will contribute to increase income for local villagers and subsequently security of their livelihoods; Voluntary participation of local communities by customary laws in forest management will reduce costs compared to the government bureaucratic system; Alternatives for sustainable forest-based economic generation created by the MECO-ECOTRA network will be replicated in other communities to improve livelihoods.
Social	Income generation from the community forest is an alternative to attract more involvement of poor women and youths so that reduce the situation of fleeing to big cities for jobs which could easily get HIV/Aids; Conflicts over forestland will be peacefully solved by active involvement of local stakeholders; Trust among local actors i.e. authorities/officials/ technicians and villagers strengthened; Contribute to increase number of community leaders and representatives of CBOs actively taking part in local governance in forest management; Higher level of social responsibility via co-management of forestland resources combining between state and customary regulations and win-win solutions for benefits sharing; Stronger grassroots movement on forestland rights, contributing to reduce natural resources grabbing; Contribute to get more understanding of the value of spirit forestlands and customary laws in natural resource management; Better forestland governance and transparent benefits sharing will contribute to reduction of bureaucracy and resources grabbing and corruption.
Environment	Contribute to make better of land use planning practices in upland areas; Cases of illegal logging reduce, addressing the deforestation problem and maintain the availability of water resources for agricultural production and livelihoods of up/downstream communities; Contribute to reduce the native impacts from land concessions / grabbing for commercial plantations; Lessen forest violation cases, forestland resources are better planned and used; Contribute to reduction of deforestation, CO ₂ emission, natural disasters such as flooding, landslide and improved sustainable use of forestland resources.
Policy	Practices of demarcation, mapping and cadastral commissions, as well as forestland management of district and provincial officials by use of customary regulations improved; Policies on forestland and cultural identity preservation are better implemented; Policies and guidelines on grassroots democracy, by which local participation and self-determination are more properly implemented; Guidelines of community based forestland allocation, benefits sharing of forest at the local governments get improved and replicated which contribute to effective implementation of PES; Coming amended Land Law 2013 and Law on Forest Protection and Development 2014 (Vietnam) and Forest Law & Land Law of Laos will be advanced in which the spirit forestland is recognized.
<i>ER1.2</i>	<i>Eco-farming models at household (15), community (2) and region (2) levels for the application of newly adaptable solutions with local knowledge and techniques are maintained and expanded.</i>
Technical	Alternatives which combine systems of local knowledge, native species, available organic inputs and newly adaptable solutions contributes to the sustainability of agricultural practices in the pilot regions; Farmers in pilot regions get better understanding and capacity (techs and solutions) on eco-farming i.e. through on-site sharing and seminars, etc.; Alternative models for communal, district and provincial Famers' Union and Agricultural Extension in pilot areas to improve their capacity.
Economic	Contribute to the reduction of economic losses by dealing with natural disasters, environmental

	damages and mitigation in the pilot areas as well upland areas in Vietnam and Laos; Alternative self-efficiency economies contribute to the security of livelihood of local families; Alternatives for sustainable self-efficient economies from the action will be replicated by MECO-ECOTRA's farm owners and FFS's graduates in other communities to improve livelihoods; The creation of training sites in place contributes to reduce opportunity costs / financial loss for local families due to have to send their children to study in Uni./College in cities.
Social	Contribute to have more recognition of the mainstream society to values of local knowledge and native species in sustainable agriculture production and land use planning; Contribute to have capable and ethnical human resources in pilot areas; so that attracting more young labors in place, reducing their fleeing to big cities for job seeking which could easily get HIV/Aids; Create movement on eco-farming in Vietnam/Laos, especially among indigenous youths in connections with existing Mekong regional campaigns.
Environment	Contribute to improvement of agricultural production, land use planning, effective use and management of other natural resources in pilot regions; Reduce externalities caused by the current commercial agriculture which overused chemicals, fertilizers and non-organic inputs in upstream to downstream communities; Contribute to reduction of natural disasters such as flooding and landslides while promoting local knowledge and solutions in bio-diversity preservation.
Policy	Alternative models for communal, district and provincial Farmers' Union and Agricultural Extension to learn, exchange and apply; On-site trainings via FFSs are examples for district vocational training colleges and other National Development Programs (i.e. 30a Program on New Poverty Alleviation for 62 poorest districts in Vietnam) to learn and improve their training program, methods and contents, as well for MARD, MOLISA to study and improve the policies on modern agriculture and training professional farmers (Vietnam case) and MoNRE for land use planning policy and guidelines.
<i>ER 1.3</i>	<i>03 small scale community-based social enterprises (CBSEs)</i>
Technical	Members of 03 CBSEs and farmers in pilot villages get better knowledge and skills in social business; SPERI's capacity will be enhanced in terms of supporting CBSEs; FFS's students and graduates will gain more skills and knowledge via FFS's curriculum and field studies in the above CBSEs; CBSEs is alternative for local government functional officials to exchange and improve their tasks; Contribute to have solutions to maintain local knowledge, techniques and solutions which involve in the process of producing eco-products for CBSEs.
Economic	Contribute to create niche markets for eco-products of the MECO-ECOTRA particularly, pilot regions, as an models for other communities in upland Vietnam and Laos to learn and exchange; Contribute to stabilize indigenous peoples' livelihoods by local sustainable self-sufficient economies; Contribute to reduce the administrative costs for the implementation of poverty reduction program (e.g. 30a in Vietnam).
Social	Contribute to make availability of job opportunities in place for indigenous people, particularly youths and the poor so that reduce the situation of job seeking in big cities which could easily get HIV/Aids and other social problems; Contribute to reduce the dependence of local indigenous peoples from outsides (market) by small scale sustainable self-sufficient productions; The stability of livelihood by local sustainable self-sufficient economies which could reduce the tension in families - causes of domestic violence. Alternative solutions for business / corporate in terms of social responsibility.
Environment	Contribute to raise awareness of local peoples and other businesses in terms of environmental responsibilities, values of biodiversity, native species, local knowledge and local solutions in economic sustainability; Alternative solutions for business / corporate in terms of environmental liability.
Policy	CBSEs as alternative models for local governments to take into account to improve economic situation of local families while still maintaining ecological environment and cultural values; Best examples in terms of approaches and point of views for the National Development Programs (i.e. 30a Program on New Poverty Alleviation for 62 poorest districts in Vietnam, Decree on poverty and development criteria for 2010-2015 in Laos) to learn and improve.
<i>ER.2.1 & ER.2.2</i>	<i>MECO-ECOTRA in Laos and Vietnam is institutionalized and capable to coordinate and facilitate the network activities / MECO-ECOTRA in Vietnam and Laos gets more recruitment from the existing CBOs, networks and communities of indigenous ethnic minorities.</i>

Technical	Local officials, CBOs and community leaders could gain better capacity in terms of coordinating development projects via exchanges with MECO-ECOTRA's coordination board and provincial/district coordinators of different thematic networks.
Economic	Create more income opportunities of local peoples via the facilitation of MECO-ECOTRA's Coordination Board in setting up CBSEs; On-site exchanges / visits and pilot models facilitated by the networks will bring economic benefits for local peoples; Contribute to reduce economic loss due to the government investments / subsidies for the issues of indigenous ethnic minorities.
Social	Contribute to increase the social responsibility within pilot districts / provinces for the issues of indigenous and ethnic minorities; Contribute to make stronger social cohesion and maintain cultural practices, local knowledge of indigenous communities within pilot districts / provinces.
Environment	The contribution of MECO-ECOTRA's Coordination Board via lobby local governments for the community rights to forestland, community forest management, promotion of eco-farming, herbal medicine plant protection, biodiversity, lessen natural disasters and reduction of CO2 emission, etc. in pilot districts/provinces.
Policy	Contribution to the proper and better implementation of local governments for the policies on grassroots participation and democracy, forest and land use and management, biodiversity preservation, poverty reduction, cultural identity preservation and promotion, health care; Getting more supports from local governments.
<i>ER.2.3</i>	<i>Have more strategic indigenous organizations / communities / networks in the Mekong sub-region connected with MECO-ECOTRA in Vietnam and Laos.</i>
Technical	Local officials, CBOs, community leaderships could gain better capacity in terms of coordinating development projects via exchanges with MECO-ECOTRA's coordination board and provincial/district coordinators of different thematic networks.
Economic	Better operation of pilot models on CBSEs for the sake of sustainable self-efficient economies for families pilot districts / provinces; Contribute to the reduction of economic losses by dealing with government investments / subsidies for the issues of indigenous ethnic minorities in upland areas of Vietnam and Laos
Social	Best practices and lessons learnt from the sharing / exchanges in return contributes to make stronger thematic networks of MECO-ECOTRA - grassroots CSOs, as well preservation and promotion of the values of local communities i.e. customary laws, local knowledge and etc. so that getting more local peoples to involve in MECO-ECOTRA.
Environment	Lessons learnt and best practices in terms of farming, forest protection, etc. from the exchanges will be applied to resolve environment problems in different pilot districts / provinces of MECO-ECOTRA in Vietnam and Laos.
Policy	Pilot models serve as applied lessons learnt and best practices from networks and communities in the Mekong sub-region and are good examples for local governments to take into account.
<i>ER.3.1 & ER.3.2</i>	<i>SPERI's reforming becomes a professional research - training - lobbying organization based on social entrepreneurship governance / SPERI has more relevant strategic alliances on three interactive theme couples in Laos and Vietnam particular, and Mekong region in general.</i>
Technical	Better services produced by other organizations in networking and alliance with SPERI through knowledge and experience exchange / sharing, and join implementation of any program's activities.
Economic	Initiatives of the SPERI's national and regional alliances and networks contribute to the reduction of economic losses by dealing with natural disasters, environmental damages and mitigation locally and regionally; Lessen expenditures of public budget for the issues of indigenous peoples, as well as corruption situation due to voluntary engaging involvement of CSOs for the issues in upland indigenous regions; Initiatives of SPERI's national and regional alliances/networks contribute to create alternatives on sustainable self-sufficient economy so that indigenous people's livelihoods stabilized.
Social	Contribute to promote participation and co-responsibility among local, regional and international CSOs and (multi) bilateral organizations for the issues of indigenous peoples in Vietnam/Laos and the Mekong sub-region; Contribute to lift-up the roles and images of CSO sector; Contribute to promote stronger movement via wider and larger networks /alliance amongst local/regional/international CSOs and multi/bilateral institutions to improve policy making and

	implementation; Contribute to resolve the issues i.e. inequality, Structural Poverty, right to land, marginalization/exclusion, dependency and racism, etc. of indigenous peoples in Vietnam/Laos and the Mekong sub-region.
Environment	Initiatives from broader alliance and networks will contribute to create movement which links from local-national-regional-international initiatives of different sectors, especially CSOs for the issues of national and trans-border environment i.e. flooding, landslides, climate change.
Policy	Contribute to better implementation of the policies of the Mekong sub-region states on grassroots democracy, participation, poverty alleviation, cultural identity preservation, land use right, natural resources management, bio-diversity preservation, etc.; Contribute to protect the rights of indigenous peoples under UNDRIP as well as the legal frameworks in different countries in the Mekong sub-region; Contribute to implement more effective the global environmental program i.e. REDD+/PES and climate changes.

6 Activities planned and working methods

6.1 Specific Objective 1

“The existing pilot demonstrations on three interactive thematic couples²⁰ under the leadership of Laos-Vietnam MECO-ECOTRA’s key farmers, young eco-farming activists will be reinforced and replicated to other indigenous ethnic minority communities”.

6.1.1 Expected Result 1.1

ER.1.1: 10 indigenous ethnic minority villages have obtain the collective rights to management and use over 2,500 hectares of the community forest and land in accordance with both customary and statutory law.

In order to achieve ER.1.1, the following **16 activities** will be taken place, including: 1) Conduct field studies on current situations of land use planning and forest resources governance and review relevant policies relating to community spirit forest and forest and land rights; 2) Conduct in-depth researches on customary ownership regime, forestland governance and land conflict resolutions of pilot villages; 3) Lobby local authorities and functional government offices for co-implementation of the pilots; 4) Conduct community based participatory surveys on current land use planning/plans, natural resources usage; classifying types of forest, land borders; measuring land and forest areas; identifying and solving forestland conflicts / overlap; 5) Conduct forestland use planning based on customary law, local knowledge and landscape settings; 6) Re-clarify and re-map the forestland resources for different users; 7) Implement forestland (re)allocation / (re)distribute to 10 pilot villages; 8) Facilitate setting up customary law based regulations on forestland management and use; 9) Organize training workshops for development of approaches, steps and detailed action plans on community based forestland allocation and conflict resolutions; 10) Organize training-workshops on roles of the traditional governance and formal policies in forestland allocation and natural resources management and usage; 11) Organize re-training workshops on roles of the traditional governance and formal policies in forestland allocation and natural resources management and usage; 12) Organize local meetings, dialogues and study exchange among local actors on forestland rights and management; 13) Develop and distribute a guideline on community based allocation, remapping/zoning of watershed forestland for payment of environmental service (PES²¹); 14) Conduct and publish case-study papers i.e. policy briefs for dissemination and lobby relevant government policies / laws on community spirit forest and land; 15) Conduct and publish documentary films regarding (re)allocation of spirit forest and land to local communities; 16) Organize a national workshop on community spirit forest and land rights in relations to cultural bio-diversity in watershed indigenous areas.

6.1.1.1 Working method

Advocating the forestland rights to indigenous ethnic minority communities requires formally and informally networking and alliance among relevant stakeholders from local to regional levels. The current

²⁰For the new phase of the program, six inter-thematic networks of MECO-ECOTRA will focus on 3 couples: 1) Community Ownership of Spirit Forests coupled with Customary Law in Community Governance and Natural Resource Management; 2) Eco-farming in Land Use Planning (promoting local knowledge participation in farming) coupled with Farmer Field Schools at all levels (household, community, region and inter-nation) for building up practical eco-farming curriculum for local vocational training and governing in food sovereignty and transmission of farming knowledge from generation to generation; and 3) Herbal Medicinal Wisdom in Community Health Care and Bio-cultural Diversity Preservation coupled with Eco-Food and Textile Production, moving forward MECO-ECOTRA’s “Community based Eco-Enterprises” in order to initiate local niche market networks for food security and self-sufficiency. The three strategic theme couples will together promote the five Rights of Livelihood Sovereignty, which will then be mobilized vertically throughout the Mekong sub-region via social actions by indigenous and ethnic minority people, from the basic household level, to community, regional, national, and international levels.

²¹This activity is only taken place in Lao Cai province as among the provinces where the pilots are implemented only Lao Cai has implemented PES.

SPERI's Land Right Alliance and Network includes representatives from CODE, CIRUM, CIRD, and NGOs who has similar concern and approaches in connections with the government policy making and implementation agencies, experts, researchers, activists and national media and press. This alliance and networks will be expanding to more strategic national, regional and international CSOs and (multi)bilateral institutions in Vietnam and Laos during this phase. In which, the program (SPERI and MECO-ECOTRA Coordination Board) will play a facilitating role in providing different interactive platforms through i.e. study-exchanges, workshops / seminars / conferences, forums, etc. where concerned stakeholders come together, discuss and agree upon solutions and recommendations.

In light of the rights-based approach, the program flexibly integrates and adapts the three angles of means such as relevant international legal instruments, national legal frameworks and (un)codified customary laws of different indigenous communities in every single activity.

The program under the SPERI's Alliance on Land Right, other strategic national and international CSOs, and bilateral organizations²² will conduct case studies, policy analysis and documentary films from best-practice experiences for recommendations in terms of guideline / process and policy for re-allocating forestland and profits sharing from forestland resources in the Mekong Sub-region, particularly in pilot provinces in Laos and Vietnam. The program will further give rise to policy / lobby workshops and dialogues among concerned actors from local to national levels. Public and social media / press channels will be used a strategic means to raise public opinions and feedbacks on the policy. This will provide relevant voices in order to lobby for the full recognition of forestland rights for local communities in the context of coming amendments of forest and land policies.

6.1.2 Expected Result 1.2

ER.1.2. Eco-farming models at household (15), community (2) and region (2) levels for the application of newly adaptable solutions with local knowledge and techniques are maintained and expanded.

In order to achieve ER.1.2, the following **12 activities** will be taken place, including: 1) Seek for external consultants to conduct surveys / assessment household eco-farming in Laos and Vietnam as a basis for expansion the eco-farming network - training sites and promotion of community ecological enterprises; 2) Conduct a series of on-going ethno-studies regarding local knowledge, native species in gardening, farm management practices and local economy in different indigenous communities for locals' recommended solutions and curriculum development; 3) Continue to conduct on-going experiments / applied researches on environment ecology friendly / low inputs farming alternatives and basic facilities in different eco-farms; 4) Organize 02 years training courses on eco-farming for young indigenous farmers in FFS including internships in household and community farm models; 5) Organize short-term / refresh thematic trainings on eco-farming for indigenous farmers, including FFS graduates; 6) Enlarge internships / field studies taken place in FFSs for students from Vietnamese and abroad education institutions; 7) Organize study tours / exchanges with members of TOA and FK; 8) Facilitate FFS ex-student alumni and set up a guidance for on-going empowerment of the FFS graduates / young indigenous eco-farmers; 9) Set up an eco-farming fund to support and promote initiatives of eco-farmers, especially FFS graduates; 10) Organize national workshops on eco-farming / alternatives farming; 11) Organize regional workshop plus field exchanges on eco-farming / alternatives farming; 12) Produce publications i.e. booklets, guidelines, e-curriculum on eco-farming for practical training and raising public awareness.

6.1.2.1 Working Method

The program will give a priority on the continuity of improvement for the existing eco-farms at all levels, and seek alternatives for expansion to the wider extent via on-going experiments / applied researches on environment ecology friendly / low inputs farming alternatives with basic facilities. Besides, the action

²²See more in the SPERI's stakeholders analysis

further emphasizes the followed up ethno studies with involvement of different relevant actors i.e. MECO-ECOTRA, indigenous youths, researchers, etc. on a range of topics regarding local knowledge and native species in gardening, farming management and local economy in different upland indigenous communities (Long Lan - the Hmong indigenous community in Luang Prabang province, Laos, and Pom Om -the Thai indigenous community in Que Phong district, Nghe An province, Vietnam) for locals' recommended adapted solutions.

On the above basis, through a series of short-refresh and long-term courses on eco-farming in FFS in HEPA (Ha Tinh province – Vietnam) and Long Lan (Luang Prabang, Laos), exchange-visits, internships and workshops with MECO-ECOTRA's networks on eco-farming in Laos (PADETC) and Vietnam (ECOLINK), as well in the Mekong region (i.e. TOA, FK, KFM, IMPACT), as well PRI and global permaculture network, the program further aims to empower eco-farm owners, especially young indigenous farmers. For the purpose of lobbying the formal training system (methods and contents), above training courses will be implemented via cooperation between SPERI and local formal training institutions i.e. Lao Cai Vocational Training College (Vietnam) and Pak Xuong College of Agriculture and Forestry (Laos) and in connections with local Farmers' Unions, Women Union and Youth Associations.

As results of the above strategies, the program will update and develop system of database and other types of publication i.e. internal newsletter, websites and videos on eco-farming. This is a focal part of the process of development of FFS's training curriculum, methodologies and contents, sharing information, then connection with other the existing eco-farming networks and organizations in the Mekong region, as well as raising public awareness on eco-farming.

For the continuous strategy of empowerment for indigenous youth farmers, as well updating local knowledge, difficulties / challenges, solutions and initiatives on eco-farming in different locations in Laos and Vietnam, the program will facilitate the organization of alumni among the FFS graduates. Accordingly, the program will facilitate to set up a set of criteria and standards for monitoring - evaluation and advising for on-going empowerment of the FFS graduates. The program then in connections with SPERI/MECO-ECOTRA existing worldwide networks i.e. TOA, FK, PRI and INEB provides additional opportunities for the FFS's graduates to attend and further engage in the local, national and regional events on eco-farming i.e. on-site seminars, study exchanges, internships and workshops. The national and regional events as well as the alumni will be a freedom interactive forum for the FFS's graduates to form initiatives to link and expand the values and knowledge of eco-farming from local, national to regional scale. The ecological knowledge exchanged and feedbacks, recommendations amongst students to promote the eco-farming network, improve the FFS's training methods and curriculum will be produced and disseminated for application. As well, the action will provide small grants for such initiatives of the FFS's graduates to enhance their knowledge and capacity via setting up, then practicing on their eco-farms. This strategy is implemented in in-connections with local Farmers' Unions, Women Union and Youth Associations for the purpose of lobby and raising awareness.

6.1.3 Expected Result 1.3

ER.1.3. 03 small scale community-based social enterprises regarding MECO-ECOTRA's potential products i.e. herbal medicine and eco-farming production, saving-credit, forest production, etc. are set up and manageable.

In order to achieve ER.1.3, the following **5 activities** will be taking place: 1) Conduct studies / assessments on the possibility of social enterprises / niche markets for eco-products of MECO-ECOTRA i.e. eco-farming, herbal medicines etc. in Vietnam / Laos in connections with the Mekong region; 2) Organize training workshops on social marketing skills for eco-products; 3) Facilitate / support pilots on small scale community based social enterprises; 4) Organize exchange-studies on social enterprise to

Asian countries (e.g. Thailand or Philippine); 5) Develop a guideline / booklet on approaches and steps for development of community based social enterprises.

6.1.3.1 Working method

The formation of small scale CBSEs regarding i.e. herbal medicine, eco-farming production, micro credit and forest products is a consequence of the sequence of results achieved from the above ER.1.1, ER.1.2 and ER.1.3 with aim to create niche markets for eco-products, contributing to stabilize the indigenous peoples' livelihood by local sustainable self-sufficient economies.

Therefore, capacity empowerment for both SPERI staff and existing or newly established micro CBSEs will be focal strategy of the action for almost half of the program term. The program will organize a series of short training and exchange-studies on social enterprise management and social market within and outside countries like Thailand and the Philippines. Manual on approaches of promotion and expansion of CBSEs will be produced in order to guide the process of establishment, development, and expansion of small-scale community based social enterprises later on.

The program will cooperate with several national and regional institutions on social enterprise / entrepreneurship i.e. Center for Social Innovative Promotion (CSIP) and Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA) to conduct studies and assessment to seek for possibilities of setting up and expansion of social enterprises/niche markets for eco-products of MECO-ECOTRA i.e. eco-farming, herbal medicines, etc. in Vietnam/Laos in connections with the Mekong Sub-region perspective. Given the suggestions and advises from above studies, the action will empower or facilitate to set up new small scale CBSEs on the basic and achievements of the three MECO-ECOTRA couples over last nearly 20 years.

6.2 Specific Objective 2

“Institutional and organizational capacity of MECO-ECOTRA in Vietnam and Laos will be strengthened. This aims to promote stronger local, national and regional grassroots civil society and young indigenous leadership empowerment via the wider connections with the strategic organizations / networks in order to put forward lobby / advocacy for the issues of indigenous ethnic minorities in Vietnam and Laos particularly, the Mekong sub-region in general”.

6.2.1 Expected Result 2.1

MECO-ECOTRA in Laos and Vietnam is institutionalized and capable to coordinate and facilitate the network activities in connection with the issues and concerns of indigenous peoples in the Mekong region.

In order to achieve ER.2.1, the following **8 activities** will be taking place: 1) Reform/ reorganize MECO-ECOTRA coordinating organization; 2) Organize practical training courses on eco-farming; 3) Provide on-going practical trainings on planning, facilitation, coordination and linking for MECO-ECOTRA Secretariat; 4) Provide on-going practical trainings on communication, documentation and publication skills for MECO-ECOTRA Secretariat; 5) Organize internship and trainings on English for members of MECO-ECOTRA Secretariat via FK, AIPP, INEB and TOA; 6) Seek for specialized volunteers (i.e. from AVID) to support MECO-ECOTRA Secretariat; 7) Conduct publications for FFS training curriculum development, raising awareness and lobby; 8) Facilitate annual sectional meetings amongst national coordinators of MECO-ECOTRA in Laos and Vietnam.

6.2.1.1 Working method

Given the fact that insofar the geographical thematic networks of MECO-ECOTRA in Vietnam and Laos run independently at commune, district and provincial levels, but that it was difficult at the national and regional levels, due to lack of language skills, political and legal conditions, etc. So that, to become independent MECO-ECOTRA needs an institutional set up with personnel, basic infrastructure and equipment²³. The program will facilitate MECO-ECOTRA to reform its existing structure and then integrate the network's institutional coordination into FFS HEPA in Ha Tinh province, Vietnam and FFS Long Lan in Luang Prabang province, Laos.

The program in collaboration with CSOs and institutions i.e. TOA, FK, AIPP, PRI, KFM, TERRA/PER, Korean Federation of Environment Movement (KFEM) will empower for members of MECO-ECOTRA's Secretariat via a range of trainings, study-exchanges and internships with different skills i.e. planning, coordinating, facilitation, communication (English), linking/connection, documentation and publication. Under the cooperation with AVID, the action will also seek for volunteers and expertise to support members of the MECO-ECOTRA's daily tasks.

“Learning by doing”, the program will provide further enabling opportunities and conditions for MECO-ECOTRA's Secretariat and Executive Council to organize different local, national and regional events i.e. trainings, exchanges, study visits, internships, workshops, seminars/workshops with the purpose of capacity building for MECO-ECOTRA members, FFS's students, raising public awareness and lobby the issues of indigenous peoples in Laos and Vietnam particularly, Mekong Sub-region in general.

6.2.2 Expected Result 2.2

MECO-ECOTRA in Vietnam and Laos gets more recruitment from the existing CBOs, networks and communities of indigenous ethnic minorities.

In order to achieve ER.2.2, the following **5 activities** will be taking place: 1) Conduct assessment of the existing traditional community based organizations / associations and institutions; 2) Support MECO-ECOTRA's Coordination Board to lobby local governments to recognize / legalize forestland resources and cultural spirit spaces for geographical thematic networks i.e. herbal medicine and customary law in natural resources management; 3) Support MECO-ECOTRA Secretariat in collaboration with district/provincial MECO-ECOTRA coordinators to facilitate / organize traditional spirit ceremonies / rituals of different indigenous communities; 4) Facilitate quarterly meetings amongst coordinators of different thematic provincial / district networks of MECO-ECOTRA; 5) Attend the forest and land right network and other relevant events (seminars/workshops, study exchanges) of the existing networks of indigenous peoples in Vietnam and Laos.

6.2.2.1 Working method

During this period, the program will put more emphasis on empowering the coordination and facilitation capacity of MECO-ECOTRA's Coordination Board in closer collaborations with the district and provincial coordinators of thematic networks to identify needs, carry out and monitor plans of action in terms of mobilization and promotion of the involvement of existing networks, CBOs and organizations of the indigenous peoples in different geographical areas.

The MECO-ECOTRA's Coordination Board will further facilitate to set up proper communication systems in order to promote regular meetings among provincial and district coordinators, as well members of thematic networks in different geographical areas to update and share information related to the implementation of network plans, best practices and lesson learnt.

²³Evaluation of The Continued Proposal on Mekong Community Networking and Ecological Trading (MECO-ECOTRA 2010-2013)

The program will support the MECO-ECOTRA's Executive Council, Secretariat and district and provincial coordinators of different thematic networks, under the supervision of SPERI, SPERI's Land Right Alliance, and other national, international CSOs to approach and lobby local authorities and functional government agencies to recognize and legalize the traditional spirit forest and land resources and cultural spaces of indigenous villages in Vietnam and Laos. Accordingly, the MECO-ECOTRA's Coordination Board will support district and provincial coordinators of different geographical thematic networks to promote and facilitate indigenous communities to (re)organize the traditional rituals with the sake of strengthening the community governance, particularly in relations with forestland management and local knowledge based land use planning.

6.2.3 Expected Result 2.3

Have more strategic indigenous organizations / communities / networks in the Mekong sub-region connected with MECO-ECOTRA in Vietnam and Laos.

In order to achieve ER.2.3, the following **6 activities** will be taking place: 1) Organize exchanges/ visits between MECO-ECOTRA with indigenous organizations, communities and networks in Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand; 2) Support MECO-ECOTRA to become a member of the existing networks of indigenous people in the Mekong region; 3) Send MECO-ECOTRA Secretariat members to do internships in regional indigenous networks / organizations i.e. via FK, AIPP, Myvillage, INEB, TOA; 4) Organize trans-border workshop regarding the issues of natural resources, indigenous peoples and eco-farming practices; 5) in collaboration with Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA) host a regional conference on social enterprise / social entrepreneurship; 6) Attend regional workshops/seminars with the Mekong regional indigenous organizations / communities / networks.

6.2.3.1 Working method

As long as the strategy of widening the initiatives, results and impacts of MECO-ECOTRA to other geographical locations in Vietnam and Laos while up-scaling its coordinating at national level, the program will aim to empower MECO-ECOTRA's Secretariat to seek and create more connections and linkages with the indigenous organizations and networks in the Mekong Sub-region countries such as Cambodia (i.e. CEDAC), Myanmar (i.e. METTA, Landcore Group, KFM) and Thailand (e.g. Northern Farmer Network, IMPACT), as well other regions i.e. Youth Buddhism Society (India), Sewalanka Foundation - Sri Lanka, RNIP in Philippines, etc. The program will send members of the MECO-ECOTRA's Secretariat to do internships and short-training courses in several regional CSOs and networks of indigenous peoples such as INEB and AIPP; so that, they will have opportunities to learn and practice skills regarding networks' coordination and facilitation, documentation and publication of the best practices and experiences for FFS's training and raising awareness, particularly communication amongst and between networks.

To make MECO-ECOTRA get adhering in-touch and engage its internal issues and concerns with the Mekong regional perspectives regarding indigenous peoples, the program provides enabling opportunities for MECO-ECOTRA's Executive Council, Secretariat, provincial and district coordinators of different thematic networks in Vietnam and Laos to involve in and coordinate a number of regional events i.e. workshops, conferences and study-exchanges. The program will facilitate MECO-ECOTRA to register as a member of any regional and international networks of indigenous peoples i.e. AIPP. By such a way, MECO-ECOTRA will further have more opportunities for its members to attend the regional and international events to exchange and learn the concerns, interests and visions with other networks, communities and organizations of the indigenous peoples.

6.3 Specific Objective 3:

“SPERI will be professionalized in order to meet higher capacity of MECO-ECOTRA, and push for improvement, and support better implementation of the existing (and future) legal framework to regain the livelihood sovereignty of indigenous people in the Mekong region”.

6.3.1 Expected Result 3.1

SPERI’s reforming becomes a professional research - training - lobbying organization based on social entrepreneurship governance

In order to achieve ER.3.1, the following **11 activities** will be taking place: 1) Conduct organization assessment for development of a strategic and mid-term business plan of SPERI moving forwards social entrepreneurship management; 2) Conduct study / assessment the possibility of social enterprises / niche markets for eco-products of MECO-ECOTRA i.e. eco-farming, herbal medicines etc. in Vietnam / Laos in connections with the Mekong region; 3) Reform and professionalize organizational managing system; 4) Experiment a small scale niche eco-services / training; 5) Organize on-going training workshops on social enterprise for SPERI staff and MECO-ECOTRA coordinators; 6) Upgrade capacity on research-publication and training for SPERI, especially young indigenous staff through a number of short-trainings, diplomas and MA studies; 7) Conduct baseline data for whole program activities; 8) Attend different national, regional and international workshops / seminars / conferences on relevant topics; 9) Conduct (co) publications for SPERI’s documentations, case studies and documentary films / video clips, etc.; 10) Conduct monthly monitoring; 11) Conduct final external evaluation for the program activities.

6.3.1.1 Working method

To deal with the higher needs and capacity of MECO-ECOTRA, especially the demand for the up-scaling and/or expansion of strategies to other locations in Vietnam, Laos and the Mekong region, the question of the deduction of external funding sources that requires the sound strategy for organizational financial sustainability, the program will put emphasis on reforming SPERI towards a professional research-training-lobbying institution which operates on the basis of social entrepreneurship governance.

To do so, the program under the external consultants i.e. Swiss Consulting Co. Ltd. to conduct organizations assessment for making strategic and mid-term business plans, as well the possibilities of development of services on eco-farming training and community based social enterprises / niche markets for eco-products of MECO-ECOTRA. The findings and recommendations of such studies will provide SPERI a reliable strategic and mi-term direction and detailed plans to move forward social entrepreneurship based professional research-training-lobbying organizations with clear mandate and processes, specialized departments and strong capability of adaptability and innovation. SPERI will improve its staff capacity, especially research, publication and training via short-term training courses and MA studies; so that, they are capable to lead key themes and positions in the organization.

Along with the traditional external funding schemes, to deal with organizational financial sustainability, the program will support SPERI to experiment several small-scale pilots on social enterprises with the primary objective of gradually moving SPERI, which has in so far implemented its missions relying on the external funding, to getting familiar and empowered in terms of self-generation of incomes. As long as the process of improving capacity in social enterprise business, and necessarily setting up a professional fund-raise department, a number of external consultancies to on-going support and empower SPERI in this strategy is necessary.

For the basis of yearly monitoring and final evaluation, SPERI will facilitate to conduct survey in the pilot areas for set up baseline database. To measure indicators of the outcome, effective and impacts, the program will conduct yearly monitoring by SPERI’s Founding Committee, Executive Board, as well as final external evaluation by contracting external evaluators.

6.3.2 Expected Result 3.2

SPERI has more relevant strategic alliances on three interactive theme couples in Laos and Vietnam particular, and Mekong region in general.

In order to achieve ER.3.1, the following **2 activities** will be taking place: 1) Share information, knowledge and human resources among SPERI's existing national / regional / international networks and alliances via workshops, seminars, study visits and internships; 2) Co-conduct researches /publications and lobby / advocacy in collaboration with national/international CSOs and (multi)bilateral organizations based in Vietnam and Laos.

6.3.2.1 Working method

In order to push for improvement of existing and future laws and policies towards indigenous ethnic minority peoples, SPERI will broaden its alliance and network, and seek cooperation with strategic Vietnamese and Laos CSOs, INGOs, and (multi)bilateral development agencies to support better operation of MECO-ECOTRA. It will seek expansion to other geographical locations, larger connections with the national, regional and international networks and organizations of indigenous peoples. This focus will be promoted through the programmatic approach in which SPERI in cooperation with the existing groups of strategic stakeholders, and through joint efforts with the new selected INGOs and (multi)bilateral development agencies to push for the better recognition and implementation of the rights for indigenous ethnic minorities not only in Vietnam/Laos, but also in the Mekong sub-region.

7 Project Management

7.1 Management structure

The SPERI's Executive Director and Vice director, and 03 Assistants who are Coordinators of the Department of Community Development (DECODE), Department of Development Studies (DES) and Department of Training and Education (DET) will be responsible for overlooking the whole program – planning, coordinating, monitoring progress, documenting results, producing reports and providing regular updates to SPERI's Executive Board (including 01 general director, 01 executive director and 01 vice director), Founding Committee (including 03 members), donors, as well as relevant governments bodies (if necessary). 04 full-time officers will be involved throughout to support management of the program administration (Department of Administration - DAD), accounting and financial affairs (Department of Finance - DEF), and foreign relations (Department of Foreign Relations - DEFO). These officers and 01 full time driver will be also in charge in the report reviewing / support for information gathering and logistic issues.

Team on Field Execution includes 03 full-time program officers / regional office managers. Each officer is responsible to conduct and facilitate field activities in particular geographic project area, bridge and collaborate with local actor e.g. key farmers, coordinators of MECO-ECOTRA, district authorities and functional offices. 06 field staffs, which are under supervised of Coordinators of DECODE, DES and DET, the Team on Field Execution, are in charge of implementing activities in A) Livelihoods Pilot Demonstration Development; B) MECO-ECOTRA's organizational and Institutional Empowerment. In which, there are 03 five indigenous staffs who will work for the Secretariat of MECO-ECOTRA's Executive Board.

Members of SPERI's Scientific Council including 07 reputed intellectuals - who work voluntarily and out-sourcing personnel will provide directly technical and policy advices for SPERI's Executive Directors, Coordinators of different professional departments and Team on Field Execution. They also update results and findings of the project in order to lobby relevant policies.

MECO-ECOTRA’s Coordination Board and its Secretariat (including young indigenous staffs), and provincial / district coordinators in target locations will liaise with target groups to promote local participation during implementation, networking and exchanges among local indigenous communities nationally and regionally, particularly targeted pilots, and make connections with local authorities and other relevant government offices for the purpose of lobby. They will also make communication with SPERI staffs to for the efficiency and effectiveness of the program activities done in the field.

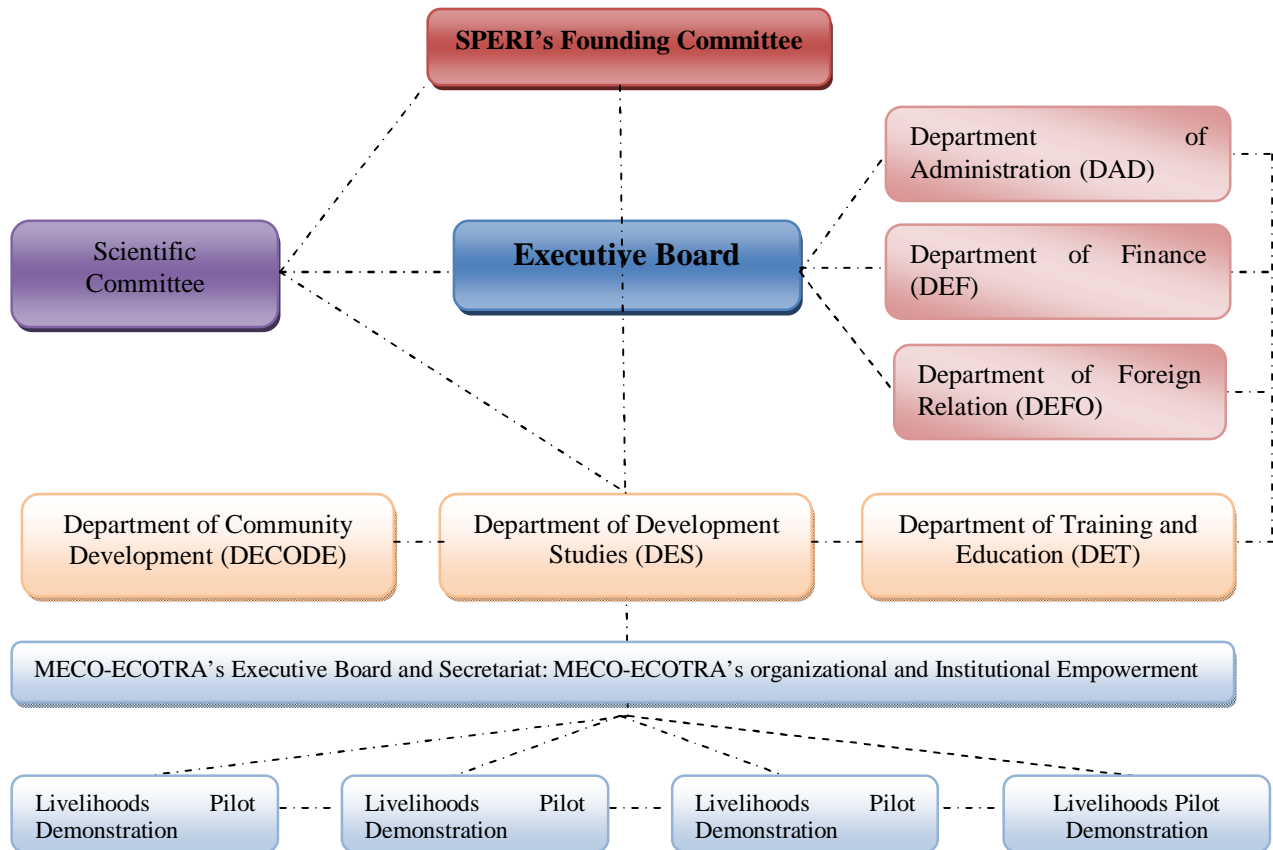


Diagram 1: MECO-ECOTRA/SPERI Management Structure

7.2 Intended instruments and methods for results assessment

7.2.1 SPERI's process monitoring system

SPERI’s process monitoring system is conducted by the SPERI’s executive board, heads of different professional departments and managers of regional offices in accordance with the planning and monitoring system i.e. six-monthly and yearly applied for professional departments and regional offices; so that, it requires to develop feasible and controllable plans including elements i.e. objectives, methodologies, expected outcomes / results with clear means of verification, time frame, target groups / beneficiaries, etc. The plans are also requested to recommend apt methods / tools and measures of monitoring. Besides, SPERI will promote grassroots participatory monitoring. It means, MECO-ECOTRA’s Coordination Board (Executive Council and Secretariat) and provincial/district coordinators of different thematic networks of MECO-ECOTRA conduct monitoring and assessment of activities after every six-month; then feedback to SPERI’s field office managers, heads of professional departments and

Executive Board. Different types of templates / forms to support the daily collecting relevant data / information will be developed.

7.2.2 SPERI's mid-term monitoring system

SPERI's mid-term monitoring system is conducted by members of the SPERI's Founding Committees and Executive Board; so that, it requires available baseline database for every single component of activities of the program, updated information / database collected by the above progress monitoring system as well as (bi) annual reports. (Bi)annual reports will detail progress followed-up from previous six-month report, showing results of activities and how information contained in the six-month report was used ensuring optimum effectiveness. Measures of the mid-term monitoring will focus on mapping the progress of achievement regarding efficiency, effectiveness, applicability and possible impacts of the program. It future provides advices or point out areas require changes / adjustments or more attention in terms of methods / approaches and significant activities compared to the original plans.

7.2.3 Independent evaluation

Independent evaluation is done by external consultants is conducted after the financing term (1-3 years depending on MECO-ECOTRA and donors' requests); so that, it requires clear term of reference (TORs) including suitable methods, and systems of baseline database for every single component of activities of the program. Measures of the external evaluation will focus on the overall efficiency, effectiveness, impacts, applicability, and sustainability of the program. It future provides advices in terms of areas, target groups / beneficiaries, approach, etc. for the next program term.

8 Budget

EXPENDITURE BUDGET (COST PLAN)														
BUDGET ITEM		EURO						Amount	Funded by					
1	2	3						4	BfwD	ICCO	NPA	CCFD		
		unit	# of unit			unit rate	Total							
A)	Investments/NON- RECURRING COSTS (1)	-	-	-	-	-	5,080	-	-	-	-			
A1	Office equipment	-	-	-	-	-	5,080	-	-	-	-			
A1.1	Laptop	per laptop	3	x		800	=	2,400						
A1.2	Camera	per camera	3	x		250	=	750						
A1.3	Projector	per projector	1	x		800	=	800						
A1.4	Screen of the projector	per screen	1	x		80	=	80						
A1.5	GPS (for land and forest measure and mapping)	GPS	3	x		350	=	1,050						
B)	RECURRENT COSTS							850,120	126,463	126,463	84,308	84,308		
B.1	PERSONNEL COSTS							311,040	93,312	93,312	62,208	62,208		
B1.1	Programmes							261,720	78,516	78,516	52,344	52,344		
B1.1.1	Executive officer.	Pers.	1	x	36	mon.	x	900	=	32,400	9,720	9,720	6,480	6,480
B1.1.2	Three senior project coordinators (community development; research, publication and media; training and education)	Pers.	3	x	36	mon.	x	750	=	81,000	24,300	24,300	16,200	16,200
B1.1.3	Three project officers (1 community development project officers, 1 research associates, 1 training and education officers).	Pers.	3	x	36	mon.	x	650	=	70,200	21,060	21,060	14,040	14,040
B1.1.4	Three indigenous staff who will work for a secretariat of MECO-ECOTRA	pers.	3	x	36	mon.	x	300	=	32,400	9,720	9,720	6,480	6,480
B1.1.5	Three field staff	Pers.	3	x	36	mon.	x	300	=					

EXPENDITURE BUDGET (COST PLAN)														
	BUDGET ITEM	EURO						Amount	Funded by					
B1.1.6	Driver	Pers.	1	x	36	mon	x	300	=	32,400	9,720	9,720	6,480	6,480
B1.1.7	Health insurance for project staff (14 persons)	Pers.	14	x	36	mon.	x	5	=	10,800	3,240	3,240	2,160	2,160
										2,520	756	756	504	504
B1.2	Administration /Management									49,320	14,796	14,796	9,864	9,864
B1.2.1	A chief Administrative officer	Pers.	1	x	36	mon	x	450	=	16,200	4,860	4,860	3,240	3,240
B1.2.2	One administrative assistant and computer operation.	Pers.	1	x	36	mon.	x	300	=	10,800	3,240	3,240	2,160	2,160
B1.2.3	A financial officer	pers.	1	x	36	mon.	x	450	=	16,200	4,860	4,860	3,240	3,240
B1.2.4	one cashier (50%)	Pers.	1	x	18	mon.	x	300	=	5,400	1,620	1,620	1,080	1,080
B1.2.5	Health insurance for admin staff (04)	Pers.	4	x	36	mon	x	5	=	720	216	216	144	144
B.2.	COST OF MATERIALS AND OTHER NON-PERSONNEL COSTS									452,180	20,731	20,731	13,820	13,820
B2.1	Programmes									401,420	5,503	5,503	3,668	3,668
Obj 1	Reinforced existing pilot models on three interactive thematic couples under the leadership of Laos-Vietnam MECO-ECOTRA's key farmers / leaders for replication to other indigenous communities in cultural-ecological-economic watershed areas, which are under increased pressures caused by forced natural resources use planning and land grabbing.									287,935	-	-	-	-
ER.1.1	ER 1.1. 10 indigenous ethnic minority villages have obtain the collective rights to management and use over 2,500 hectares of the community forest and land in accordance with both customary and statutory law.									<u>123,341</u>	=	=	=	=
Act 1.1.1	Conduct field studies on current situations of land use planning and forest resources governance and review relevant policies relating to community spirit forest and forest and land rights	per field study	3	x				3,549	=	10,647				
Act 1.1.2	Conduct in-depth researches on customary ownership regime, forestland governance and land conflict resolutions of 30 village pilots	per field study	3	x				3,450	=	10,349				

EXPENDITURE BUDGET (COST PLAN)											
	BUDGET ITEM				EURO	Amount	Funded by				
Act 1.1.3	Lobby local authorities and functional government offices for co-implementation of the pilots	per lobby meeting	3	x	180	=	540				
Act 1.1.4	Conduct community based participatory surveys on current land use planning/plans, natural resources usage; classifying types of forest, land borders; measuring land and forest areas; identifying and solving forestland conflicts / overlap.	survey community	10	x	1,886	=	18,860				
Act.1.1.5	Conduct forestland use planning based on customary law, local knowledge and landscape settings;										
Act.1.1.6	Re-clarify and re-map the forestland resources for different users;										
Act.1.1.7	Implement forestland (re)allocation / (re)distribute to 10 pilot communities;	per ha	2500	x	15	=	37,500				
Act.1.1.8	Facilitate setting up customary law based regulations on forestland management and use.										
Act 1.1.9	Organize training workshops for development of approaches, steps and detailed action plans on community based forestland allocation and conflict resolutions	workshop	3	x	3,108	=	9,324				
Act 1.1.10	Organize training-workshops on roles of the traditional governance and formal policies in FLA and natural resources management and usage.	workshop	3	x	3,122	=	9,366				
Act 1.1.11	Organize local meetings, dialogues and study exchange among local actors on forestland rights and management	per meeting	3	x	524	=	1,572				
Act 1.1.12	Develop and distribute a guideline on community based allocation, remapping/zoning of watershed forestland for payment of environmental service (PES)		3	x	3,122	=	9,366				
Act 1.1.13	Conduct and publish case-study papers i.e. policy briefs for dissemination and lobby relevant government policies / laws on community spirit forest and land	published a policy paper	500		8	=	4,065				

EXPENDITURE BUDGET (COST PLAN)											
	BUDGET ITEM				EURO	Amount	Funded by				
Act 1.1.14	Conduct and publish documentary films regarding (re)allocation of spirit forest and land to local communities	per film	1	x	5,450	=	5,450				
Act 1.1.15	Organize a national workshop on community spirit forest and land rights in relations to cultural bio-diversity in watershed indigenous areas	workshop	1	x	6,302	=	6,302				
ER 1.2	Eco-farming models at household (15), community (2) and region (2) levels for the application of newly adaptable solutions with local knowledge and techniques are maintained and expanded.						<u>127,545</u>	=	=	=	=
Act.1.2.1	Conduct surveys / assessment household eco-farming in Laos and Vietnam as a basis for expansion the eco-farming network - training sites and promotion of community ecological enterprises.	per survey	2	x	5,688	=	11,375				
Act.1.2.2	Conduct a series (07) of on-going ethno-studies regarding local knowledge, native species in gardening, farm management practices and local economy in different indigenous communities for locals' recommended solutions and curriculum development.	per in-depth study	9	x	1,797	=	16,176				
Act.1.2.3	Continue to conduct on-going experiments / applied researches on environment ecology friendly / low inputs farming alternatives and basic facilities in different eco-farms.	per applied research	10	x	620	=	6,200				
Act.1.2.4	Organize 02 years training courses on eco-farming for young indigenous farmers in FFS incl. internships in household and community farm models. (incl. 50% Vietnamese students and 50% Lao students)	per student	30	x	24	mon.	x	65	=	46,800	
Act.1.2.5	Organize short-term / refresh thematic trainings on eco-farming for indigenous farmers, incl. FFS ex-students. (25 participants per course, 12 days per course)	per course	7	x	2,532	=	17,721				
Act.1.2.6	Enlarge internships / field studies taken place in FFSs for students from Vietnamese and abroad education institutions										
Act.1.2.7	Organize regional workshop plus field exchanges on eco-farming / alternatives farming.	per workshop	1	x	12,473	=	12,473				

EXPENDITURE BUDGET (COST PLAN)											
	BUDGET ITEM				EURO	Amount	Funded by				
Act.1.2.8	Produce publications i.e. booklets, guidelines, e-curriculum on eco-farming for practical training and raising public awareness	per booklet	1000	x	6.80	=	6,800				
Act.1.2.9	Set up an eco-farming fund to support and promote initiatives of eco-farmers, especially FFS ex-students. (20 pilot farms will be applied, managed by ex-students. 10 of them expect to be on-site curriculum for exchanges and sharing results).	per pilot farm	20	x	500	=	10,000				
ER 1.3	03 small-scale community-based social enterprises (CBSEs)						37,049	-	-	-	-
Act.1.3.1	Conduct study / assessment the possibility of social enterprises / niche markets for eco-products of MECO-ECOTRA i.e. eco-farming, herbal medicines etc. in Vietnam / Laos in connections with the Mekong region	per field study	2	x	5,319	=	10,638				
Act.1.3.2	Organize training workshops on social marketing skills for eco-products	per workshop	3	x	3,084	=	9,252	-			
Act.1.3.3	Facilitate / support pilots on small scale community based social enterprises	per pilot	3	x	2,000	=	6,000				
Act.1.3.4	Organize exchange-studies on social enterprise to Asian countries (e.g. Thailand)	per study tour	1	x	7,604	=	7,604	-	-	-	-
Act.1.3.5	Develop an guideline / booklet on approaches and steps for development of community based social enterprises	per guideline	500	x	7.11	=	3,555				
Specific OBJ 2	“Institutional and organizational capacity of MECO-ECOTRA in Vietnam and Laos will be strengthened. This aims to promote stronger local, national and regional grassroots civil society and young indigenous leadership empowerment via the wider connections with the strategic organizations / networks in order to put forward lobby / advocacy for the issues of indigenous ethnic minorities in Vietnam and Laos particularly, the Mekong sub-region in general”.						86,143	-	-	-	-
ER. 2.1	MECO-ECOTRA in Laos and Vietnam is institutionalized and capable to coordinate and facilitate the network activities						20,424	-	-	-	-

EXPENDITURE BUDGET (COST PLAN)											
	BUDGET ITEM				EURO	Amount	Funded by				
Act.2.1.1	Reform / reorganize MECO-ECOTRA coordinating organization (There are total 62 participants (incl. 50 key leadership members of MECO-ECOTRA, young leadership + 10 NGO staff + 2 experts)	per workshop	1	x	12,380	=	12,380				
Act.2.1.2	Organize practical training courses on eco-farming. (combine with activities in ER 1.2; 1.3; 1.4)					=	-	-			
Act.2.1.3	Provide on-going practical trainings on planning, facilitation, coordination and linking for MECO-ECOTRA Secretariat (in connection with FK).			x		=	-				
Act.2.1.4	Provide on-going practical trainings on communication, documentation and publication skills for MECO-ECOTRA Secretariat (in connection with FK)					=	-	-			
Act.2.1.5	Seek for specialized volunteers (i.e. from AVID) to support MECO-ECOTRA Secretariat					=	-				-
Act.2.1.6	Conduct publications for FFS training curriculum development, raising awareness and lobby	published a newsletter	1000	x	3	=	3,000				
Act.2.1.7	Facilitate annual seminars amongst national coordinators of MECO-ECOTRA in Laos and Vietnam. (Each annual meeting will have 34 participants (incl. 27 key leadership members of MECO-ECOTRA, young leadership + 7 NGO staff).	per meeting	2	x	2,522	=	5,044	-			
ER. 2.2	MECO-ECOTRA in Vietnam and Laos gets more recruitment from the existing CBOs, networks and communities of indigenous ethnic minorities.						25,104	-	-	-	-
Act.2.2.1	Conduct assessment of the existing traditional community based organizations / associations and institutions	per assessment	3	x	2,982	=	8,946	-	-	-	-
Act.2.2.2	Lobby local governments to recognize / legalize forestland resources and cultural spirit spaces for geographical thematic networks i.e. herbal medicine and customary law in natural resources management. (see activities in ER.1.1)										

EXPENDITURE BUDGET (COST PLAN)														
	BUDGET ITEM						EURO	Amount	Funded by					
Act.2.2.3	Support MECO-ECOTRA Secretariat in collaboration with district/provincial MECO-ECOTRA coordinators to facilitate / organize traditional spirit ceremonies / rituals of different indigenous communities	per spiritual ceremonies	5	x			1,000	=	5,000					
Act.2.2.4	Facilitate quarterly meetings amongst coordinators of different thematic provincial / district networks of MECO-ECOTRA. (Total 36 one-day meetings). Each meeting has 15 key members of local MECO-ECOTRA. Each one will travel about 70 kilometers for return by the motobike. The travel cost is 0.11 eur per kilometer. * 15 part. x 36 meetings x 70 km x 0.11 eur per kilometer	per meeting	36	x	15	part	x	8	=	4,158				
Act.2.2.5	Attend the forest and land right network and other relevant events (seminars/workshops, study exchanges) of the existing networks of indigenous peoples in Vietnam and Laos.	per workshop	7	x	1		x	1,000	=	7,000				
ER 2.3	Have more strategic indigenous organizations / communities / networks in the Mekong sub-region connected with MECO-ECOTRA in Vietnam and Laos.								40,615	=	=	=	=	
Act.2.3.1	Organize exchange visits between MECO-ECOTRA with indigenous organizations, communities and networks in Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand	per international exchange	3	x			6,292	=	18,876					
Act.2.3.2	Support MECO-ECOTRA to become a member of the existing networks of indigenous people in the Mekong region. (Membership fees)	per membership	2	x				=	-					
Act.2.3.3	Send MECO-ECOTRA Secretariat members to do internships in regional indigenous networks / organizations i.e. via FK, AIPP, INEB, TOA. (See act.2.1.5; 2.2.5)							=						
Act.2.3.4	Organize trans-border workshop related to the issues of natural resources, indigenous peoples and eco-farming practices	per workshop	1	x			12,860	=	12,860					
Act.2.3.5	Host an regional conference on social enterprise (collaboration with Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA).	per workshop	1	x			8,879	=	8,879					

EXPENDITURE BUDGET (COST PLAN)											
	BUDGET ITEM	EURO					Amount	Funded by			
Specific OBJ 3	“SPERI will be professionalized in order to meet higher capacity of MECO-ECOTRA, and push for improvement, and support better implementation of the existing (and future) legal framework to regain the livelihood sovereignty of indigenous people in the Mekong region”.						27,342	5,503	5,503	3,668	3,668
ER. 3.1	SPERI's reforming becomes a professional research - training - lobbying organization based on social entrepreneurship governance						<u>27,342</u>	<u>5,503</u>	<u>5,503</u>	<u>3,668</u>	<u>3,668</u>
Act 3.1.1	External consultations to conduct organization assessment for development of a strategic and mid-term business plan of SPERI moving forwards social entrepreneurship management	per assessment	1	x	5,000	=	5,000				
Act 3.1.2	Conduct study / assessment the possibility of social enterprises / niche markets for eco-products of MECO-ECOTRA i.e. eco-farming, herbal medicines etc. in Vietnam / Laos in connections with the Mekong region. (see 1.4.1)	per assessment				=	-	-			
Act 3.1.3	Reform and professionalize organizational managing system. Based on results and recommendation by the external consultants, SPERI will self reform and adapt to social enterprise management.					=	-				
Act 3.1.4	Experiment a small scale niche eco-services / training					=	-				
Act 3.1.5	Organize on-going training workshops on social enterprise for SPERI staff and MECO-ECOTRA coordinators					=	-				
Act 3.1.6	Enhance capacity on research-publication and training for SPERI, esp. young indigenous staffs via short-training, diploma and MA studies.					=	-				
Act 3.1.7	Conduct publications for SPERI's documentations, case studies, documentary films, etc.	published a policy paper	500	x	x	8	=	4,000	-	-	-
Act 3.1.8	Regularly monitoring and project baseline development (mothly monitoring)	per monitor	18	x	1,019	=	18,342	5,503	5,503	3,668	3,668

EXPENDITURE BUDGET (COST PLAN)												
	BUDGET ITEM					EURO	Amount	Funded by				
ER. 3.2	SPERI has more relevant strategic alliances on three interactive theme couples in Laos and Vietnam particular, and Mekong region in general.						=	-	-	-	-	-
Act.3.2.1	Share information, knowledge and human resources among SPERI's existing national/regional/international networks and alliances via workshops, seminars, study visits and internships					=						
Act.3.2.2	Seek national and international organizations based in Vietnam and Laos to co-conduct researches /publications and lobby / advocacy					=						
B2.2	Administration /Management						92,160	27,648	27,648	18,432	18,432	
	<i>Administrative costs for SPERI office</i>											
B2.2.1	Maintenance, insurance and car park	per month	36	x	400	=	14,400	4,320	4,320	2,880	2,880	
B2.2.2	Gasoline for administrative activities	per month	36	x	60	=	2,160	648	648	432	432	
B2.2.3	Office rent	per month	18	x	1150	=	20,700	6,210	6,210	4,140	4,140	
B2.2.4	Consumables - office supplies	per month	18	x	300	=	5,400	1,620	1,620	1,080	1,080	
B2.2.5	Other service (tel/fax, electricity / maintenance)	per month	18	x	450	=	8,100	2,430	2,430	1,620	1,620	
	<i>Administrative costs for a secretariat of MECO-ECOTRA</i>											
B2.2.6	Maintain basic conditions for operating MECO-ECOTRA at FFS-HEPA	per month	36	x	1,150	=	41,400	12,420	12,420	8,280	8,280	
B.3	SERVICES						45,500	-	-	-	-	
B.3.1	Annual audit	per audit	3	x	6,500	=	19,500					
B.3.2	Six-month audit for BMZ/Brot	per audit	3	x	2,000	=	6,000					
B.3.3	International external evaluation	per eval.	1	x	20,000	=	20,000					
C)	CONTINGENCIES: 5% x (A+B)						42,759.98					
	TOTAL COSTS						897,959	314,286	152,653	224,490	206,530	

9 Risk Assessment

Table 7. Possible risks and mitigation measures

Possible Risks	Relevant mitigation measures
PHYSICAL	
Violence caused by companies / corporate due do re-allocation of the forestland to local communities	Maximize roles of district/communal people's council and traditional village leaders in reconciliation; Maximize roles of district/communal peoples' committee to create legal forums for negotiation and make win-win solutions; Local court and polices could be the last solution.
Natural disasters i.e. flooding and landslides could damage eco-farming models or make worse for harvests.	Advocate local authorities for the crop insurance scheme; Involve more construction solutions on farms.
ENVIRONMENTAL	
Encroachment of mining, hydropower dam, mono-plantation and logging operations to areas covered by the action.	Open dialogue among community leaders, state forestry enterprises, management board of protection forests, business corporate and local authorities to develop win-win solutions; Promote involvement of the local court and forest officers.
Illegal logging in the community forests in the post-forestland allocation.	Strengthen community spirit among local communities; Promote co-governance between local stakeholders; Promote involvement of the local court and forest officers.
POLITICAL	
Bureaucracy in the planning, forest classification, mapping which cause to overlapping areas and land use planning with actual practice by villagers. To solve this problem, which are very complicated and involved different functional departments at communal to provincial level requires quite long time and take a complicated process.	Organize forums among relevant actors to raise the issues, provide analysis to authorities and policy makers; Make alliances with progressive policy makers, researchers, parliamentarians to get more supports; Fair compensations including an allocation of other areas for the communities is necessary.
Imposed land use planning of the provincial government on the areas covered by the action	Organize forums among relevant actors to raise the issues, provide analysis to authorities and policy makers; Make alliances with progressive policy makers, researchers, parliamentarians to get more supports; Fair compensations including an allocation of other areas for the communities is necessary.
The concept of spirit forest seems sensitivity with local authorities its concept has not recognized yet by the Law on Land and Law on Forest Protection and Development. Thus, many local authorities may not dare to mention about the spirit forest and then decide to allocate spirit forest and land to the indigenous villages.	Organize local forums / exchanges between villagers and local authorities who are responsible for forest and land allocation included spirit forest to the village; Make connections between progressive policy makers with local authorities for more exchange and support.
SPERI applies a rights-based approach in its work with indigenous communities and SPERI's main strategic principle is to empower indigenous peoples through networking, mobilizes grassroots people, which is still sensitive in the context of Vietnam and Laos. SPERI's political risk may occur if the above-mentioned issues, approaches and strategies are not wise application.	Make stronger connection and commitments amongst MECO-ECOTRA, especially community leaders to be a grassroots alliance of SPERI; At the same time SPERI forges alliances with supportive government officials, and the media, and seeks advice from eminent personalities within the government and academe; Diversification of the institutional base of rights advocacy (formation of new NGOs) to promote professionalization and to spread the risk; learn and build up strategic choices in its use of terms and concepts that avoids misunderstanding by and create the conditions for dialogue and cooperation with the authorities.

Possible Risks	Relevant mitigation measures
Influence of business sector on the process of approval of local authorities of results of forestland reallocation	Organize dialogues among local authorities and communities; invite local authorities to monitor and evaluate the action; Promote involvement of media to raise the issue; Promote connections among local land-users to gain bargaining powers during negotiation.
ECONOMIC	
Commercial plantations and mono cropping attract local authorities and farmers to be interested in short-term economic production, instead of sustainable agro-forestry modes.	Advocate to strengthen local governance and guidance on land-use planning; Develop alternative models on sustainable land use planning for self-sufficient economic generation, which is suitable for local authorities and farmers to learn and apply; Organize more local forums with involvement of different relevant stakeholders to raise the issues.
Forestland allocation may take longer time than the plan due to either forestland conflicts involved and complicated actors that require longer time to explore and resolve or lack of responsible officials due to overload work.	Empower key local technicians and local villagers in term of techniques; Set up clear and apt guidance on forestland allocation; Involve more contracting expertise.
FFS's student dropouts due to the pressure from families and influenced by seeking for jobs.	Clear criteria and inform with families of students before selection; Organize introduction and orientation seminar on practical training on eco-farming; Organize a local exchange to on-site eco-farms run by graduated young indigenous students.
SOCIAL	
Negative effects of land speculation on the community forestlands before, during and after the program.	Raise the issue among local villagers and authorities; Strengthen the existing local governance in forestland management and utilization.
Conflicts over natural resources among ethnic groups or between local communities with corporate / businesses.	Advocate more involvement of local authorities; Open local forums for discussion and negotiation amongst relevant actors; Strengthen the existing local governance in forestland management and utilization.

10 Recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS: Please see CCFD's letter of recommendation for SPERI sent to BftW.

Annex 01: Program Interrelated Components

<i>Components</i>	<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Expected Indicators</i>	<i>Activities</i>
A)Livelihood's Pilot Demonstration Development	Reinforced existing pilot models on three interactive thematic couples under the leadership of Laos-Vietnam MECO-ECOTRA's key farmers / leaders for replication to other indigenous communities in cultural-ecological-economic watershed areas, which are under increased pressures caused by forced natural resources use planning and land grabbing.	Livelihoods of about 5,740 indigenous ethnic minorities, especially marginalized women, (1,100 families) from pilot villages secure access and entitlements to forestland resources (e.g. NTFPs), with higher sustainable yields of eco-farming production and self-efficiency via local niche markets created by the community based social enterprises.	Activities related to community rights to forestland 1) Conduct field studies on current situations of land use planning and forest resources governance and review relevant policies relating to community spirit forest and forest and land rights; 2) Conduct in-depth researches on customary ownership regime, forestland governance and land conflict resolutions of pilot villages; 3) Lobby local authorities and functional government offices for co-implementation of the pilots; 4) Conduct community based participatory surveys on current land use planning/plans, natural resources usage; classifying types of forest, land borders; measuring land and forest areas; identifying and solving forestland conflicts / overlap; 5) Conduct forestland use planning based on customary law, local knowledge and landscape settings; 6) Re-clarify and re-map the forestland resources for different users; 7) Implement forestland (re)allocation / (re)distribute to 15 pilot villages; 8) Facilitate setting up customary law based regulations on forestland management and use; 9) Organize training workshops for development of approaches, steps and detailed action plans on community based forestland allocation and conflict resolutions; 10) Organize training-workshops on roles of the traditional governance and formal policies in forestland allocation and natural resources management and usage; 11) Organize re-training workshops on roles of the traditional governance and formal policies in forestland allocation and natural resources management and usage; 12) Organize local meetings, dialogues and study exchange among local actors on forestland rights and management; 13) Develop and distribute a guideline on community based allocation, remapping/zoning of watershed forestland for payment of environmental service (PES); 14) Conduct and publish case-study papers i.e. policy briefs for dissemination and lobby relevant government policies / laws on community spirit forest and land; 15) Conduct and publish documentary films regarding (re)allocation of spirit forest and land to local communities; 16) Organize a national workshop on community spirit forest and land rights in relations to cultural biodiversity in watershed indigenous areas.
		The traditional practices of 10 pilot indigenous minority communities gain self-determination in community governance and natural resources management via customary laws and rituals.	Activities related to eco-farming and farmer's field schools 1) Seek for external consultants to conduct surveys / assessment household eco-farming in Laos and Vietnam as a basis for expansion the eco-farming network - training sites and promotion of community ecological enterprises; 2) Conduct a series of on-going ethnostudies regarding local knowledge, native species in gardening, farm management practices and local economy in different indigenous communities for locals' recommended solutions and curriculum development; 3) Continue to conduct on-going experiments / applied researches on environment ecology friendly / low inputs farming alternatives and basic

<i>Components</i>	<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Expected Indicators</i>	<i>Activities</i>
			facilities in different eco-farms; 4) Organize 02 years training courses on eco-farming for young indigenous farmers in FFS including internships in household and community farm models; 5) Organize short-term / refresh thematic trainings on eco-farming for indigenous farmers, including FFS graduates; 6) Enlarge internships / field studies taken place in FFSs for students from Vietnamese and abroad education institutions; 7) Organize study tours / exchanges with members of TOA and FK; 8) Facilitate FFS ex-student alumni and set up a guidance for on-going empowerment of the FFS graduates / young indigenous eco-farmers; 9) Set up an eco-farming fund to support and promote initiatives of eco-farmers, especially FFS graduates; 10) Organize national workshops on eco-farming / alternatives farming; 11) Organize regional workshop plus field exchanges on eco-farming / alternatives farming; 12) Produce publications i.e. booklets, guidelines, e-curriculum on eco-farming for practical training and raising public awareness.
		Pilot communities including as many as 2,200 villagers, 80 traditional, formal village leaders, heads of CBOs, and 60 relevant district and provincial authorities, especially women will better manage and use over 2,500 ha of the titled forestland resources, land use planning, community governance and self-efficient income generation, etc. This will promote sustainability of management and use of local natural resources, and contribute to the improvement of government guidelines, processes and policies via lobbying and advocacy.	1) Conduct studies / assessments on the possibility of social enterprises / niche markets for eco-products of MECO-ECOTRA i.e. eco-farming, herbal medicines etc. in Vietnam / Laos in connections with the Mekong region; 2) Organize training workshops on social marketing skills for eco-products; 3) Facilitate / support pilots on small scale community based social enterprises; 4) Organize exchange-studies on social enterprise to Asian countries (e.g. Thailand or Philippine); 5) Develop a guideline / booklet on approaches and steps for development of community based social enterprises.
B) MECO-ECOTRA's organizational and Institutional Empowerment	“Institutional and organizational capacity of MECO-ECOTRA in Vietnam and Laos will be strengthened. This aims to promote stronger local, national and regional grassroots civil society and young	8,540 peoples, especially marginalized women, from MECO-ECOTRA pilot areas in Vietnam and Laos will get benefits i.e. forest land rights, capacity/knowledge in eco-farming, sustainable income generation from CBSEs, etc. through the work of MECO-	Activities related to MECO-ECOTRA's coordination reforming 1) Reform/ reorganize MECO-ECOTRA coordinating organization; 2) Organize practical training courses on eco-farming; 3) Provide on-going practical trainings on planning, facilitation, coordination and linking for MECO-ECOTRA Secretariat; 4) Provide on-going practical trainings on communication, documentation and publication skills for MECO-ECOTRA Secretariat; 5) Organize internship and trainings on English for members of MECO-ECOTRA Secretariat via FK, AIPP, INEB and TOA; 6) Seek for specialized volunteers (i.e. from AVID) to support MECO-ECOTRA Secretariat; 7) Conduct

<i>Components</i>	<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Expected Indicators</i>	<i>Activities</i>
	indigenous leadership empowerment via the wider connections with the strategic organizations / networks in order to put forward lobby / advocacy for the issues of indigenous ethnic minorities in Vietnam and Laos particularly, the Mekong sub-region in general”.	ECOTRA’s Coordination Board (Executive Board and Secretariat) through the implementation of activities stated in Component A;	publications for FFS training curriculum development, raising awareness and lobby; 8) Facilitate annual sectional meetings amongst national coordinators of MECO-ECOTRA in Laos and Vietnam.
		300 indigenous minority youths including female representatives under the Youth Indigenous Ethnic Minority Leadership Development Strategy (YIELDS) / Farmer’s Field Schools become coordinators for different thematic networks of MECO-ECOTRA, human resources of community leadership, and pioneers for eco-farming movements from local, national to regional levels;	Activities related to MECO-ECOTRA expansion in different locations in Vietnam and Laos 1) Conduct assessment of the existing traditional community based organizations / associations and institutions; 2) Support MECO-ECOTRA’s Coordination Board to lobby local governments to recognize / legalize forestland resources and cultural spirit spaces for geographical thematic networks i.e. herbal medicine and customary law in natural resources management; 3) Support MECO-ECOTRA Secretariat in collaboration with district/provincial MECO-ECOTRA coordinators to facilitate / organize traditional spirit ceremonies / rituals of different indigenous communities; 4) Facilitate quarterly meetings amongst coordinators of different thematic provincial / district networks of MECO-ECOTRA; 5) Attend the forest and land right network and other relevant events (seminars/workshops, study exchanges) of the existing networks of indigenous peoples in Vietnam and Laos.
		Feedback and recommendations about the process of making and implementing relevant policies regarding indigenous ethnic minorities are made by local, national, and regional civil society in accordance to the thematic networks of MECO-ECOTRA in connections with existing indigenous communities and organizations in the Mekong sub-region, and under MECO-ECOTRA’s Coordination Board.	Activities related to MECO-ECOTRA connections with existing networks/communities/organizations in the Mekong sub-region 1) Organize exchanges/ visits between MECO-ECOTRA with indigenous organizations, communities and networks in Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand; 2) Support MECO-ECOTRA to become a member of the existing networks of indigenous people in the Mekong region; 3) Send MECO-ECOTRA Secretariat members to do internships in regional indigenous networks / organizations i.e. via FK, AIPP, INEB, TOA; 4) Organize trans-border workshop regarding the issues of natural resources, indigenous peoples and eco-farming practices; 5) in collaboration with Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA) host an regional conference on social enterprise / social entrepreneurship; 6) Attend regional workshops/seminars with the Mekong regional indigenous organizations / communities / networks.
SPERI’s Organizational Reforming	“SPERI will be professionalized in order to meet higher capacity of MECO-ECOTRA, and push for improvement, and support better	SPERI becomes more focused and operationally enhanced through clarifying and defining its internal mandates, policies, business plan, professional departments, and human resources, in accordance to the	Activities related to SPERI’s reforming 1) Conduct organization assessment for development of a strategic and mid-term business plan of SPERI moving forwards social entrepreneurship management; 2) Conduct study / assessment the possibility of social enterprises / niche markets for eco-products of MECO-ECOTRA i.e. eco-farming, herbal medicines etc. in Vietnam / Laos in connections with the Mekong region; 3) Reform and professionalize organizational managing system; 4)

<i>Components</i>	<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Expected Indicators</i>	<i>Activities</i>
	implementation of the existing (and future) legal framework to regain the livelihood sovereignty of indigenous people in the Mekong region”.	principles of social enterprise governance;	Experiment a small scale niche eco-services / training; 5) Organize on-going training workshops on social enterprise for SPERI staff and MECO-ECOTRA coordinators; 6) Upgrade capacity on research-publication and training for SPERI, especially young indigenous staff through a number of short-trainings, diplomas and MA studies; 7) Conduct baseline data for whole program activities; 8) Attend different national, regional and international workshops / seminars / conferences on relevant topics; 9) Conduct (co) publications for SPERI's documentations, case studies and documentary films / video clips, etc.; 10) Conduct monthly monitoring; 11) Conduct final external evaluation for the program activities.
		The organizational and financial sustainability of SPERI is improved through fund raising and self-financing through its capacity in providing services in research, publication and training;	
		Public awareness raising and recommendations i.e. policy analysis, policy briefs, guidelines, processes regarding the issues of indigenous minority peoples in the Mekong sub-region, particularly in Vietnam and Laos, are proposed for district, provincial and central authorities' consideration and reference in the process of policy making and implementation.	Activities related to SPERI's alliance and networking 1) Share information, knowledge and human resources among SPERI's existing national / regional / international networks and alliances via workshops, seminars, study visits and internships; 2) Co-conduct researches /publications and lobby / advocacy in collaboration with national/international CSOs and (multi)bilateral organizations based in Vietnam and Laos.

Annex 02: SPERI's Stakeholder Analysis

Stakeholder groups	Key interests / issues	Strengths / Opportunities	Weakness / Threats	Expected roles	Actions Desired (if any)	Stakeholders communication approaches
MECO-ECOTRA communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <i>Right to live in their own land</i> * <i>Right to perform their own religion on their own land</i> * <i>Right to practice their own methods of farming on their own land for a basic living</i> * <i>Right to decide what to grow on their own land</i> * <i>Right to co-govern their land</i> 	Indigenous beliefs / religions, customary law institutions and governing structures, community cohesion, local knowledge and practices, local species, native language and people, good pilots in natural resources management, policy opportunities and development programs (i.e. REDD+, Joint circular 07, etc. in Vietnam), more open media / press, stronger civil society	Limited capacity or awareness to access government policies, development programs and education; lack of participation in policy making; loss of local knowledge and native species, land & forest resources (land grabs and acquisition); modernization and industrialization of rural areas, mono-agricultural production and the side-effects of the market economy.	Owners of community development, initiators, planners, implementers, monitors, researchers, demonstrators / voices in the lobbying / advocacy and awareness raising.	Local capacity empowerment (i.e. community customary institutions and organizations, trainings, study tours, workshops / seminars / conferences, speaking tours, YIELDS via FFSs), networking and linking, communal spiritual forest land rights, community based land use planning (local species, knowledge and practices), community eco-farming enterprises	Networking activities, regular members' meetings, forums/seminars, study tours, mailing list, Skype, video DVD, booklets

Stakeholder groups	Key interests / issues	Strengths / Opportunities	Weakness / Threats	Expected roles	Actions Desired (if any)	Stakeholders communication approaches
MECO-ECOTRA pilot communities in Vietnam and Laos	Communal spiritual forest land - Customary law institutions - Forest and land use planning and management - Benefit sharing from community forest management - Local knowledge, local species and practices - Local markets for local products - Local employment opportunities	Indigenous beliefs / religions, customary law institutions and governing structures, community cohesion, local knowledge and practices, local species, native language and people, good pilots in natural resources management, policy opportunities and development programs (i.e. REDD+, Joint circular 07, etc. in Vietnam), more open media / press, stronger civil society, awareness and capacity of pilot communities for their needs/concerns and values (land and forest resources, spirits / belief, local knowledge, species) facing external threats.	Limited capacity and awareness of the communities to access government policies, policy risks, land grabs / concessions / acquisitions, free land market, land speculation, commercial plantations and mono / hybrid cropping.	Owners of community development, initiators, leading local speakers, leading local lobbyists, researchers and trainers, local planners, facilitators and organizers, monitors.	Capacity empowerment (i.e. organizational and institutional development of community customary based governance, forest land use planning and practices, community enterprises, FFS facilitation for YIELDS and exchanges), networking and linking, communal spiritual forestland rights, community based land use planning (local species, knowledge and practices), community eco-farming enterprises.	Networking activities, regular members' meetings, forums/seminars, speaking tours, mobile training, mailing list, Skype, documentary films, case studies, local stories, booklets

Stakeholder groups	Key interests / issues	Strengths Opportunities /	Weakness / Threats	Expected roles	Actions Desired (if any)	Stakeholders communication approaches
MECO ECOTRA Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Similar to MECO-ECOTRA communities key interests/issues (above); * Similar to MECO-ECOTRA pilot (above); * Strengthening and expanding their network; * Financial and organizational independence. 	Voluntary, devoted, enthusiastic, very good understanding of local conditions and practices, farmer-farmer approach, regular informal communication, experienced and reputed/trusted people in the network and by local authorities	No legal status, long distances from each other, limited communication facilities, lack of time, depending on administrative procedures or permission, limited finances, language and culture barriers; getting older, lack of young leadership	Local coordinators, facilitators, trainers, organizers, speakers, implementers, monitors, evaluators, supervisors, action researchers, local lobbyists	Speaking tours, presenting at lobby and thematic dialogues/ workshops/forums/seminars; connecting with relevant networks in the region; conducting action research and documentation; capacity building related to OD, ID and networking facilitation; action research on land use planning, ethno-biology; facilitating community pilots/models related to community forest, eco farming, community enterprises; training and exchange for MECO-ECOTRA members and leadership;	Do/ Same as above
NGOs alliance (SPERI, CODE, CIRUM, CIRD)	Strengthening networks of ethnic minority CBOs and CBIs for forest land rights (use and management), respecting local knowledge/species and practices, YIELDS via FFSs, community customary law based institutions	Strong, clear and long-term vision, mission, working philosophy, and action strategies; long history of passionate work and dedication working with poor ethnic minorities; specific experiences, approaches and theories of working with ethnic minorities in the Mekong watershed areas; flexible capacity for facing and solving problems and conflicts;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Lack of higher capacity human resources to meet the organizations' committed missions, higher needs of targeted groups as well as expansion of the key farmers' network for lobbying / advocacy * Weak documentation and publication for disseminating / sharing lessons learnt and best practices to a wider 	Linking and connecting, facilitating and organizing, pointing the way, fence breaking, case study and policy research, analysis and publication, training.	Enriching and expanding existing pilot models, conducting research, publication / documentation and training, networking amongst / with different stakeholders at all levels (membership may be required), stronger and extended key farmers' networks, linking with reputed intellectuals and progressive policy makers and authorities, promoting reliable media/press networks.	Networking activities, regular members' meetings, forums/seminars, study tours, mailing list, Skype, documentary films, case studies, local stories, booklets, website

Stakeholder groups	Key interests / issues	Strengths Opportunities /	Weakness / Threats	Expected roles	Actions Desired (if any)	Stakeholders communication approaches
		<p>pioneering pilot models / live resources on forest land use rights and local empowerment; strong key farmers networking (MECO-ECOTRA foundation) with committed staff and key farmers working for a long time; potential supporting agencies, trusted relationships with grassroots communities, local authorities, progressive policy makers and national media/press, network of reputed scientists and researchers; FFSs for key farmers networks and YIELDS.</p>	<p>audience *Administrative management system challenged by the dynamic of problems / issues from different locations / situations *Political context and policies in Vietnam as well as the Mekong region countries *Difficult to have active cooperation with partners / donors, shared common understanding and long-term commitments for the conflicts and political issues surrounding ethnic minorities * Lack of financial independence within organizations</p>			

Stakeholder groups	Key interests / issues	Strengths / Opportunities	Weakness / Threats	Expected roles	Actions Desired (if any)	Stakeholders communication approaches
Communal authorities / officials	Practical profit-driven models; forest management; infrastructure facilities; poverty alleviation; social - political security; implementing national targeted programs;	As local people and farmers' representatives they understand and support farmers' situations; they have the authority and power to solve internal conflicts as well as provide local security; mobilize local human resources and organizations against outside intervention; they can integrate government policies with local practices	Weak capacity and limited/poor local human resources in managing, controlling, coordinating, organizing, planning natural resources or protection as well as community development respecting traditional customary law; * Receiving and implementing heavy top - down policies and programs from government and the administrative system; * Exploited and abused by the elite and business groups	Providing legal supports for farmers, mobilizing human resources, being the legal connection with higher level authorities; acting as local speakers, local coordinators, trainers (potential lobbyists at commune/village level), and decision makers.	Coordinating activities in communes; participating in field surveys, research, seminars, training, workshops, and exchange visits;	Formal and informal meetings, documentary sharing, telephone hotline, emails and Skype, study tours, seminars, workshops

Stakeholder groups	Key interests / issues	Strengths Opportunities /	Weakness / Threats	Expected roles	Actions Desired (if any)	Stakeholders communication approaches
District/ provincial authorities / officials	Practical profit driven models; forest management; infrastructure facilities; poverty alleviation; social - political security; implementing national targeted programs; * Offering investment/exploitation programs.	They have authority and power to solve land rights conflicts within their authorized power as well as provide local security; mobilize local human resources and organizations against outside intervention; they have legal authority to approve socio-eco plans/projects/programs, land use planning, forest or land allocation and withdrawal; Understanding national, provincial development policies	Elite group stronger, bureaucratic top- down approach, in a difficult position of having to receive and listen to national policies and issue local policies/programs which are not well fitted to local contexts	Legal supports, involvement in project activities, partnerships	Lobby workshops, exchange visits, set up formal agreements to implement projects activities	Formal and informal meetings, media, field visits

Stakeholder groups	Key interests / issues	Strengths Opportunities /	Weakness / Threats	Expected roles	Actions Desired (if any)	Stakeholders communication approaches
General Forestry Department (MARD); Legislative Department (MoNRE); Committee of Ethnic Mountainous Affairs	Forest protection and development, implementation of REDD+ and PES, forest/land allocation, land use mapping and planning, management, cultural identity preservation, poverty reduction	Issuing guidelines/policies in terms of forest land, indigenous ethnic minorities issues, specific policies for indigenous ethnic minority communities,	Bureaucratic, top-down approach, lack of practical information, lack of transparent monitoring-evaluation mechanisms, very strong influences from elite /vested interest groups, poor cooperation between MARD and MoNRE, inconsistency/conflicts in information / data / policies between MARD and MoNRE	Listening and feedback to produce relevant policies;	Lobby/advocacy - sharing draft policies, creating formal/informal information sharing (forums, seminars, workshops, field visits)	Informal/formal sharing, workshops, seminars, sharing case studies, policy briefs, research papers, and field visits.

Stakeholder groups	Key interests / issues	Strengths Opportunities /	Weakness / Threats	Expected roles	Actions Desired (if any)	Stakeholders communication approaches
Ethnic Council of National Assembly; Vietnam Fatherland Front	Policy discussions for EM such as culture, belief, religion, poverty, grassroots democracy;	Monitoring and evaluation policy implementation, development programs related indigenous ethnic minorities; Some recommendations are taken into political arena for discussion,	Bureaucratic, top-down approach, lack of practical information, formalism and political structure, elite influences, acts as a tool for government action (in some cases), too old to be active (retired officials), limited resources, depending on budget of the government	Receiving recommendations and feedback, hosting workshops/seminars related to lobby issues.	Lobby/advocacy (sharing draft policies, create formal/informal information sharing (forums, seminars, workshops, field visits)	Informal/formal sharing, workshops, seminars, sharing case studies, policy briefs, research papers, and field visits.
Senior highly regarded intellectuals (individuals, institutions)	Social disparities, civil society and democracy, environment and climate change, rights of indigenous people, human rights, sustainable agriculture production, land use planning, cultural identity, legal ethnicity and anthropology, human ecology	Critical analysis and feedback on their issues of interest, good reputation and trusted by policy makers and society / mainstream, potential influence with policy makers; good relationship with high ranking people	Old and weak so difficult for them to travel, not up-to-date on local issues	Supervisors, advisors, researchers, lecturers, bridge builders, speakers, trainers	Theory and policy research, analysis and feedback on government policies and research/studies; bridge builders in lobby/advocacy; theoretical and policy consultation workshops	Email, Skype, seminars, workshops, informal meetings/house visits, some field visits

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Media / press	Searching out popular and hot issues on social inequality, civil society and democracy, environmental and climate change, rights of indigenous people, human rights, sustainable agriculture production, land use planning and cultural identity	Available journalists network and facilities, legal status recognition; able to access different sectors	Lack of understanding about ethnic minority issues and development, lack of financial resources for travelling to remote communities, limited political space for critical news/articles, not really responsive to important issues raised	Information dissemination and public awareness raising	Field visits and recording, writing articles, producing documentary films / videos, publications and broadcasting news/articles related to ethnic minorities and related policies	Field visits, sharing case studies, documentation, local stories, videos for editing and broadcasting, workshops, emails, website, Skype
Business sector (state owned forestry enterprises, commercial plantation companies, land speculators)	Profit seeking, land grabs, land speculation, exploitation	Policies favoring and supported by government; government policies focus on industrialization, commercialization, modernization, and political - commercial relationship with political elites.	Not supported and not trusted by local people especially ethnic minorities, lack of transparency, conflicts with local people, exploiting stakeholders, creating polluted environment, breaking traditional social - cultural structure	Share responsibility for management with local people;	Dialogues between local people, authorities and business sector; lobby high ranking people, raise public awareness about related side-effects caused by the business sector, sharing good models on social co-responsibility	Informal meetings, dialogues,

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International and regional network and alliances (TOA, INEB, AIPP, Landcore Group, Chiang Mai Uni., Waikato Uni.)	Similar MECO-ECOTRA Network	Knowledge pool, strong networks, understanding ethnic minority issues of the Mekong region; strong connection with different international organizations for IP issues as well as related policies and finance; rich information and publication, helpful lessons learnt	No regular meetings to update information due to long distances, language barriers, different cultures, political context	Linking, connecting and sharing information, human resources	Internship, study tours, workshops, seminars, forums.	Seminars, workshops, forums, mailing lists, Skype, websites, etc.
Committed donor network (ICCO, BROT, NPA, CCFD, McKnight, Care, Netherland Embassy, etc.)	* Similar to the MECO-ECOTRA Network * Partners become more independent financially, promoting coalitions and alliances * Lobby/advocacy ethnic minority issues in the South to North Governments	Long history and committed donors, funding networks, human resources, government financial supports for developing countries, long list of partners networks;		Long term and committed financial support, sharing burdens with partners (expertise, technical issues - capacity building for partners); connecting with relevant partners	Field visits, seminars, evaluations, creating knowledge sharing channels	Seminars, workshops, forums, mailing lists, Skype, websites, etc.