

**Social Policy Ecology Research Institute (SPERI)
CHESH LAOS PROGRAM**

For: Approval

To BREAD FOR THE WORLD

FOR THE

SECOND PHASE OF PILOT PROPOSAL

**Enriching Customary Law in Forest Management
and Land Use Planning**

Phon Xa Vat, Den Xa Vang and Na Xam Phan villages in the 'Phu Sung' watershed
areas in Luang Prabang district, Luang Prabang province, Lao P.D.R

Luang Prabang, Laos 16 July 2010

Pilot Proposal on Enriching Customary Law in Forest Management and Land Use Planning

SECOND PHASE

Phon Xa Vat, Den Xa Vang and Na Xam Phan villages in the 'Phu Sung' watershed areas
Luang Prabang district, Luang Prabang province, Lao P.D.R

CHESH in Laos (hereinafter called CHESH Laos Program) was funded by The Interchurch Organization for Cooperation and Development (ICCO) - the Netherlands since 1999 up to 2009. It has had ten years working experiences with H'mong, Kho Mu and LaosLum indigenous communities in Nam Bac and Luang Prabang districts, Luang Prabang province.

This is a continuous proposal between BfdW and CHESH Lao Program which aims to apply and expand lessons learned from the pilot on enriching customary law in forest management and land use planning from January to December, 2010 taken place in Phon Xa Vat, Den Xa Vang and Na Xam Phan villages in Luang Prabang district, Luang Prabang province, Lao P.D.R.

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Acronym

AB	Advisory Board
BfdW	Bread for the World
CBO	Community based organization
CHESH	Center for Human Ecology Studies of Highlands
CESD	Center for Ethnic Studies and Development
DAFO	Luang Prabang district of Agri-Forestry office
FFS	Farmers Field School
LPHA	Luang Prabang H'mong Association
MECO-ECOTRA	Mekong Ethnic Minority Community Networking for Eco-Trading
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
NRM	Natural Resources Management
HEPA	Human Ecology Practice Area
PAFO	Luang Prabang Provincial department of Agri-Forestry office
SPERI	Social Policy Ecology Research Institute
PLUP	Participatory land use planning
PMT	Project Management Team
RCSD	Regional Centre for Social Science and Sustainable Development
VTC	Vietnamese Television Corporation

Social, political and economic background

Although with relatively small population of about 6.5 million, Laos has been identified as the most ethnically diverse in Southeast Asia. Officially all ethnic groups have equal status. The Laos government recognizes over 100 ethnic subgroups within 49 ethnic groups; but not the concept of 'indigenous peoples'.

During the recent years, poverty reduction and growth performance in Laos has been driven by the country's ongoing transition to a market economy, particularly by the resources surge of Laos's neighbors, including China, Vietnam, and Thailand. A growth reaching 7.5 per cent is estimated in 2010; up from 6.5 per cent in 2009. Resource sector is becoming increasingly important to the economic growth. Despite this recent economic gain, Laos remains the second poorest country in the Mekong region.

Poverty in Laos is estimated at 27 per cent, strongly concentrated on the poor in highland remote districts. Little improvement in malnutrition levels still happen in children under five over the last 10 years: 50 per cent of rural children under five years are severely malnourished (World Food Program, 2007) and 40 per cent of all fewer than five children are moderately stunted. Major challenges remain such as human capital is exceptionally low; and that without a sustained effort to strengthen a good governing structure, particularly in relation to land and forest management, future poverty reduction and economic growth may be at risk.

Women in Laos suffer systemic disadvantage, particularly rural ethnic minority women and girls. Educational access for girls is significantly low compared to boys. For example, an 18 year-old rural minority girl is likely to have only 2 years of schooling while her urban ethnic majority male equivalent will have enjoyed 8.5 years.

Health indicators are poor but improving with better outcomes for infant mortality, under-five mortality and maternal mortality. HIV/AIDS prevalence is currently low, but there is a range of risk factors present including: proximity to countries with high HIV/AIDS rates; a steady rise in illicit drug use; and an increasing number of and demand for sex workers caused from booming tourism in Laos.

Laos has made good progress in improving water supply and sanitation. Accessibility to improved water sources raised from 28 per cent in 1990 to 74 per cent in 2008. However, between 40 to 50 per cent of the population still have no source of safe drinking water and 50 per cent lack access to a simple pit latrine (popular in mountainous remote villages).

Laos has extensive natural resources such as mineral deposits, forests and water from its river systems to generate hydropower, Laos is increasingly drawing on these resources to support economic growth. However status of the environment is also under pressure as a result of increasing and, in some cases, poorly managed exploitation of these resources.

The new exposure to free market forces has brought rapid changes in Laos rural communities. Northern mountainous indigenous groups have undergone socio-economic and environmental transformation. Rural livelihoods which was long based on subsistent agricultural production are now changing as more families have connected to the market economy. As part of the effect, it is envisaged that this increasing trend of market-integration would lead to an increase in the demand for privatization of agricultural and forest land. It is thus important to have an appropriate governing structure to allocate land and forest in order to prevent any misbehavior from free market economy.

In Northern Laos, indigenous communities have used customary law in natural resources governance to promote community sustainable land use planning¹. All of these practices are to regulate community members to well behave with natural resources and educate young members to continue the maintenance of customary traditions. However, numerous negative impacts from the market have

¹ For instance, H'mong community exercises 'No Song' traditional institution for community governance and forest protection; Kho Mu people worshipping the big trees, big rocks, and water spirits; and LaosLum organize 'Buat Ton May' festival to protect old forest.

penetrated into the community lifestyles which cause a destructive change in the status of natural resources; and also a decline in exercising customary values. Livelihoods of indigenous highland families whom depend heavily on natural resources become increasingly affected. Most of the highland resources are given concession to the large-scale development projects. Exploitative mining, hydro-dam building, conversion of agro-land for plantation areas, resettlement and development of village clusters ('Kumban') are the major projects that take over the land of many indigenous communities. Customary law and situated knowledge in managing resources have become less attentive; and these are the key challenges to ensure livelihoods, cultural identity, resources ownership, and maintenance of community governance for indigenous groups in Laos PDR in the long term.

Rationale/Reasons for the project and target group (beneficiaries) to be addressed by the planned project

Updated problem analysis

National level

In June 2010, amendments to the newly approved Law on Investment Promotion are encouraging foreign investment to Laos through offering investors the land use rights. Specifically, any investment of about 2.5 billion kip (US\$300,000) that would secure investors to have land use rights. Foreign investors who met this requirement would only be allowed to obtain residential land use rights in certain areas.

The government has also recently initiated a land tax exemption policy for industrial tree plantations in order to boost commercial tree planting. Rubber plantation has been backed by private companies and individuals. The need on expansion of rubber plantations is due to a rising market demand for rubber from neighboring countries as China, Thailand and Vietnam. Since 1980, Laos government has encouraged the planting of 293,000 hectares of trees, about half of which has been rubber.

The government also passed a new Forestry Law in 2008. Unfortunately the law does not recognize local rights over forests but reaffirms the state's control of all lands and forests, and empowers the state to make all decisions regarding who uses forestlands and for what. Under the legislation, locals do not even have any particular rights over forests directly adjacent to their communities. Instead, communities are only allowed to manage forest areas if they are allocated to them by District Governors. The concept of "community" or "village forests" is not recognized in the new legislation. In the new manual for participatory land use planning (PLUP), there is no mention of customary rights over resources, communal land or forest rights.

On resettlement program, Laos issued National Policy on Voluntary Resettlement and Public Consultations on 9 October 2001; and Resolution No.09/2003 to set up clusters of villages. Recently, the government is drafting the seventh national socio-economic development plan covering the period 2011 - 2015 with more focus on promoting local ownership and allocating resources to achieve outcomes at the local level. The expansion of the District Development Funds project and the preparation of more than 100 'Kumban' plans in the 42 poorest and 25 poor districts.

Local level

Problems at local level are studied in three villages such as Phon Xa Vat, Den Xa Vang and Na Xam Phan. Villagers represent indigenous groups who are originated from Phu Sung watershed area in

Luang Prabang district, Luang Prabang province². Phu Sung watershed area, as a diverse eco-cultural area, has been directly affected from numerous government programs since 1975 up to now.

The Laos government has implemented several key programs in order to improve the local livelihoods. They are voluntary resettlement and public consultations, development of village clusters, land allocation and land use planning in favor of land market, commercial plantations and foreign investment policy. However, these interventions have been not taken well thorough study, analysis of community in terms of psychology, beliefs, livelihoods and their other concerns i.e. health and education. Consequences of the negligent implementation of the government programs are:

- a) Ethnic communities like H'mong in Na Xam Phan (forced migrants) lost their ownership over resources (land, forest). Their traditional land and forest under the government land allocation and resettlement program are formally transferred to other groups like Laos Lum and Kho Mu (i.e. the new resettlers).
- b) Overlapping and conflicts over land and forest use and management between forced migrants (H'mong currently live in Na Xam Phan village) and new resettlers (Kho Mu and Laos Lum live in Den Xa Vang and Phon Xa Vat) in the Phu Sung-watershed areas of Luang Prabang district³. This land dispute could lead to identity conflicts among ethnic groups living in the Phu Sung area.
- c) Policies on resettlement and development of village clusters have brought about quick change/break of the traditional socio-cultural structure, especially of H'mong in Na Xam Phan which causes the loss and weakness of community values.
- d) The overlapping and conflict over forestland usage and management, free market on land⁴ and teak, rubber plantations leading to the rigorous shortage of cultivated land⁵.
- e) Shortage of fresh water in Den Xa Vang and Phon Xa Vat is a result of lack of local participation in constructing drinking water systems. In other hand, the land conflicts have led to the situation that no one takes care of the water sources or even H'mong families freely raise their cows around which pollutes the water sources. This critically harms health of villagers particularly women and children⁶.
- f) Free animal grazing in watershed areas where Den Xa Vang and Phon Xa Vat preserve for their drinking water has disturbed crops, quality of drinking waters and environment hygiene. This is a consequence of discrepancy among ethnic minority groups that rooted from land and forest conflicts.
- g) Poverty and dependency are the current challenges facing villagers of the Phon Xa Vat, Den Xa Vang and Na Xam Phan villages. Den Xa Vang remains 7% of households in the village currently lack of food from 3-5 months per year. Phon Xa Vat has about 22% of households currently lack of food from 3-5 months per year. The H'mong families in Na Xam Phan are almost too dependent on market as they have operated their small-business and selling labors in the city. Some families have to buy agricultural land for cultivation.

² Information of this part is referred from NAS report in November 2009 and records during implementation of the first phase pilot.

³ See NAS report, page from 10-12

⁴ Even though, each family has three plots of land for cultivation, that fact that land transaction from the poor especially Kho Mu to rich in city or Laos oversee increases. Along with this process is quick transformation from subsistent to commercial agriculture driven by outside investors. This leads to loss of land for cultivation and dependency on outsiders.

⁵ See NAS report, page from 12-13

⁶ See NAS report, page from 13-15

- h) Increased young people who withdraw their studies to go to the city in search for earnings. Phon Xa Vat and Den Xa Vang have 30 youths who are currently working for limestone exploitation factory and other jobs in Luang Prabang city.
- i) At this moment, indicator related to HIV/Aids might be invisible; yet there is a threat if later on would be a matter if no solutions aimed at securing the livelihoods for local villagers. Having secured land title will be a fundamental key to remain self-esteem, self-learn and self-realize their problems and self-raising solutions in order to prevent any social consequences.

Key achievements of the first phase (January to July 2010)

The first phase focused on studying the nature of why conflicts over land and forest occurred, and how the suitable approach would likely be to facilitate conflicts resolution processes. Findings have indicated that without local consensus and agreements and also the recognition of customary rules in resolving conflicts among different indigenous groups in the Phu Sung watershed area - it would be hard to get any results. Some of the key achievements are:

1. The stronger connections between local people and provincial/ district authorities; they sit down and together identify what sorts of conflict, discuss the causes of conflicts. The positive attitude from local people inc. elders, Advisory board and local authorities in coming up with various concrete solutions to approach resolving conflicts (e.g. the need to establish a common spiritual area within the conflict zone (to worship 'Tong Xenh', 'Nao Song', Water Spirits, Big Tree Spirit; proposed a joint management of watershed area, co-grazing area; and also identify a productive area for communal farming).
2. The setting up of an Advisory board of which is well-integrated by key elders, community leaders by spirit, and representative authorities such as the Fatherland Front of Laos PDR were very critical. The board wasn't so received in their first interaction with local authorities and Na Xam Phan villagers; but, after a working process when dealing with conflicts, members of the board has gained much prestige. The board was assigned many other later development tasks by local authorities and villagers from the three villages.
3. Villagers of Den Xa Vang, Phon Xa Vat and Na Xam Phan used to find it difficult to sit down together to talk about conflicts (e.g. land issues, animals grazing issues). This situation has been for over ten years. But during this process of conflicts resolution, especially trust building via i.e. study tours in Vietnam, Xieng Da, Long Lan and Nam Kha villages in Luang Prabang, H'mong families in Na Xam Phan started to talk, discuss about their problems and solutions and even share experiences for their future direction of development.
4. 17 students from the three villages have been sponsored to study at Farmers Field School in HEPA to learn skills and knowledge on eco-farming. They have gained progressive results. These youths will be expecting to become future human resources for continuing the pilots in the three villages after their graduation.

Expected achievements from July to December 2010

1. Villagers from the three villages will be consensus on their community regulations in use and management of resources; and the regulations will be approved by local authorities to take effects. District and provincial authorities will recognize the role of customary law in resolving conflicts; and also the importance of community elders in the village's traditional governing structure (e.g. the Luang Prabang H'mong Association acting as the led social organization). Authorities also play very active role by their presence at almost every phase of conflicts resolution processes.

The land use planning (1,824 ha of Phon Xa Vat and 71,400 ha of Den Xa Vang) will be developed and gained consensus from villagers; even approved by local authorities. This planning, by uses of local knowledge and respect customary rules, has identified clearly the different zones for communal sharing: sacred sites, watershed management area, grazing and cultivating zones.

Groups of beneficiaries

Group descriptions

In this second phase, the project will involve villagers of the Na Xam Phan village as the third beneficial group. Na Xam Phan locates along the national highway No.13B, 2 km South of Luang Prabang City center. Den Xa Vang and Phon Xa Vat locate in the South-East of the Phu Sung top Mountain, 30 km away from the north of Luang Prabang City. These village shares with other 12 villages of H'mong, Kho Mu and LaosLum in Phu Sung watershed area.

Den Xa Vang village

Den Xa Vang is home to 92 households of Mong (25 households), Kho Mu (64 households), LaosLum (2 households) and one Dzao (1 household) in which total is 549 villagers, 248 working labors (144 females) .

The total land area of Den Xa Vang is 975 ha in which there are 115 ha of protection forest, 165 ha of regenerated forest, 11 ha of reserved land, 40.65 ha of other forest, 130 ha of productive forest, 155 ha of productive cultivating land, 20 ha of rice field, 65.13 ha of industrial crops (sesame, millet, corn), 49.2 ha of Teak plantations and 3 ha of construction and residential land.

Total pupils enrolment for the primary and secondary schools are 144, of which there are 69 females. There are 7 teachers, including 4 females. Village has one kindergarten with 32 kids (11 girls).

Livelihoods of villagers heavily depend on natural resources e.g.via practicing slash and burn cultivation, collection of non-timber forest products as well as free animals grazing.

Phon Xa Vat village

Phon Xa Vat is home to 84 households of H'Mong and Kho Mu groups, in which there are 504 populations (240 females). 21/84 households are H'Mong and 63 are Kho Mu. There are 8 households mainly working on rice field, 43 households mainly working on slope rotation field, 13 households mainly raising husbandry and 2 households running small business. Other types of working which villagers involved such as limestone exploitation and temporary construction. Total pupil enrolment for the primary and secondary schools is 59.

The total land area of Phon Xa Vat is 830 ha. Of which protected forest is 1 ha; preserved forest is 530 ha; other forest is 46.8 ha; productive forest is 40 ha; productive cultivating land is 198.24 ha; rice-field is 6.33 ha⁷. On average, wet rice production is 2.5 tons per ha; dry rice is 2 tons per ha.

Na Xam Phan village

Na Xam Phan is a newly established village which is a home to multi-cultural groups including Laos Lum, H'mong, Laos Thang and Chinese.

⁷ These data remain from land allocation program in 1999 which is not accurate to current situation anymore. For instance, according to village report, residential and construction land area is 0.4 ha, but practically it should be around 4 ha?

The village has 216 households of about 1,399 people among which 695 are females. Laos Lum has 136 families with 791 people (412 females), H'mong has 77 families with 583 people (278 females), Laos Thang has 3 families with 9 people and Chinese has 1 family with 6 people.

H'mong group originally migrated from Na Kha Luang and Long Ngau (also in the Phu Sung watershed area) due to the resettlement program of the government since 1996. In H'mong group, there are 64 families of Ho Clan (83%), 5 families of Tho clan (6.4%), 3 families of Zang clan (3.8%), 3 families of Lau clan (3.8%) and 2 families of Vang clan (2.6%).

Due to lack of cultivated area, families have to seek different jobs to make a living. Laos Lum, Chinese and some H'mong mainly run small to medium business in Luang Prabang city. Kho Mu people work as daily hired labors for city people. Almost H'mong families raise cows and do farming in their ancestral regions i.e. Long Ngau and Na Kha Luang in the Phu Sung. Many H'mong families also bought land from Kho Mu and Laos Lum in the Phu Sung to use as areas for cultivating wet rice and growing teak.

Strength-Weakness-Opportunity-Threat (SWOT) of the three villages

S	W	O	T
Indigenous groups still strongly believe in the nature though forest, land and water spirits⁸.	Villagers lack of favourable opportunities to access and understand of the govt policy and law documents.	Govt. land to families with temporary land use certificates in 1999 and permanent land use certificates (yellow certificates) in 2006, including residential, wet rice, garden, rotational field. Forest and cattle grazing areas were allocated to villages.	New amendment of the National Policy on Voluntary Resettlement and Public Consultations on 9 October 2001; and Resolution No.09/2003 to set up clusters of villages could cause quick changes/break of cultural practices, insecure livelihoods of the forced migrants; and possible threats of conflicts among different ethnic identities due to the merge of different groups into one particular geo-area.
Indigenous groups still maintain customary rules and practices in forest and land use and management (e.g. 'No Song' and 'Tong Xenh' ceremonies of the H'mong in forest and community governance).	Villagers lack of opportunities to participate in, decide upon and monitor govt. development programs, e.g. setting up regulations of management, maintenance, reparation of water resources, cattle grazing and prevention of animal's diseases.	Luang Prabang authority promotes reforestation programe which aims to cover over 65% of forests of the total land area.	Increased transaction of the Yellow Land certificates, and changing from production land to plantations e.g. teak and rubber could effect to food security ⁹ due to increased market dependence of the crops, price, and business operation.
Villages show a great will in integrating the traditional and formal systems into community governing processes on natural resources¹⁰	Lack of linkages between different indigenous groups in maintaining community constructions e.g. water drinking system and forest protection;	Unique nature, and culture nearby the former capital of Luang Prabang creates great potential to develop community eco-cultural tourism;	Villagers selling labour on their land that used to be theirs; and now in towns due to the lack of cultivated land. They may access to more forest land in search for new cultivation areas.

⁸ Kho Mu people believe in Phu Pha No (Heaven Bamboo Shoot Hills) natural spirits and Pha Lieng Phi Ho (Forest for Caring for Village Spirits). Mong people worship Thu Ti, Tong Xenh, maintain and practice their customary laws

⁹ Practically 70% of 49.2 ha of teak have been transacted in Den Xa Vang, and similar situation are happening in Phon Xa Vat. Community food security may become problematic due to changing from grain production to industrial plantation.

¹⁰ While Nai Baan¹⁰ (village head) is important person for state, administrative affair, Con Cham and Croimon are key spiritual leaders of Kho Mu people. They are spiritual foundation for villagers, represent villagers to worship spirits for goodness and chasing away bad things

S	W	O	T
Strong belief of each clan 'To Tem' ¹¹	Free cattle grazing esp. in the watershed areas; and common habit of using plastic bags which affect to villagers and the environment's health;	Three villages are closely in connection with Long Lan village (where customary law has been applied very well for watershed management and protection, land use planning for production, livestock, etc; good community governing structure, and experiences in conflict resolution). Long Lan village is a good example for learning and exchanges.	Land disputes between Den Xa Vang and Phon Xa Vat with the former villagers who have traditional land in Long Ngau, Nha Kha Luang areas, but were moved to live in Na Xam Phan due to the govt resettlement program since 1996.
Villages still practice traditional self-help groups e.g. setting up cross-cultural association between Kho Mu and Mong in cow grazing at a common area in Den Xa Vang ¹² .	Lack of participation and involved in decision-making process of women in many village/public affairs.		Illiterate children, especially girls increase due to i) there is not enough school in the village, ii) families cannot afford with school expenditures, and iii) boys and girls have to stop studies in order to help parents to do farming.
Villagers still maintain traditional method of cultivation which has been long adapted to local conditions.	Ineffective application of family planning methods causes unexpected pregnancy and giving birth;		Lack of fresh drinking water; and increasing the application of herbicide, insecticide in cultivation will harm human and environment health.

Direct beneficiaries

- 77 H'mong households of Na Xam Phan (583 people with 278 females), 84 households of Phon Xa Vat (504 people with 240 females), 92 households of Den Xa Vang (549 people with 144 females) are the main beneficiaries. They will be directly involving in pilot activities such as training courses, study tours, building up pilot models, etc.
- Members of interest groups i.e. cow, pig grazing and herbal medicine groups, forest protection and spiritual groups in three villages.
- Members of Luang Prabang H'mong Association will gain capacity in coordination of not only in cultural practices and traditional governing, but also community development.
- 10 youths in three villages will be involving in two years practical training course on eco-farming in FFS-HEPA, Vietnam. Some others directly involve in implementing the pilot activities. The selected youths will be resource persons of the communities in the future.
- Key farmers from Xieng Da, Nam Kha and Long Lan who are member of Advisory Board (AB) and village project management teams (PMT) will gain capacity through coordinating and advising project activities i.e. planning, and organizing study tours, seminars/workshops, etc.

¹¹ Main clans in the two villages compose of Tamong, Simom (a kind of bird), T'ravai (tiger), Ta-va, Sloc (A kind of bird named Tangelo), Chan-t're, Ta Hap (Fish trap made of bamboo). Tamong clan is the largest in Phon Xa Vat village (33 households). There is a clan council of 10 reputable members, who discuss and decide on essential affair of the clan. Each clan has their own legend to interpret their totem. For instance, T'ra-vai clan keeps taboo of touching, hunting or eating tigers. They believe that, if they ate tiger meat, their teeth would drop out. If they touched tiger, their skin would get disease. Ta Hap clan does not eat meat of the pig that is kept in hap (a bamboo box similar to fish trap). Tava clan does not touch or cut Tava trees. That belief does not only make good sense for Kho Mu belief, but is also useful for environment protection, which nurtures Kho Mu belief.

¹² 21 Mong and 12 Kho Mu households share that common area for raising cows. Villagers, including Mong and Kho Mu got agreement on cattle raising practice. New households, who want to join that common area, should contribute labour for repairing fence. They created different signs on the cows' ears, so that the owner can recognize exactly. This is one of the beginning cooperation between Kho Mu and Mong for organization of production in particular and community organization as well. The village keep two areas of animal raising, one locates at Long Lan village, serve the village's mostly Mong and some Kho Mu households. The other locates at Den Xa Vang area, prominently serve Kho Mu households.

- Local authorities and technicians from Luang Prabang (e.g. DAFO, Farther Front, PAFO, etc) will involve and gain lessons from this pilot; then expected to change their vision of land management based customary laws and the community.
- Teachers and researchers from RCSD/CESD-Chiang Mai University who involve directly researching in two villages will gain empirical lessons learned by involving field researches related to customary law based natural resources management, community governance, etc. This is a valuable opportunity for them to cross-check with theoretical based and empirical based into their teaching curricula.
- Staffs from CHESH-Laos program who will directly involve in the project. They will be able to coordinate and share lessons learned to other projects in the future in hand with local key farmers.

Indirect beneficiaries

- Relevant functioning central govt. organizations like Ministry of Agro-forestry, Department of Agro-forest Extension, Department of Land and Forest Allocation, as well local NGOs will benefit by sharing, exchanging, study visits and workshops.
- At local level as well as nationwide, other communities will able to indirectly benefit from lessons learned from three villages as well as other three communities in where CHESH-Laos has been worked for 10 years.
- At Mekong level, members from thematic community based organizations of Mekong Ethnic Minority Networking for Eco-trading (MECO-ECOTRA) i.e. customary law in watershed management; eco-farming, herbal medicine which facilitated by, as well partners of SPERI will benefit lessons of the project via study tours, visits and workshops/seminars.

Objectives/goals and indicators

Overall objective

Strengthening cultural practices of H'mong, Kho Mu and Lao Lum in Luang Prabang, Laos which is towards equality and sustainability of self-determination in development

Mid-term objectives

- Setting up a pilot on enriching customary law of H'mong, Kho Mu and Lao Lum indigenous communities in the Phu Sung watershed area for sustainable natural resource management, which ensures:
 - ✓ Maintenance of cultural practices (norms, beliefs, community solidarity and communal governance).
 - ✓ Improvement of local livelihoods via enhancement of local knowledge in farming, herbs, drinking waters, environment and hygiene, etc.
 - ✓ Sustainable use and management of natural resources (i.e. watershed, protected, productive and sacred forests, and farming).
- Raising public awareness and lobbying for customary law recognition of indigenous groups in natural resource governance.

Short-term objectives

1. Maintaining local cross-cutting thematic initiatives and inter-village consensus which are based on integration between traditional institution and formal system for conflict transformation over natural resources in Den Xa Vang, Phon Xa Vat and Na Xam Phan.
2. Strengthening 04 thematic community based organizations (e.g. cow and pig raising, herbal medicine and forest protection).

3. Enhancing capacity of 1636 villagers, particularly women and youths in using and managing forest and land based on local knowledge and customary law for food security and income-generations.
4. Bettering quality of life of 169 families of Phon Xa Vat, Den Xa Vang and Na Xam Phan via accessibility to basic physical conditions e.g. fresh drinking water and sanitation and clean latrines.
5. Capacity of 4 CHESH-Laos staffs is capable to facilitate process of community based development and customary law based natural resource governance.

Expected result indicators

- Conflicts resolutions over forest and land in Long Ngau and Nha Kha Luong will be maintained based on inter-villages consensus and values of customary law of different ethnic groups.
- Community forest (watershed, protected, productive and sacred) and agri-land – 1,824 ha of Phon Xa Vat and 71,400 ha of Den Xa Vang which is officially recognized by district authority will be well managed and effectively by Phon Xa Vat, Den Xa Vang and Na Xam Phan.
- Customary law i.e. 'Tong Xenh' and 'No Song' of H'mong, worshipping sacred tree and water spirit of Kho Mu and LaosLum for land use planning, forest management and community governance will be practiced occasionally by villagers. This contributes to secure and sustain natural resources (forest, land and water) and maintain cultural practices of H'mong, Kho Mu and Lao Lum.
- Pilots on farming (veggies/gardens), community herbal medicine forests, and community animal raising (pigs and cow) will be set up for on-site exchange / training, expansion and lobby.
- Villager's capacity and skills in land designing, garden planning, soil improvement, animal raising (cow, pig and chicken) will be enhanced.
- Community based organizations i.e. pig and cow raising, herbal medicines of Phon Xa Vat, Den Xa Vang and Na Xam Phan will be set up, well functioning to meet up needs and concerns of members. Each group expectedly has from 15 to 20 members.
- 10 youths from three villages will be trained on eco-farming in HEPA-Vietnam for two years. These youths will be able to apply lessons into practice i.e. setting up eco-garden pilots or becoming human resources of community based organizations.
- 169 families of Den Xa Vang and Phon Xa Vat, especially women and children get access to fresh drinking water in both dry and rainy season, and hygiene toilet.

Expected sustainable impacts on the target group

- Forest and land of Phon Xa Vat, Den Xa Vang and Na Xam Phan will be well managed and secured via customary law systems and voluntary of villagers. This will contribute to prevent the situation of invasion from outsiders to take away natural resources, free animal raising, and resources degradation i.e. deforestation, polluted water and soil degradation.
- Households of three villages will be confident to invest in their own land via i.e. farming, raising cow and pig; so that contribute to improve their livelihoods.
- Via the process of local participation i.e. problem identification, planning, implementation, monitor and evaluation, especially women, community governance will be strengthened. This will contribute to maintain the local systems such as local knowledge in farming, forest protection and herbal medicine, traditional governance, cultural practices and empowering indigenous women.
- Via co-carrying out local initiatives and co-solving disputes and addressing common concerns, it will consolidate mutual understanding and values of helping between indigenous groups.
- Via setting up pilots and study opportunities, it will contribute to encourage three villages as learning communities in process of nurturing good cultural practices, appropriate situated knowledge in farming, forest management and local governance.

- Health of villagers, especially women and children in Den Xa Vang and Phon Xa Vat will be getting better via accessibility to fresh water and hygiene environment i.e. clean latrine and environment surrounding village.
- Minority youths will have more opportunities to get higher education (skills and knowledge), as well participate in development process of their villages. This contributes to lessen the free migration of youths to city; so that avoiding social problems i.e. HIVs.

Expected sustainable impacts at the larger scale

- The pilot will contribute to strengthen the 'No Song' traditional institution of H'mong, customary law and norms of Kho Mu and Laos Lum in Luang Prabang in community governance and resource management. With the involvement of Lao Lum and Kho Mu in other communities, this pilot expects to contribute to strengthen the solidarity between indigenous groups of different identities.
- Reduce certain degree of negative impacts from outside (business companies, free land market, cash crop and plantation and deforestation) to natural resources at regional areas.
- Local authorities and technicians via involvement in conducting pilots will benefit lessons and change their attitude towards local knowledge and customary law of ethnic minorities, particularly Kho Mu group in natural resource governance and community development.
- Recommendations from community pilots i.e. forest management based on customary law, land use planning based on local knowledge, farming, raising animal, herbal medicine and community organizing will be applied by functioning government organizations (PAFO, DAFO) into other villages.
- Partners and target groups of SPERI/CHESH-Laos e.g. Mekong Ethnic Minority Community Networking for Eco-Trading (MECO-ECOTRA), minority students from Farmers Field Schools will benefit from lessons of the pilot via study tours, exchange and workshop. RCSD/CESD, Chiang Mai University, Thailand and Suphanuvong Uni, Laos via co-conduction of researches will have practical cases for its lecturing and studies. So that, it contributes to up-to-date the curriculum and training methods of the University.

Activities and working methods

Planned activities	Working methods	Participations	Concrete outputs
Objective 1: Maintaining local cross-cutting thematic initiatives and inter-village consensus which are based on integration between traditional institution and formal system for conflict transformation over natural resources in Den Xa Vang, Phon Xa Vat and Na Xam Phan			
Support occasional traditional events in sacred forestland areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LPHA and elders of Kho Mu and LaosLum facilitate organization of such traditional events i.e. 'Tong Xenh' customary law of H'mong, worshipping big tree and water spirit of Kho Mu and LaosLum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Representatives of 10,000 members of LHA (e.g. elders, clan heads, prestigious persons) ▪ Villagers of Phon Xa Vat, Den Xa Vang and Na Xam Phan ▪ Representatives of Long Lan, Xieng Da, Nam Kha and others (e.g. H'mong in Vietnam and Thailand) ▪ District and provincial authorities / technicians ▪ Researchers e.g. RCSD/CESD-Chiang Mai and Suphanuvong, Unis and SPERI ▪ Media i.e. Vietnam Tivi Corporation (VTC) and Luang Prabang radio and Tivi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'Tong Xenh' ceremony of Hmong re-organized ▪ Occasional cultural events of Kho Mu, LaosLum and H'mong maintained ▪ Values of cultural practices in NRM and community governance recognized by local authorities ▪ Videos and documents for sharing and training in FFS-HEPA
Support initiatives of CBOs in joint management for watershed areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CBOs and PMT on watershed management coordinate common initiatives/ activities which are based on community regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CBOs members ▪ Local authorities / technicians ▪ CHESH Laos staffs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regularly meetings ▪ Regularly patrols on forest protection ▪ Increase understanding and collaboration among members from different identities
Support initiatives of CBOs in cow and pig raising, and herbal medicine in productive forestland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CBOs and PMT on cow and pig raising, and herbal medicines coordinate and implement common initiatives and activities which are based on community regulations and local knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CBOs members ▪ Local authorities ▪ CHESH Laos staffs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regular meetings ▪ Study tours and studies of members ▪ Supporting members to build up pilots ▪ Contribute to improve livelihood of members
Facilitate to linkage for collaboration between three	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BA and PMT facilitate common activities and initiatives of the three cross-cutting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leaders of CBOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capacity of BA and PMT in monitor and evaluate activities of different thematic

Planned activities	Working methods	Participations	Concrete outputs
cross-cutting thematic CBOs	thematic CBOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local authorities / technicians CHESH Laos staffs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CBOs enhanced Collaboration between thematic CBOs contribute to strengthen local governance
Objective 2: Strengthening thematic community based organizations (e.g. cow and pig raising, herbal medicine and forest protection)			
Conduct field survey and assess community based organizations e.g. cow and pig raising, herbal medicine and forest protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BA and PMT facilitate the process of survey and assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHESH Laos staffs and SPERI's researchers FFS_HEPA students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information related to SWOT of CBOs collected and published for sharing and training in FFS_HEPA Capacity of BA and PMT, CHESH Laos staff and students in action research improved Having recommendations for strengthening CBOs
Organize study visits for above thematic CBOs to exchange and learn experiences with CBOs in Xieng Da, Long Lan and Nam Kha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key farmers of Xieng Da, Long Lan and Nam Kha facilitate process of learning and exchange with participants BA supervises above facilitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 members of each thematic CBOs Local authorities / technicians CHESH Laos staffs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants understand of values of people organizations in community development and process of running CBOs Engagement of members in CBOs activities increased Having more initiatives of members to o strengthen their CBOs
Provide practical training on skills of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation for thematic CBOs' activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key farmers of Long Lan, Xieng Da Nam Kha, Luang Prabang, Laos and Vietnam facilitate process of training BA supervises above training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 members of each thematic CBOs Local authorities CHESH Laos staffs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity of CBOs members in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation enhanced Having more initiatives of members to o strengthen their CBOs Capacity on TOT key farmers in Long Lan, Xieng Da and Nam Kha will be improved
Provide practical training on relevant techniques and knowledge (e.g. animal raising, gardening, herbal medicine, etc) for CBOs members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key farmers of Long Lan, Xieng Da Nam Kha, Luang Prabang, Laos and Vietnam facilitate process of training BA supervises above training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 members of each thematic CBOs Local authorities / technicians CHESH Laos staffs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trainees are able to apply lessons learnt into practices Trainees are able to share lessons with other villagers Capacity on TOT key farmers in Long Lan, Xieng Da and Nam Kha will be improved
Support common activities and initiatives of CBOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See activities in objective 1&3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See activities in objective 1&3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See activities in objective 1&3

<i>Planned activities</i>	<i>Working methods</i>	<i>Participations</i>	<i>Concrete outputs</i>
members i.e. pilots setting			
Objective 3: Enhancing capacity of villagers, particularly women and youths in using and managing forest and land based on local knowledge and customary law for food security, income-generations			
Organize study visits for CBOs members to Xieng Da, Long Lan and Nam Kha for exchange and learn experiences in techniques and knowledge on animal raising, gardening, herbal medicines and forest protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key farmers of Xieng Da, Long Lan and Nam Kha facilitate process of learning and exchange with participants ▪ BA supervises above facilitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10 members of each thematic CBOs ▪ Local authorities / technicians ▪ CHESH Laos staffs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participants understand of values of local knowledge in animal raising, gardening and herbal medicines in livelihood security ▪ Participants know the ways how to apply/integrate local knowledge and newly adaptable knowledge into practice
Organize study visits for CBOs members to Laos Farm for exchange and learn experiences in techniques and knowledge on farming planning, animal raising and gardening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LaosFarm owner facilitate process of learning and exchange with participants ▪ BA supervises above facilitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10 members of each thematic CBOs ▪ Local authorities / technicians ▪ CHESH Laos staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participants understand of values of local knowledge in animal raising, gardening and herbal medicines in livelihood security ▪ Participants know the ways how to apply/integrate local knowledge and newly adaptable knowledge into practice
Organize study visits for CBOs members to Vietnam for exchange and learn experiences in techniques and knowledge on animal raising, gardening/farm planning, herbal medicines and forest protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vietnamese key farmers facilitate process of learning and exchange with participants ▪ BA supervises above facilitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5 members of each thematic CBOs ▪ Local authorities / technicians ▪ CHESH Laos staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participants understand of values of local knowledge in animal raising, gardening and herbal medicines in livelihood security ▪ Participants know the ways how to apply/integrate local knowledge and newly adaptable knowledge into practice
Provide practical training on techniques and knowledge in animal raising, gardening, herbal medicine and forest protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key farmers of Long Lan, Xieng Da Nam Kha, Luang Prabang, Laos and Vietnam will facilitate process of training ▪ BA supervises above training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 20 members of each thematic CBOs ▪ Local authorities / technicians ▪ CHESH Laos staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trainees are able to apply lessons learnt into practices ▪ Trainees are able to share lessons with other villagers ▪ Capacity on TOT key farmers in Long Lan, Xieng Da and Nam Kha will be improved
Provide hand-on training on eco-farming for youths in HEPA-Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Learning-by doing ▪ Elders and key farmers from Vietnam and Laos directly proved training ▪ Internship and field studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10 youths in two years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Graduated students are able to apply lessons learnt into practices e.g. setting up pilots ▪ Graduated students are able to share lessons with other villagers
Support establishment of pilots (of CBOs members and graduated students) on animal raising and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Practical learning from Long Lan, Xieng Da and Nam Kha-Laos and Vietnam, and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Owners on farming pilots ▪ Owners in animal raising pilots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Six pilots on farming ▪ Six pilots on animal raising

Planned activities	Working methods	Participations	Concrete outputs
gardening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> others on farming and animal raising. CBOs under supervision of BA facilitate meetings to identify and select key farmers to implement pilots CHESH Laos supports evolving funds to set up pilots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local authorities / technicians CHESH Laos staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilots will become live curriculum for exchange and expand at the larger scale
Objective 4: Bettering quality of life of villagers of Phon Xa Vat, Den Xa Vang and Na Kham Phan via accessibility to basic physical conditions e.g. fresh drinking water and clean environment and hygiene, etc			
Organize study visits to Xieng Da, Nam Kha and Long Lan (or in combination with study visits to Vietnam) to exchange and learn experiences in construction and maintenance of drinking water system, environment hygiene, etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key farmers of Xieng Da, Long Lan, Nam Kha, Luang Prabang, Laos and Vietnam facilitate process of learning and exchange with participants BA supervises above facilitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 members of each thematic CBOs Local authorities / technicians CHESH Laos staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants understand of values of local participation in community constructions and keeping environment hygiene Participants understand the ways of constructing, maintaining community constructions, as well keeping environment hygiene Engagement / participation of the locals in constructing, repairing community constructions and keeping environment hygiene increased
Support Den Xa Vang and Phon Xa Vat to upgrade and maintain drinking water systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BA and PMT facilitate community participatory identification of problems, causes and solutions related to drinking water system BA and PMT facilitate community participation on how to upgrading the system BA and PMT facilitate community participation in upgrading the system BA and PMT facilitate community participation in setting up regulation on how to use and maintain the system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole villagers of Den Xa Vang and Phon Xa Vat Local authorities / technicians CHESH Laos staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two systems - one in Den Xa Vang and one in Phon Xa Vat are upgraded and are able to provide enough and equally fresh water in dry and rainy seasons for whole households The systems are regularly repaired and well managed by villagers Less times and labors for women and children to collect water Contribute to improve health of villagers, esp. women and children
Support Den Xa Vang and Phon Xa Vat households to upgrade and use clean toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BA and PMT facilitate community participatory identification of problems, causes and solutions related to using and maintaining clean toilets BA and PMT facilitate community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All toilets of households in Den Xa Vang and Phon Xa Vat Local authorities / technicians CHESH Laos staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All families could access to hygiene toilet Contribute to improve health of villagers, esp. women and children

Planned activities	Working methods	Participations	Concrete outputs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> participation on how to upgrading the system BA and PMT facilitate community participation in upgrading the system 		
Provide hand-on training on how to keep environment and hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key farmers of Xieng Da, Long Lan and Nam Kha under supervision of BA facilitate process of learning and exchange with participants BA and PMT facilitate community participation in setting up regulation on how to keeping clean environment and hygiene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole villagers of Den Xa Vang and Phon Xa Vat Local authorities / technicians CHESH Laos staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness of villagers on environment and hygiene improved Trainees are able to apply lesson into practice Community regulations on environment and hygiene keeping set up Capacity on TOT key farmers in Long lan, Xieng Da and Nam Kha will be improved
Objective 5: Capacity of CHESH-Laos staff is capable to facilitate process of community based development and customary law based NRM			
3.1. Coordinate and facilitate project activities (see in detailed above activities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directly learning and working with local peoples by participating in all activities of the pilots Wrapping up lessons learned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHESH-Laos junior staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff will be confident to coordinate project activities after one year.
3.2. Participate in study-tours for key farmers (see in detailed above activities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directly learning by observing and discussing with key farmers Wrapping up lessons learned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHESH-Laos junior staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff will gain more lessons learned from other cases of community development projects.
3.3. Attend training courses in methodology of action research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek for relevant training programs via SPERI network Trained staffs self-carry out themes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHESH-Laos junior staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff's knowledge and skills on understanding and analysis problems at grassroots will be strengthened Staff who participates in the training will be confident to provide presentation with main issues to other staff.
3.4. Attend seminars / workshops which concern similar issues in Mekong region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek for relevant seminars / workshops via SPERI network; Staff who participates in seminars will wrap up lessons learned and provide presentation to other staff after the training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHESH-Laos junior staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff will gain, sharpen their experiences by sharing, discussing with other participants
3.5. Organize four internal training courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly organizing internal training via project activities by senior staffs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior staff CHESH-Laos junior staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffs update practical experiences to become their working methods

Planned activities	Working methods	Participations	Concrete outputs
3.6. Organize workshops of evaluating project activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BA facilitates workshops ▪ CHESH Laos staffs support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Villagers of three villages ▪ Local authorities ▪ Researchers i.e. RCSD/CESD-Thailand, Suphanuvong Uni, Laos and SPERI ▪ Media i.e. VTC, Luang Prabang radio and Tivi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One mid-term (after one year project) workshop ▪ One final (after two year project) workshop ▪ Lessons and recommendations are documented for publishing and dissemination

Cost and finance plan (see in detailed at excel sheet)

Project management

Luang Prabang Provincial Department of Agriculture and Forestry Office (PAFO) is the main partner of CHESH in Laos to facilitate the pilot. PAFO will provide favorably legal frame, organize monitoring and evaluating cooperative strategies to ensure effectiveness.

PAFO takes responsibility to set up an advisory board (AB) including two representatives of LHPA, one of Luang Prabang district Farther Front, two key farmers from Long Lan and Xieng Da and prestigious elders from Den Xa Vang, Phon Xa Vat and Na Kham Phan. This Board is officially approved by the Luang Prabang Provincial authority, and plays a role to advise activities among villages.

AB takes responsibility to regularly carry out monitoring and giving advices for project management team (PMT) in each village. The CHESH Laos Program with PAFO will provide advices and basic condition and environment for the AB to ensure its tasks. AB will meet monthly to monitor and steer the progress of the project. The effectiveness and impacts of the project as well as further steps will be highlighted in an evaluation study as well as in a summing up workshop for representatives of local beneficiaries.

Each village has one project management team (PMT) which is directly under the supervision of the AB and in charge of making plans and carrying out activities in their community. PMT incorporates of key farmers, prestige persons, elders and village leaders.

CHESH Laos Program will look for the external independent evaluators to evaluate effective and impacts of the pilot in the end.

Together with pilot projects which CHESH Laos has been working for over 10 years ago promoting Long Lan - H'mong village in Phu Sung watershed area to become community-based farmer field school. This aims at sharing and training key farmers and youths from Den Xa Vang, Phon Xa Vat and Na Xam Phan. Topics of sharing are community based forestland allocation, land use planning, and customary law in resources usage, farming, animal raising and herbal medicine practices.

Promoting an integration of local knowledge and newly adaptable techniques via different practical training, study tours, seminars/workshops for farmers. In this process, resource people/speakers are elders and key farmers from Long Lan, Xieng Da and Nam Kha.

Promoting prestige and active role of traditional organizations e.g. H'mong Association in Luang Prabang district (LPHA) with 'No Song' community institution in preserving natural resources, community governance and maintenance of cultural practices.

Encouraging role and prestige of advisory board which includes representatives of LPHA, elders, district Farther Front and key farmers from Xieng Da and Long Lan in advising, coordinating and monitoring project activities.

Promoting active involvement of Luang Prabang provincial department of Agri-Forestry - PAFO and Luang Prabang district of Agro-Forestry office - DAFO, Laos' Father Front and other land offices in every activity of the pilot especially land and forest allocation and community regulation.

Incorporation with RCSD/CESD-Chiang Mai University, Thailand and Suphanvong Uni, Laos to conduct research studies on customary law and natural resources management; organizing seminars/workshops, etc for students and lobbying.

Possible risks

Possible risks	Risk monitoring
Some field activities i.e. land and forest allocation and carrying out farming pilots could, repairing drinking water system be affected by rainy season (6 months / year).	- Good planning: training, study tours should be carried out in the rainy season. - If not, the project must be extended.

Possible risks	Risk monitoring
Land and forest border identification could take times due to possible appearance of land border disputes between villages and among households.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximize the involvement of key prestige persons and discussion among villages in land and forest conflict resolution. - Respect the traditional land and forest borders between villages and households. - Respect community governance.
Lobbying the authorities to recognize the customary law of targeted groups (H'mong, Kho Mu and Lao Lum) in forest and land use and management could take times.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PAFO will take its role to dialogue/negotiation. - Organize the field trips / seminar/workshops for the authorities. - Getting authorities and govt staffs to involve in every activities of the project
It could take times to mobilize and organize villagers of different identity groups in village to involve in the pilot as given each indigenous group has their own norms, identity.	Maximize the involvement of key prestige persons / elders / traditional leaders of H'mong, Kho Mu and LaosLum in the process of consultation.
Villagers' thinking of 'giving-receive' which was being caused by several govt projects and international funding i.e. EU for building drinking could effect on implementation of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Take time to explain values of local involvement and contribution - Make clear functions and role of villages to every activity of the project

Recommendations of third parties

Dear Ute Bartels

Thanks for your mail and sorry it took me so long to reply; something went wrong here.

I can give a long or short explanation of Speri, but as far as I know, it's by far the best partner we have in Vietnam. Their innovating, real participative approach is unique in Vietnam and probably in the region. So yes, from our side I should strongly recommend Speri.

Greetings Kees
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