

**UN-REDD**  
PROGRAMME



# Workshop Report

---

Participatory Governance Assessments  
**VALIDATION WORKSHOP FOR PGA**  
**FIELD- TESTING AND PEER REVIEW OF**  
**THE PILOT PGA IN LAM DONG**  
07/01/2014, Da Lat - Vietnam

---

# Workshop Report

## *1. Background for this meeting*

In Viet Nam, the PGA process has been implemented through a series of meetings and workshops with key stakeholders to analyze key governance challenges and jointly prioritize the governance issues to be covered, develop indicators for data collection, in addition to discuss and agree on data collection methods and tools, which in turn were field tested in Lam Dong province in 2013<sup>1</sup>.

A series of meetings and workshops were organized to get inputs from stakeholders. Results collected from field testing in the period through August and November 2013 were presented both to assess forest management in Lam Dong province, but also to conclude on the appropriateness of the selected methods and indicators developed.

Hence, the necessity for this validation workshop was both to present the primary findings to all stakeholders, but also to review the quality of the methodological choices made and the PGA process to date.

## *2. Objectives and outcomes*

The overall objectives of the workshop were to present results of PGA process so far and gather constructive feedback on the PGA process, as well as suggestions on how to move forward and to make the necessary preparations for the next steps for the PGA in Lam Dong province.

The expected workshop outputs were:

- Present initial findings of data collection to date
- Review of PGA process – strengths and weaknesses
- Expert Group introduced
- Main steps in further work plan/ road map communicated and agreed

## *3. Participants*

Lam Dong representatives and stakeholders, in addition to the proposed Expert Group members and representatives of related line departments under Lam Dong PPC joined the meeting.

## *4. Key issues addressed and discussed during the workshop*

Main points raised and discussed among participants during the workshop:

- PGA has been a good learning process and help provincial Forest Protection Department see certain gaps in implementing forest contract policy
- The indicator set should be stronger and would need technical inputs/supports from experts
- The concept of PGA should fit more into context here in Vietnam. The two governance issues selected to develop the indicator set was taken out as an example for a training workshop, however later on being used for developing the indicator set. This indicator set has not been able to identify the main challenges that the two pilot sites in this province are facing when it comes to governing forest. There is a lack of balance between indicators on management and indicators for governance.

---

<sup>1</sup> More information about the workshops and meetings held in 2013 can be found here

- Governance is broader than management, but without understanding good management it would be hard to work on governance
- It is important to keep in mind that the statistic quality is still rather low in the country and therefore there should be cross checked on secondary data collected
- The method is good but implementation is not yet very good. The main objectives of PGA and its process were not communicated clearly from the beginning. Participants did not receive documents before joining PGA workshops and therefore found it hard to understand and discuss content of each workshop
- Criteria for selecting participants at PGA workshop should be clear from the beginning. Mechanism for keeping same participants for each PGA activities should have been in place.

The workshop participants agreed on strengthening the organizational structure of PGA by having the **Expert Group (EG)** on board and reselecting members for the **Lam Dong Provincial Working Group (PWG)**. It was also agreed that the Expert Group will provide their inputs to review the PGA process to date and decide on the further scope and next steps. The Expert Group will also help to not only revisit the prioritized governance issues and decide on possible and additional ones, but also draft and conclude on an indicator set and discuss and determine the appropriate data collection methods. Inputs from Expert Group should be in consultation with Provincial Working Group and UNDP/FAO and VNGO would keep the supporting role to bridge communication between the Expert Group and provincial working group throughout the PGA process.

Participants discussed representation in the PGA process and suggested that the group should include representation from DARD, FPD, Women's union, ethnic minority, provincial CEEMA, Da Lat University, forest owners, and forest community representatives. It is suggested that there should be financial support for provincial working group (PWG) to organize themselves in response to EG's request from PWG inputs. Concrete suggestions on working methods for PWG were discussed and everybody agreed that a group e-mail would be organized for more effective communication between meetings. A focal point for PWG would be selected for smooth coordination/communication.

There was also a concern on how to link the PGA at a more national scale where PGA can be carried out in other provinces and not only focusing on Lam Dong province. It was also stressed to keep in mind that the process – i.e. that stakeholder inputs are sought out and taken properly into account – was equally important as the end result and therefore the process should be documented well – e.g. how are inputs incorporated, and if not, then why is it left out (response matrices).

Main steps for PGA through to June 2014 towards the launch of a PGA report were presented and agreed.

#### *4 Follow-up and next steps*

Based on the discussions and suggestions from the Workshop participants, items to be followed up include:

- Work plan to be revised and sent out to all related stakeholders soon as possible
- Constitute the Expert Group as agreed (to allow for the requested level of expertise throughout the process and mandated to take decisions on main steps and strategic direction with inputs from the PWG)
- A new list of Provincial Working Group will be agreed at provincial level and communicated to all relevant stakeholders
- Establish mechanism for information sharing and decision making: a group e-mail for both the Expert Group and Provincial Working Group
- Ensure that all stakeholders receive workshop material well in advance

- The Expert Group members to provide inputs on suggesting/reviewing main governance issues for PGA (according to the work plan)

*Annexes (hyperlinks)*

1. [Final agenda](#)
2. [Participants list](#)
3. [Agreed work plan 2014 developed in response to this meeting](#)
4. [ToR for the Expert Group as agreed in the meeting](#)

For more information, presentations and background documents to the workshop, please visit the UN-REDD workspace folder for this meeting [here](#).