

## CO-MANAGEMENT OF SPECIAL USE FORESTS

### A review of theoretical, legal and practical issues



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### A GLANCE AT SUFs IN VIETNAM

- Total area: nearly 2,2 mil ha; 1,94 mil ha forested
- Categorization: NPs; nature conservation areas (NRs, species and habitat PAs); landscape PAs (historical, cultural, recreation); SUFs for research/scientific experimentation
- Distribution: 164 SUFs (2010); will be increased?
- Scale: 39 SUFs less than 15.000 ha
- Management structure / Institutional responsibilities for SUFs: decentralized and diversified; power of management?
- 88/164 SUFs have their own Forest Protection Division
- Complexity of ecosystems/landscapes: SUFs/wetlands/MPAs
- Threats: illegal logging, hunting, land-use conversion and conflict, fire,... Trade-offs between SUFs and development of hydropower, mining, infrastructure,...
- Challenging in law enforcement

### UNDERSTANDING OF CO-MANAGEMENT

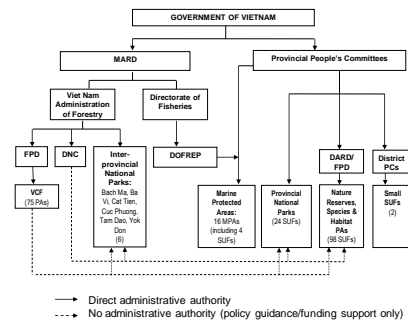
#### Theoretical approach:

- Co-management is defined as "a situation in which two or more social actors negotiate, define and guarantee amongst themselves a fair sharing of the management functions, entitlements and responsibilities for a given territory, area or asset of natural resources." (Borrini-feyeraben et al, 2000)
- Key features of co-management: Power, authority, benefits, and responsibilities towards natural resources management could be shared through a negotiation process in order to reach consensual co-management agreements on multi-stakeholder governance.
- Co-management v.s community-based management?

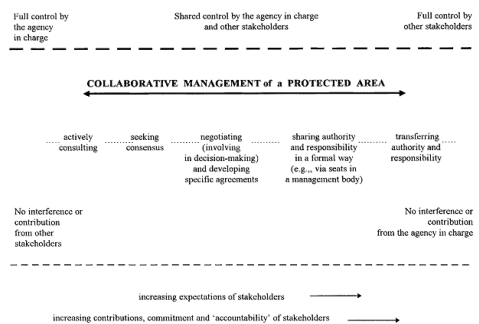
### KEY CONTENTS

1. Some features of SUFs in Vietnam
2. Understandings about natural resources co-management
3. Legal framework for developing SUF co-management
4. SUF co-management demonstration in Ngoc Son-Ngo Luong Nature Reserve, Hoa Binh province
5. Some lessons learnt

### A GLANCE AT SUFs IN VIETNAM



### UNDERSTANDING OF CO-MANAGEMENT



Participation in PA management – a continuum (Borrini-Feyerabend, 1996)

## UNDERSTANDING OF CO-MANAGEMENT

### Realistic approach for SUF co-management in Vietnam?

- Is PA/SUF co-management is new in Vietnam?
- Is (the existing) inter-sectoral cooperation considered as a form of PA/SUF co-management?
- Benefit-sharing e.g permits of resource harvesting is compulsory for promoting PA/SUF co-management in Vietnam context? Too risky?
- Key actors:
  - Management Board of SUF – as the forest owner
  - Communal authority (CPC) – as grassroot forest administrator
  - Village community / groups of interested households, individuals – as...
  - Private actors ? as...
- How to institutionalize/legalize (village) community institutions to be public service providers for SUF management?

## LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUF CO-MANAGEMENT

- Forest Protection and Development Law 2004: village community is not regarded as an actor whom to be directly assigned by the state as SUF manager;
- Decree 23/2006/ND-CP: village community can be contracted by SUF Management board to do forest protection, plantation, caring and enrichment in place;
- Decision 186/QD-TTg request SUF-MBs facilitating buffer zone communities to take actions toward protecting, conserving, properly using forestry products and other resources, eco-tourism services in order to improve their income and link their livelihoods with SUF protection activities.
- Circular 38/2007/TT-BNN regulating on forest allocation, rent,...for organisations, households, individuals and village community;
- Decision 104/2007/QD-BNN allowing local communities to participate and benefit from eco-tourism activities in PAs to improve income and take responsibility to biodiversity and nature conservation;

## LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUF CO-MANAGEMENT

- Decision 18/2007/QD-TTg about VN Forestry Development Strategy 2006-2020 requests piloting CFM models and supporting village/commune forest protection groups;
- Decision 57/QD-TTg requests SUF-MBs to adopt co-management with local communities based on sharing responsibilities of forest management, protection, development and benefits in respective to their contribution;
- Decision 126/QD-TTg piloting benefit-sharing in Xuan Thuy and Bach Ma NPs
- Decision 07/2012/QD-TTg requests to adopt co-management in SUF protection and establish a Management Council as a legal representative institution to ensure direct and voluntary commitment among SUF-MB and village communities in forest management and protection and legal benefit sharing;
- Village community – cooperative institution.

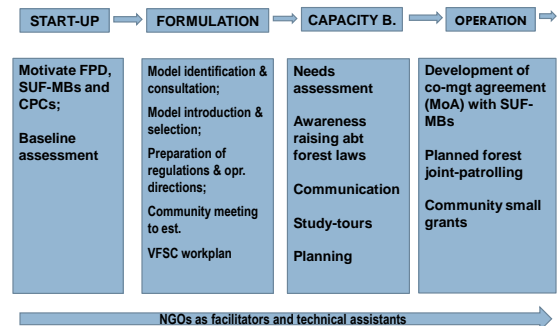
## DEMONSTRATIONS OF SUF CO-MANAGEMENT IN NGOC SON NGO-LUONG NATURE RESERVE

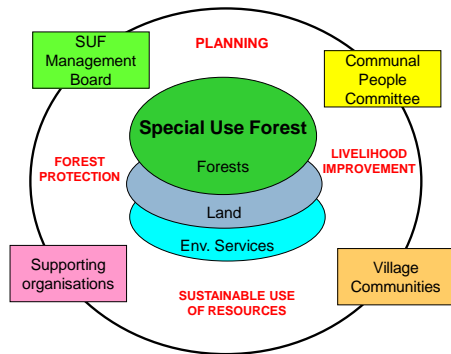
- NS-NL as a pilot site of the project "**Participation of grassroot conservation organisations in special use forests protection and management**" funded by EU and Ford Foundation, being implemented by FFI and PanNature in Hoa Binh, Yen Bai and Son La (2010-2012);
- Different forms of co-management being tested at district/inter-communal, communal and village-levels at 03 piloted PAs
- In NS-NL, Village Forestry Self-management Committee demonstrated in 05 villages

## DEMONSTRATIONS OF SUF CO-MANAGEMENT IN NGOC SON NGO-LUONG NATURE RESERVE

SUFs	District or inter-communal	Communal level	Village level
Khau Ca, Ha Giang		Consultation Team	
Mu Cang Chai, Yen Bai	Forest Protection Council	Collaboration Team	
N.Son Ngo Luong Hoa Binh	Consultation & Monitoring Council		Forestry Self-management Committee
Hang Kia – Pa Co, Hoa Binh		Community Development Committee	

## Developing Village Forestry Self-management Committees in Ngoc Son-Ngo Luong Nature Reserve





### SOME INITIAL LESSONS LEARNT

- SUF co-management as a continuous process rather than a fixed model;
- Strongly emphasized on human relationships among actors
- How to address power and resources imbalances among stakeholders;
- Collaboration and management capacity as key;
- Facilitative leadership is significant;
- Co-management models and working mechanisms should be determined by local actors;
- Skills to assist building-up a representative organization for village communities;
- SUF co-management and support to community development;
- Perspectives of legal reform/improvement;
- ....