

RESOURCE MATERIAL* **ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, FOREST AND REDD**

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* *This Resource Material serves to aid the researcher in terms of data collection and pointers for analysis. The information provided were generated through on line sources and presented in their 'raw form' which means these were not processed or analyzed. This is also a work-in-progress thus, this could be further enriched and substantiated by both the researcher and the Research Desk of Tebtebba. In addition, the resource material may not form part of the output of the researcher.*

Project Country: Vietnam

Vietnam is one of the top five countries most impacted by climate change. It is one among the fourteen states to have been selected as the first developing country members of an innovative partnership and international financing mechanism to combat tropical deforestation and climate change.¹

Vietnam's area of actual forest cover declined from 14 mil. has in 1943 (42% of the land area) to 9.2 million hectares in 1990 (28%). This implies that deforestation occurred at a rate of 110,000 hectares per annum. Furthermore, a vast area of primary forests has been converted to secondary forests with few remaining valuable species and low timber volume. Accordingly, a recent report shows that Vietnam lost 51% of its remaining primary forests, ranked second worst in the world between 2000 and 2005. (Environmental Investigation Agency and Telapak, 2008). Vietnam is second to Nigeria who has the worst deforestation rate of primary forests, 2000-2005 in the world with 54.5%²

The reports of the second and third Cycles of the NFIMAP indicate that the quality and biodiversity of natural forests have been continuously deteriorating in many places (See Annex 1). Even as the forest cover increased in recent years, the degradation in natural forests has remained a serious concern. Vietnam suffers from the “empty forest” syndrome. Between the period from 1999 to 2005 the area of natural forest classified as rich forest decreased by 10.2%, and medium forest reduced by 13.4%. Meanwhile, plantation forest area increased by 50.8% (R-PIN).

On Drivers of Deforestation

Much of Vietnam's forest clearing results from commercial agriculture and subsistence activities, notably small-scale agriculture and fuel wood collection. Vietnam has built a dynamic wood processing industry. In 2007, exports of furniture reached US\$ 2.4 billion in value, a stunning ten-fold increase since 2000, making wood products Vietnam's fifth largest export earner. Vietnam currently exports 4 times more processed timber products by volume than it officially

1 [Government of Socialist Republic of Vietnam, et.al. Revised Standard Joint Policy Document. Available on line at: http://www.un-redd.org/Portals/15/documents/events/20090309Panama/Documents/UN-REDD%20Vietnam%20NJPD.pdf](http://www.un-redd.org/Portals/15/documents/events/20090309Panama/Documents/UN-REDD%20Vietnam%20NJPD.pdf). Accessed September 19, 2009

2 [Rhett Butler. World deforestation rates and forest cover statistics, 2000-2005. New deforestation figures show Nigeria has worst rate of forest loss . Available at: http://news.mongabay.com/2005/1115-forests.html](http://news.mongabay.com/2005/1115-forests.html). Accessed September 19, 2009

harvests from its own forests. This is placing enormous pressure on forests, not just on Vietnam's few remaining natural forest areas, but also on forests all over the Asia Pacific region, and indeed, the world (R-PIN).

Government efforts on reforestation

The government has tried to stem forest loss by promoting a massive reforestation project which was initiated in 1986. Since 1990, the area covered by plantations has expanded from 967,000 hectares to more than 2.7 million hectares. Mining, in addition to national demand on electricity and expansion of road networks,³ is also a threat to Vietnam's forest, but on a much smaller scale. In addition, Mongabay reports that agricultural fires can spread into forest areas during particularly dry years, especially under el Niño conditions.

The R-PIN provides that there is weak forest law enforcement in Vietnam. This is actually seen as the main challenge in the implementation of REDD as mitigation of Climate Change. The area of primary forests continues to decline despite the tight restrictions on logging in natural forests in 1997. Furthermore, forest violations have numbered 30,000 - 50,000 per annum in recent years, very few of which are ever investigated and only a tiny proportion of which result in criminal prosecution. (R-PIN)

Vietnam and Climate Change

Vietnam ratified the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol (KP) on Nov. 16, 1994 and Sept. 25, 2002 respectively and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Viet Nam (MONRE) was assigned as the national authority for implementation of the UNFCCC & KP, and National Focal Agency for CDM. Meanwhile the International Cooperation Department (ICD) of MONRE was designated as a Clean Development Mechanism National Authority (CNA) in Viet Nam in March 2003. It plays functions as the Designated National Authority (DNA) for CDM in the country. Further, the CDM National Executive & Consultative Board (CNECB) was established in April 2003, chaired by the Director General of the International Cooperation Department. CNECB' roles include 1) Providing consultation to MONRE on policies, 2) related to development, implementation, 3) management of CDM activities in the country and 4) Providing consultation on guidance and Assessment for CDM projects in Viet Nam under the Kyoto Protocol and UNFCCC.⁴

Status of REDD in Vietnam

Aside from the CDM, Vietnam is also one of the nine countries identified for country programming under UN-REDD programme, and also one of the countries which was identified as a REDD country under the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. According to the Ministry of Antural resources and Environment, Vietnam is also a recipient of the REDD-

³ R-PIN

⁴ Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. *CDM Implementation in Vietnam and Opportunity for Investment*. presented during the The Kyoto Mechanism - Japan Carbon Investors Forum. Tokyo, Japan. 24 March 2005

ALERT project of World Agroforestry Centre.⁵ This project was launched in Bogor, Indonesia in May 2009 and it aims reduce greenhouse gas emissions through addressing deforestation in tropical areas by understanding socio-economic drivers and impacts, and providing policy options for emissions reduction. It also seeks to better understand the socio-economic drivers and impacts of deforestation and provide policy options for emissions reduction.⁶

As such, and in recognition of the negative consequences of forest resources depletion, the Government of Vietnam issued a series of policies and programs to protect remaining forests and restore deforested areas. These include the Five Million Hectares Reforestation Program from 1998-2010 (Program 661). Under the 5 million hectare reforestation project some local communities have been awarded forest protection contracts for natural forest areas. Likewise, the Government and multi-lateral and bilateral donors are funding various supporting programs and projects intended to have direct and indirect effects on deforestation and degradation, including a national assessment of forest law enforcement and governance now underway, which is expected to be translated into a Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) action plan during 2008.

Among the recipient of the five million hectare reforestation, how many percent are IPs?
What is the participation of the IPs in the project? How is the FLEG being implemented?
How is the FLEG implementation affecting the forest dwelling communities?
How many hectares of forest is enrolled under the UN-REDD?
About how many IP groups are affected in REDD areas?
Aside form the UN-REDD, are there other REDD projects in Vietnam?
Who are the actors/implementors and who are affected?

The Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) of Vietnam has been submitted to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility in March 2008.

The total budget for the readiness phase is 3.9 million USD. The Participant Agreement with the FPCF has been signed already. A joint mission of the FPCF with the UN-REDD has already been done. Vietnam established its National REDD Working Group and it has elaborated a National REDD Strategy. Aside from all these, it has also elaborated a document on regional approaches to REDD. Vietnam is expected to receive USD 4.3847 M from the UN-REDD Programme (Tauli-Corpuz, 2009).

5 Other focal areas for the project are Indonesia, Cameroon, and Peru which are the main areas of tropical forest land use change in the world today . REDD-ALERT builds on the ongoing work of the Alternatives to Slash and Burn (ASB) Partnership for the Tropical Forest Margins, which has been focusing since 1994 on local and global causes and consequences of deforestation by small-scale farmers. The project will also bring in partners with experience in international climate policy analysis, deforestation drivers, greenhouse gas flux measurement and human-environment modeling. (WAC)

6 World Agroforestry Centre. *REDD-Alert project launched*. Available on line: <http://www.worldagroforestry.org/af/newsroom?q=node/320>. Accessed September 23, 2009

Government Policies and programs

In the R-PIN, Vietnam identified the Forest Inventory and Planning Institute (FIPI) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) as the lead national institution in resources assessment and monitoring in Vietnam and is also the primary agency of the Government for administration, management and development of the forestry sector. The Institute is responsible for conducting the National Forest Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment Program (NFIMAP) which is being done every 5 years.

The Forestry Department of the MARD on the other hand, is in charge of Vietnam's forest laws enforcement. Aside from these offices, other agencies play important roles including a recently created Environmental Police Force under the Ministry of Public Security (MPS), which works with local police forces and other agencies to investigate and prosecute environmental crimes, soon to include illegal logging and wildlife trade; the National Ministry of Defense, responsible for preventing deforestation in border areas and often called in to support protection elsewhere; the General Department of Customs, responsible for enforcing the law on imports and exports of timber and forest products; and the Ministry of Justice and the Supreme People's democracy of Vietnam. The Joint Circular No. 144 dated 6th December 2002 sets out a framework for coordination between enforcement agencies (MARD, MPS and Ministry of Defense) to address forest violations (R-PIN).

Italized part of the paragraph below is copied verbatim and should be analyzed/explained further or validated

UN-REDD programme for Viet Nam seeks to do capacity building at two levels. *“Firstly (Outcome 1), it will build capacity at the national level to permit the GoV, and especially the REDD focal point (i.e., MARD/DoF) to coordinate and manage the process of establishing tools to implement a REDD programme that provides an effective, transparent and equitable system of demonstrating real and measurable reductions in emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and transferring international payments for carbon conservation to local stakeholders in relation to performance standards. Secondly (Outcome 2), it will build capacity at the local level (including provincial, district and commune) through pilots in two districts in Lam Dong province that demonstrate effective approaches to planning and implementing measures to reduce emissions, including participatory monitoring of C-stocks, and ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits.”* (Vietnam Final Draft UN-REDD National Joint Programme)

The government of Vietnam has identified some policies or programs that play a role in the REDD strategy and these are (copied verbatim from the R-PIN):

- *The Forest Livelihoods in the Central Highlands (FLITCH) program aims to improve livelihoods of forest dependent ethnic minorities in the Tay Nguyen.*
- *Program 2740 “Natural Forest Allocation and Leasing” (2007-2010) will allocate and lease forest and forest land to entities including households, cooperatives and businesses. It aims to have 12 million ha of natural forest allocated by 2010.*

• *Program 2945 “Support to sustainable agriculture and forestry development in the uplands” (2008-2012) will assist upland communities to intensify agriculture and thereby reduce the cultivated land area, leaving less fertile land for forest restoration and reducing pressure for forest conversion.*

• *The national biogas program aims to provide substitutes for fuel wood from forests.*

• *Policy on Payment for Environmental Services (PES): This policy aims to create an incentive framework for local people’s active participation in forest development and protection through innovative funding mechanisms for sustainable forest management. This policy may be closely coordinated with policy on REDD*

How were Indigenous peoples affected by these programs?
Or how did Ips benefits form these government initiatives?

In Addition with these, other laws and policies in Vietnam are relevant to the implementation of the REDD program in the country. The Land Law of 2003 stipulates that the land belongs to the entire people with the State as the representative. While this is the main provision, it also provides that the States has the right to dispose state lands according to different criteria, Likewise, it has the sole right to regulate source of income from land through financial policies on land (Law on Land, Article 5: 1, 2 and 3).⁷

Vietnam has been working in its forest rehabilitation programs through the help of the United Nations World Food (PAM) Program. Some of its programs are the following: **(Please take note that the following 5 paragraphs are copied VERBATIM)**

1. *PAM Programs (1976-2000) – this started in 1975 that focused on forestry, irrigation and primary health care. Forestry project under the program started in 2000. the forestry projects provided funds for food supply, equipment and materials for 450,000 has of forest plantation, construction of forest roads, organization of fire protection teams and improvement of forest extension services. According to the government of Vietnam, the project created jobs, improvement of livelihood and gender equality among others.*
2. *Program 327 (1993-1998)- the program was focused on re-greening barren land and hills, including protection of existing forest areas, natural regeneration and forest plantations. In 1994, the program was amended and shifted its focus mainly to forest protection in critical areas, and areas where slash and burn cultivation persisted, mostly in the Northern and Central Highlands.*⁸

7 *Law on Land.* Available at: <http://www.vietnamlaws.com/freelaws/Lw13na26Nov03Land%5BX2865%5D.pdf>. Accessed September 20, 2009

8 Do Dinh Sam, Trieu Van Hung, Pham Ngoc Mau, De Jong Wil. Rehabilitation Policies and Programs. Available at: http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/rehab/_ref/countries/Vietnam/report/policy_program.htm. Accessed September 21,

The program emphasized activities like promoting fixed cultivation and settlements, and on greening barren land and hills in mountainous and midland areas. From 1996 to 1998 the scope of this program was again narrowed down to protection and establishing new plantations in special use forest lands, protection of forest through natural regeneration, and forest plantation. (Ibid.)

- 3. Five Million Hectare Reforestation Program (1998 – 2010)- this program was born out of the adjusted objectives of the 327 program and this focused on focused on the forestry sector in the last years of its duration. The emphasis was put on protection forest and special use forest land and included protection, regeneration, and afforestation activities. The shifting focus of program 327 led to the formulation of the Five Million Hectare Reforestation Program (5MHRP). The 5MHRP was approved by the Parliament in 1997 and by the Prime Minister with Decision No. 661/QĐ – TT dated July 29 1998. The 5MHRP will be carried out from 1998 to 2010 and aims to increase nation-wide forest coverage up to 43% of the total land cover. For that reason many rehabilitation projects are referred to as Decision 661 projects. (Ibid.)*

A major part of the 5MHRP activities concentrated international cooperation in forestry. Some 21 donors committed themselves with MARD to support the plantation of five million ha of forests. In recent years, 45 projects from PAM, UNDP, FAO programs and from the Government of Sweden, Germany, Japan, Holland, Finland and non government organizations such as WWF, CARE, and OXFAM were and are being implemented. Loans from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and Japan Bank for International Development Co-operation are being assigned to projects under the 5MHRP program. (Ibid.)

At present, Trust Fund for Forest (under MARD) has funded a national pilot project for community forestry called the Community Based Forest Management is currently being conducted in forty communes in ten provinces, including several provinces in the Tay Nguyen that are potential focus areas for REDD. This project also aims to road test guidelines for community forestry drawn up in 2006 by a national working group under MARD.(R-PIN)

Describe the process of the CBFM project. Who are involved?
How is the FPIC of the people sought?
How is the CBFM project affecting land tenure or forest resource management of the IPS?

Another initiative of the government is the Afforestation and Reforestation CDM project in Boa Hinh Province which has been recently accepted as a LULUCF (Land Use Land Use Change and Forestry) CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) project by the UNFCCC. This project was visited by 2 Tebtebba personnel (project and assistant project coordinator) in a recent field trip which was organized by the Government of Vietnam. The people who are benefiting from this project are ethnic minorities or indigenous peoples called Mang. This is relevant to REDD because afforestation and reforestation are now included in REDD plus and the ongoing debate at the UNFCCC negotiations is whether REDD should be included under LULUCF or it will just

be part of the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA).

As of 2008, there has been no specific external technical assistance formally offered for the establishment of REDD mechanisms in Vietnam yet.

Indigenous Peoples and REDD

Indigenous or ethnic minority peoples account for about 10% of Vietnam's population, or approximately 8 million people, 54 ethnic groups divided into dozens of subgroups some with a mere hundred or so members, giving Vietnam the richest and most complex ethnic make-up in the whole of southeast Asia.⁹ About 90% of these communities inhabit rural areas and most highlanders traditionally practice swidden farming, clearing patches of forest land, farming the burnt-over fields for a few years and then leaving it fallow for a specified period while it recovers its fertility.¹⁰ However, natural forests have largely been retained under the tenure and management of local government agencies.¹¹

Vietnam has frequently change the name, powers and functions of the Committee dealing with the ethnic minorities since 1993. Finally in 2008, the Committee for Ethnic Minorities was established through the Decree No. 60/2008. The decree stipulates that the committee is a ministerial level agency under the Government mandated to perform functions of state management on ethnic minority affairs nationwide, and on public services within its authorities as prescribed by the law. The functions of the Committee ranges from *development of laws to implementation of the programmes, their monitoring and acting as inter-agency of different ministries of Vietnam and liaisoning with international agencies.*¹²

What is the Committee for Ethnic Minorities' role in the REDD implementation?
What is it doing to address CERD comments on the recognition of IP rights?

According to Asian Indigenous Tribal Peoples network (AITPN), the need to frequently change the name, powers and functions of the Committee dealing with the ethnic minorities exposes the failure of the Committee for Ethnic Minorities. The the government of Vietnam regularly provides more mandate to the CEM but a mere Ministerial-level committee like the "Committee for Ethnic Minorities" is totally insufficient and inadequate to protect the interests of the ethnic minorities against the onslaught of the majority Kinh.¹³

9 Vets with A Mission. *Vietnam's Ethnic minorities*. Available from:

<http://www.vwam.com/vets/tribes/ethnicminorities.html>. Accessed September 19, 2009

10 Off road Vietnam. *54 Ethnic people of Vietnam*. Available from: <http://www.offroadvietnam.com/eng/13-45.php>. Accessed September 20, 2009

11 Tracy Johns and Evan Johnson. 2009. *An Overview of readiness for REDD: A compilation of readiness activities prepared on behalf of the forum on readiness for REDD. Available on line at: http://www.whrc.org/Policy/REDD/Reports/AnOverviewofReadinessforREDD_V1.2.pdf*. Accessed on September 8, 2009

12 Asian Indigenous Tribal Peoples' Network. *The Government Committee is Not Enough: CEMA of Vietnam*. Available at: http://www.aitpn.org/IRQ/Vol-III/issue_4/story06.html. Accessed September 21, 2009

13 Ibid.

According to the R-PIN, “*The Central Highlands (Tay Nguyen) and upland areas of the North Central provinces will be the focus of a future REDD program. These areas are home to a large proportion of Vietnam’s ethnic minority communities. These communities have strong cultural associations with forest areas and depend on them for their livelihoods to a greater extent than the majority Kinh community, as sources of food, fuel, construction and agricultural implements.*” (R-PIN).

Furthermore, the Central Highlands is a key area for watershed protection and biodiversity conservation in Vietnam but reports have it that deforestation and forest degradation have been severest in the Central Highlands, the eastern part of the southern region and the Central coastal provinces. (R-PIN)

The document adds that forest land allocation to local people has been proceeding since the late 1980s but most of the land allocated has been bare or degraded land subsequently converted to plantation forests. Natural forests have largely been retained under the tenure and management of local government agencies. Under the 5 million hectare reforestation project some local communities have been awarded forest protection contracts for natural forest areas.(Ibid.)

The R-Pin says that the Vietnam government sees the implementation of the pilot community based forest management in ten provinces nationally will result in greater involvement of local communities in natural forest management and decentralization of tenure.

What is the status of implementation of the CBFM?
Has this benefited the IP communities so far? How or in what way?
What are community or traditional forest management activities do the IP communities do to maintain and protect their forest?
Have there been community consultations undertaken by MARD or the CCWG to inform and seek consent for the REDD project implementation?
How do the communities perceive the project?

According to an external review of the REDD program in Vietnam however, it is still notable that the R-PIN highlights ‘slash and burn agriculture’ and the collection of fuel wood as the primary drivers to deforestation.¹⁴ In relation to land tenure, the Vietnam government recognizes that it needs to clarify and strengthen land tenure arrangements though explanation about what this means in practice is not provided in the RPIN.¹⁵

Meanwhile, the R-PIN claims that a Climate Change Working Group under the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organisations (VUFO) has been established. It has also assured participation of the provincial forest sector consultation groups will be expanded to include private forest

14 Kate Dooley, Tom Griffiths, Helen Leake, Saskia Ozinga. *Cutting Corners, World Bank’s forest and carbon fund fails forests and peoples*. Available on line at: http://www.fern.org/media/documents/document_4312_4313.pdf.

Accessed September 8, 2009

15 *ibid*.

management enterprises, forestry academic institutions and locally-prominent environmental NGOs for the discussion of project implementation under FPCF.

Likewise, the R-PIN acknowledged that the National Committee on Ethnic Minorities will be important in ensuring that the interests of these groups are represented in consultations for the design and implementation of a REDD program. It has been expressed in the document that the ongoing process of forest allocation to communities involves participatory planning at village, commune and district levels. REDD implementation will become a central part of all community forest management strategies. Thus, the R-PIN stated that all processes will be done in a participatory manner and activities for REDD programs will be discussed as part of the general planning for REDD implementation in community forests (R-PIN).

What is being done in the community level to ensure that the participatory mechanisms are observed?

The REDD Program Monitoring and Implementation

The R-PIN Provides a step -by-step explanation on how the forest cover and land use change is being monitored, the constraints in the said monitoring and how it envisions the monitoring of the REDD program. (see Annex) However, critics note that the existing systems used for monitoring forest cover are too infrequent and inaccurate to be applied to the REDD schemes they propose and large funding requests are made to develop monitoring systems.¹⁶

In the article *Cutting Corners, World Bank's forest and carbon fund fails forests and people*,¹⁷ the authors summarized and commented on the R-PIN of Vietnam as follows:

Categories	Summary and Comments
Human Rights	No mention of human rights nor reference to indigenous peoples, although ethnic minorities mentioned
Land and tenure	The R-PIN notes that allocation of tenure to rural and ethnic minorities must be accelerated, however only in 2006 did allocation of tenure over forested lands begin. The R-PIN notes that ethnic minorities "have clear historical and de facto tenure over forest lands" Lack of tenure is highlighted as a contributing cause of deforestation – tenure allocation programmes lack money.
FPIC	Although the REDD programme will focus on the central highlands and north central provinces where the population is overwhelmingly minority groups, there has been no consultation

16 Kate Dooley, Tom Griffiths, Helen Leake, Saskia Ozinga. *Cutting Corners, World Bank's forest and carbon fund fails forests and peoples*. Available on line at: http://www.fern.org/media/documents/document_4312_4313.pdf. Accessed September 8, 2009

17 Ibid.

	<p>held in these areas or with any other section of the public.</p> <p>Some prior consultations on forest policy are mentioned, but participant groups are not indicated, and it is not clear that this related to the R-PIN and REDD.</p> <p>‘Existing government infrastructure’ will be used to make sure voices are heard’.</p> <p>For the prep of the REDD Plan a consultation process will be established (including only central government bodies).</p>
Governance: Issues Addressed	<p>Management of REDD will take place under a Steering Committee for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation under the MARD.</p> <p>Lack of enforcement capacity is emphasized. Lack of (and a need for) robust independent monitoring</p>
Underlying drivers Who is blamed for deforestation?	<p>Commercial timber industry "Vietnam currently exports 4 times more processed timber products by volume than it officially harvests from its own forests"</p> <p>Conversion to cash cropping Poor people, especially ethnic minorities, clearing the forest for cropping, exacerbated by a lack of legal tenure.</p> <p>Infrastructure development for economic gain, including electrical generation. [forest cover in Vietnam is actually increasing due to massive increase in plantation forests of low quality cover]</p>
Risk analysis Are potential environment/social risks addressed	<p>None</p> <p>Only a brief discussion of local benefits</p>
Benefit sharing + Monitoring and verification	<p>The R-PIN states that "REDD will directly contribute to Vietnam’s obligations under the UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD and to the economic development of remote, upland and ethnic minority areas"</p> <p>The R-PIN also notes that the payment system would require a robust independent monitoring system to ensure payments are made correctly.</p>

	<p>Existing monitoring systems are fragmented across government departments.</p> <p>Future monitoring is planned to be done by local community groups to feed into national statistics (to be audited by a national REDD group) once land tenure allocation to minorities has occurred.</p> <p>The monitoring system should also receive payments for their services.</p>
Financing mechanism	<p>The national REDD strategy will be opened up to sub-project developers to bid for inclusion.</p> <p>The REDD strategy aims to channel payments to three groups " forest-dependent rural communities, natural forest management boards and local forest protection enforcement agencies"</p> <p>Disbursement of payments to communities will be linked to inventory work and REDD success.</p> <p>All payments appear to be directed towards officially recognized groups (government bodies) including down to the community level.</p>

Given the comments above, have there been efforts of the national government to resolve the issues? If so, what are these and what are the implications of these to IPs?

REDD state-of-the-art in Vietnam

As of March 9, 2009, the budget allocation for the Viet Nam UN-REDD programme was approved by the UN-REDD Policy Board. Since then, the following activities have been undertaken:

1. *Approval of "Detailed Project Outline" (DPO) and signature of JP document: July-August*

The DPO was reviewed by various agencies under the direction of the Ministry of Planning and Investment and submitted to the Office of Government for approval in July. The Prime Minister approved the DPO on July 21st and assigned MARD to assess

whether the DPO adequately responded to the needs of the country. MARD completed this assessment on July 31st, with the approval of the DPO, and asked its own International Cooperation Department to confirm that there were no inconsistencies between the DPO and the JPD. Meanwhile, the Minister of MARD, Cao Duc Phat and UN Resident Coordinator, John Hendra on an interim basis on August 6th. Following confirmation that the DPO and JPD were consistent, Minister Phat signed the DPO on August 27th, allowing the three participating UN agencies to sign the JPD. FAO signed on August 28th, and UNDP on August 31st.

2. Recruitment of PMU staff: August-September

The NPD will be appointed by MARD. UNDP is recruiting a National Technical Advisor, Senior Technical Advisor (international), Programme Manager, Accountant, and Secretary/Interpreter. The successful candidates for all positions except Senior Technical Advisor have been identified, and they will take up their positions by early October. Candidates for the Senior Technical Advisor position have been short-listed.

3. Inception workshop: September

The UN-REDD Inception Workshop is scheduled for September 15-17. The first day will consist of an internal session to ensure that PMU staff are fully familiar with both the programme itself, and the policies and procedures to be followed during implementation. The second day is an open session for stakeholders, during which PMU staff will present the programme for comment and analysis. The third day will also be an open session for more detailed planning, focusing on deadlines, budgeting and resources, and reviewing indicator targets.

4. Initial activities: August-September

Pending approval of the DPO and signature of the JPD, UNDP and DoF agreed to commence activities for some critical Outputs (1.1, 1.3, 1.4, and 2.3), using funds advanced from UNDP core resources. A National REDD Network (Output 1.1) has been initiated, and is expected to be formalized through a decision of the Minister of MARD imminently. The Network has met twice and begun to develop a revised REDD Roadmap for Viet Nam.

A team of experts is being brought together to analyze the needs and constraints to the creation of a REDD-complaint payment distribution system for Viet Nam (Outputs 1.4 and 2.3). Their analyses and recommendations for action are expected to be presented to the government in time for the conclusions to be presented at CoP15.

Applications for a consultancy to develop a framework National REDD Programme for Viet Nam have been assessed, and it is expected that the consultant will begin work shortly.

5. *Lessons for UN-REDD JP processing*

a) *Internal government approval processes are often lengthy, so opportunities to shorten the process through parallel processing of documents need to be explored.*

b) *As Viet Nam was the first UN-REDD programme country to approach project signature, detailed discussions concerning principles and practices of implementation had not previously been discussed. This impacted the speed at which the Viet Nam documents could be processed; other countries will benefit from these discussions having taken place in the context of Viet Nam.*

c) *The rapidly evolving REDD international negotiation and policy environment, and the desire of many development partners to support REDD readiness makes it very difficult for the JP document to remain up-to-date. At some point, an acceptance that new developments will not be reflected in the document, but can be addressed during the inception workshop needs to be reached.*

Note: this has been copied from: <http://www.un-redd.org>.¹⁸ and should be further analyzed and should be appended as is.

In all the above mentioned processes, how is the participation of IPs in these?

Future of REDD in Vietnam¹⁹

“There is another twist in the story for Vietnam should it seek compensation via a REDD scheme for regrowing its forests. While the country has seen a dramatic recovery in net forest cover, its primary cover has been dramatically reduced. According to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization Vietnam lost a staggering 78 percent of its old-growth forests between 1990 and 2005. Given that old-growth forests store more carbon than plantations and regenerating secondary forests, the emissions resulting from the transition from old to new forests have been substantial. This raises another question: should logging of old-growth forests in Vietnam continue — whether legal or illegal — will emissions from this degradation be figured into a REDD compensation scheme?”

Annex 1

Where do forest deforestation and forest degradation occur in your country, and how extensive are they?

According to the reports of the second and third Cycles of NFIMAP, deforestation and forest degradation have been severest in the Central Highlands, the eastern part of the

¹⁸ UN REDD Programme. Available at: <http://www.un-redd.org>. Accessed September 19, 2009

¹⁹ Vietnam outsources deforestation to neighboring countries. Available at: <http://www.illegal-logging.info/index.php>. Accessed September 19, 2009

southern region and the Central coastal provinces. The pattern of deforestation in different regions during the period 2000-2005 was as follows:

6. The Central Highlands is a key area for watershed protection and biodiversity conservation in Vietnam. The net change of forest area in the region was - 118,984 ha, equivalent to 4% of forest area in 2000. However, the changes in forest area were very different between forest types. Notably, 364,614 ha of evergreen broadleaved forests, mixed deciduous forests, coniferous forests and mixed coniferous and broadleaved forests were cleared. In other words, 18.1% areas of these forest types disappeared during the 5-year period. FIPI reported that this figure underestimates actual forest losses because forest data for 2005 was extracted from satellite images acquired in previous years. In addition, during the same period of time, the total timber volume in the region reduced from $317,794,000 \text{ m}^3$ to $288,559,000 \text{ m}^3$.

The eastern part of the Southern region experienced the most rapid rate of deforestation in the country losing 86,872 ha or 8.6% of its natural forest cover. About 110,758 ha of evergreen broadleaved forests, mixed deciduous forests, coniferous forests and mixed coniferous and broadleaved forests in this region were cut. This implies that 18.6% areas of these forest types were destroyed during the period 2000-2005. A report from the FPD shows that in only the first three months of 2008 about 200 ha of natural forests was lost from one district of Binh Phuoc Province.

- North West and North East Vietnam have lost most of their lowland forest and have much reduced and highly fragmented forest cover in mountainous areas. NFIMAP's reports show that the evergreen broadleaved forests in this region have been severely degraded and the timber volume per unit area was lower than forests in other regions. In 2005, the timber volume of the poor evergreen broadleaved forest was only $20.8 \text{ m}^3/\text{ha}$ compared to $135 \text{ m}^3/\text{ha}$ in the Central Coastal region;
- The North Central and South Central Coast regions have lost most of their lowland forest, but still retain a significant block of forest in mountainous areas; deforestation here was 50,207 ha or 2.5%.

Annex 2

REDD strategy monitoring and implementation

a) How is forest cover and land use change monitored today, and by whom? (e.g., forest inventory, mapping, remote sensing analysis, etc.):

The FPD of 2004 mandates that the National Forest Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment Program (NFIMAP) must be conducted every 5 years by MARD. As mentioned above, the forest cover changes are primarily monitored by FIPI and the results are reported to MARD under the supervision of the DOF (see Sections 2a, 3a and 3c above). The FPD and its branch offices at provincial and district levels are in charge of preparing annual monitoring reports on new forest plantations and forest loss, using FIPI's data as a baseline. These are compiled by FPD into annual national forest cover statistics. As of December 2007, FPD has about 11,000 officers and forest rangers down to commune level. The NFIMAP is conducted every five years and is correlated with a combination of remotely sensed imagery and field surveys to make forest cover maps for the entire country. To date, FIPI has completed three Cycles of NFIMAP (1991-1995, 1996-2000 and 2001-2005) and is currently conducting the fourth Cycle (2006-2010). Each cycle has used progressively more advanced satellite imagery. Cycle 1 (1991-1995) used 30m x 30m resolution Landsat TM imagery to make forest cover maps at scale of 1:250,000, Cycle 2 (1996-2000) used 20m x 20m resolution Spot imagery to establish forest cover maps at 1:100,000 and Cycle 3 (2001-2005) used Landsat ETM to produce forest cover maps at 1:100,000. Cycle 4 is using Spot 5 imagery with a resolution of 2.5m x 2.5m to create forest cover maps up to 1:25,000.

The remote sensing data from this program is supplemented by detailed forest inventories, carried out by FIPI, in permanent plots covering all forest types and species associations occurring throughout the country. This system consists of 4,200 permanent sample plots which are systematically distributed within a grid of 8 km x 8 km. Each sample plot has an area of 100 ha (1km x 1km) and a large number of indicators are measured and collected; for example, forest type, forest tree composition, diameter at the breast height (dbh) and height of forest tree species, status of regeneration, forest insects and diseases, wildlife, soil and socioeconomic conditions, etc. The NFIMAP is an independent program. Furthermore, 100 permanent sample plots are randomly distributed in major forest ecosystems of Vietnam to study their dynamics over time and space.

The General Forest Inventory Programs were also conducted in 1992 and 1997 to produce a second forest data source. These inventories were under the supervision of local government but contracted out to regional offices of FIPI. No inventories have been carried out under this program since 1997.

MONRE is responsible for the compilation of full and detailed land use changes statistics. They rely primarily on satellite imagery for the national land use inventory and use this to update provincial land use classification every 5 years. However, provincial and district authorities themselves are held accountable for land classification in their respective jurisdictions, including the total area classified as forest land.

Source: R-PIN

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10. The Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) of Vietnam

BASELINE INFORMATION REPORT²⁰

Project Country: VIETNAM

Vietnam is one of the nine countries identified for country programming under UN-REDD programme, and also one of the countries which was identified as a REDD country under the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.²¹

REDD-related Situation:

Vietnam's area of actual forest cover declined from 14 mil. has in 1943 (42% of the land area) to 9.2 million hectares in 1990 (28%). This implies that deforestation occurred at a rate of 110,000 hectares per annum. Furthermore, a vast area of primary forests has been converted to secondary forests with few remaining valuable species and low timber volume. Accordingly, a recent report shows that Vietnam lost 51% of its remaining primary forests, ranked second worst in the world between 2000 and 2005. (Environmental Investigation Agency and Telapak, 2008)

Much of Vietnam's forest clearing results from commercial agriculture and subsistence activities, notably small-scale agriculture and fuelwood collection. The government has tried to stem forest loss by promoting a massive reforestation project which was initiated in 1986. Since 1990, the area covered by plantations has expanded from 967,000 hectares to more than 2.7 million hectares. Mining is also a threat to Vietnam's forest, but on a much smaller scale. In addition, agricultural fires can spread into forest areas during particularly dry years, especially under el Niño conditions.²²

Indigenous or ethnic minority peoples account for about 10% of Vietnam's population, or approximately 8 million people. About 90% of these communities inhabit rural areas. Natural forests have largely been retained under the tenure and management of local government agencies.²³

In recognition of the negative consequences of forest resources depletion, the Government of Vietnam issued a series of policies and programs to protect remaining forests and restore deforested areas. These include the Five Million Hectares Reforestation Program from 1998-

20 Tebtebba, *Ensuring the effective participation of Indigenous Peoples' in global and national REDD processes* (Project Proposal, GLO-4248 GLO 09/750 Contract 2009)

21 <http://www.un-redd.org/Portals/15/documents/events/20090309Panama/Documents/UN-REDD%20Vietnam%20NJPD.pdf>. Accessed July 8, 2009

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2010 (Program 661). Under the 5 million hectare reforestation project some local communities have been awarded forest protection contracts for natural forest areas. Likewise, the Government and multi-lateral and bilateral donors are funding various supporting programs and projects intended to have direct and indirect effects on deforestation and degradation, including a national assessment of forest law enforcement and governance now underway, which is expected to be translated into a Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) action plan during 2008.

The Forest Sector Support Partnership (FSSP) was formed to provide a forum for discussion of forest policies and program and to allow harmonization of government, official development assistance and international NGO supported programs. The FSSP is formally comprised of 26 institutions drawn from various government ministries, donor agencies and NGOs, which form the partnership's governing body under the chairmanship of MARD. The FSSP has established a fund for forest sector donor coordination, the Trust Fund for Forests (TFF). On 22 July 2009, the FSSP, in collaboration with Department of Forestry (MARD) and its partners, held a meeting for the establishment of REDD network in Viet Nam. a multi-partner team to support the development of REDD readiness in the context of efforts by the Government of Vietnam to address Climate Change mitigation and adaptation, as reflected in the National Target Programme on Climate Change Response for the period 2009-2015 (NTP/CCR). The Department of Forestry (DoF) is the focal point within the Government of Viet Nam to oversee the development and implementation of a national REDD programme. The Network is meant to coordinate the activities of Vietnamese agencies and international development partners (including NGOs) in establishing the necessary institutions, policies and processes to allow Viet Nam to participate actively and effectively in programmes of the UNFCCC to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, and to promote conservation, sustainable forest management, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks ("REDD+"). The DoF and the Norwegian Embassy will co-chair the Network for the first cycle. Membership of the REDD Network is open-ended, consisting of representatives of the DoF, the Department of International Cooperation (ICD), Coordination Office of the Forest Sector Support Partnership (FSSP), National Office for the implementation of the UNCCD, other relevant departments and organizations of the Government of Viet Nam, and representatives of relevant bilateral and multilateral development partners and broader stakeholders if possible.²⁴

The Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) of Vietnam has been submitted to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility in March 2008. The total budget for the readiness phase is 3.9 million USD. The Participant Agreement with the FPCF has been signed already. A joint mission of the FPCF with the UN-REDD has already been done. Vietnam established its National REDD Working Group and it has elaborated a National REDD Strategy. Aside from all these, it has also elaborated a document on regional approaches to REDD. Vietnam is expected to receive USD 4.3847 M from the UN-REDD Programme.

In the R-PIN there are references to indigenous peoples or ethnic minorities. This document says, "*The Central Highlands (Tay Nguyen) and upland areas of the North Central provinces*

²⁴Press release: Nguyễn Bích Hằng – Communications Officer, FSSP
Hanoi - On 22 July 2009,

will be the focus of a future REDD program. These areas are home to a large proportion of Vietnam's ethnic minority communities. These communities have strong cultural associations with forest areas and depend on them for their livelihoods to a greater extent than the majority Kinh community, as sources of food, fuel, construction and agricultural implements.” (R-PIN)

UN-REDD programme for Viet Nam seeks to do capacity building at two levels. *“Firstly (Outcome 1), it will build capacity at the national level to permit the GoV, and especially the REDD focal point (i.e., MARD/DoF) to coordinate and manage the process of establishing tools to implement a REDD programme that provides an effective, transparent and equitable system of demonstrating real and measurable reductions in emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and transferring international payments for carbon conservation to local stakeholders in relation to performance standards. Secondly (Outcome 2), it will build capacity at the local level (including provincial, district and commune) through pilots in two districts in Lam Dong province that demonstrate effective approaches to planning and implementing measures to reduce emissions, including participatory monitoring of C-stocks, and ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits.” (Vietnam Final Draft UN-REDD National Joint Programme)*

A national pilot project for community forestry is currently being conducted in 40 communes in ten provinces, including several provinces in the Tay Nguyen that are potential focus areas for REDD. This project is funded through the Trust Fund for Forests (TFF) and is testing guidelines for community forestry drawn up in 2006 by a national working group under Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). MARD expects the current TFF project to result in recommendations for establishing a clear legal framework and benefit sharing system for community forest management.

Another initiative of the government is the Afforestation and Reforestation CDM project in Boa Hinh Province which has been recently accepted as a LULUCF (Land Use Land Use Change and Forestry) CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) project by the UNFCCC. This project was visited by 2 Tebtebba personnel (project and assistant project coordinators) in a recent field trip which was organized by the Government of Vietnam. The people who are benefitting from this project are ethnic minorities or indigenous peoples called Mang. This is relevant to REDD because afforestation and reforestation are now included in REDD plus and the ongoing debate at the UNFCCC negotiations is whether REDD should be included under LULUCF or it will just be part of the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA).

Organization and Expertise. Tebtebba will be working with the *Centre of Research and Development in Upland Area (CERDA)*, the *Centre for Sustainable Development in the Mountains (CSDM)* and the *Center for Promoting Development for Women and Children (DWC)*. The original partner we put in our proposal was CSDM but when we had discussions with them in our coordination meeting with various partners in Chiang Mai, Thailand last July 14-17, 2009,²⁵ the CSDM suggested that we work with the Working Group for Advocacy and Peoples'

²⁵ Tebtebba suggested to the various kindred NGOs which received NORAD funding that a complementation/coordination meeting be held amongst us and this meeting took place in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 14-15 July 2009. The indigenous organizations and NGOs who were present were Tebtebba, Asia

Initiatives (WAPI - the consortium of CSDM, CERDA and DWC) so they can share the work amongst them. CSDM is a non-profit NGO established in 2000 under the Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations (VUSTA). CSDM is based in Hanoi, and has been working for the promotion of forest land rights and re-allocation of forest land for ethnic minority peoples in mountainous areas of Northern Vietnam. Improving capacity for local people in development of agri-forestry and traditional livelihoods, promotion of indigenous knowledge and biodiversity, and sustainable use of forest resources and sustainable agriculture are among their priority work. It initiated legislation and projects in local ethnic minority villages in piloting the development of more resilient livelihood activities to adapt to climate change, in cooperation with the Ha Giang provincial government leaders and agencies towards developing their action plan on climate change adaptation and mitigation. It has a project on empowerment and participation for ethnic minority people in Lang Son Province in cooperation with WAPI, which is composed of CERDA, DWC and CSDM. CERDA was established in 2004 and is doing work with ethnic minorities/indigenous peoples in the Northern mountainous provinces, i.e. Van Binh District, Lao Cai Province, Binh Gia and Lang Son Province. Both CERDA and CSDM are funded by ICCO (Netherlands) and CERDA receives additional funds from Rockefeller Foundation.

The main focal person Tebtebba is linking with is Vu Thu Hien, the Director of CERDA. Her email address is cerdahanoi@hn.vnn.vn. We also will link with Mrs. Luong Thi Truong, the Director of CSDM. Her email address is csdmtruong@hn.vnn.vn or loungthitruong04@yahoo.com.

Indigenous Peoples' Pact (AIPP)/IWGIA, Rainforest Foundation Norway and the Forest Peoples' Programme. The common partner who took part in the Coordination Meeting was AMAN (Indonesia). From 16-17 July the AIPP/IWGIA and Tebtebba also met with their common partners which include NEFIN (Nepal), CSDM (Vietnam), AMAN (Indonesia) and GAPE (Laos – not a Tebtebba partner but an AIPP partner.)