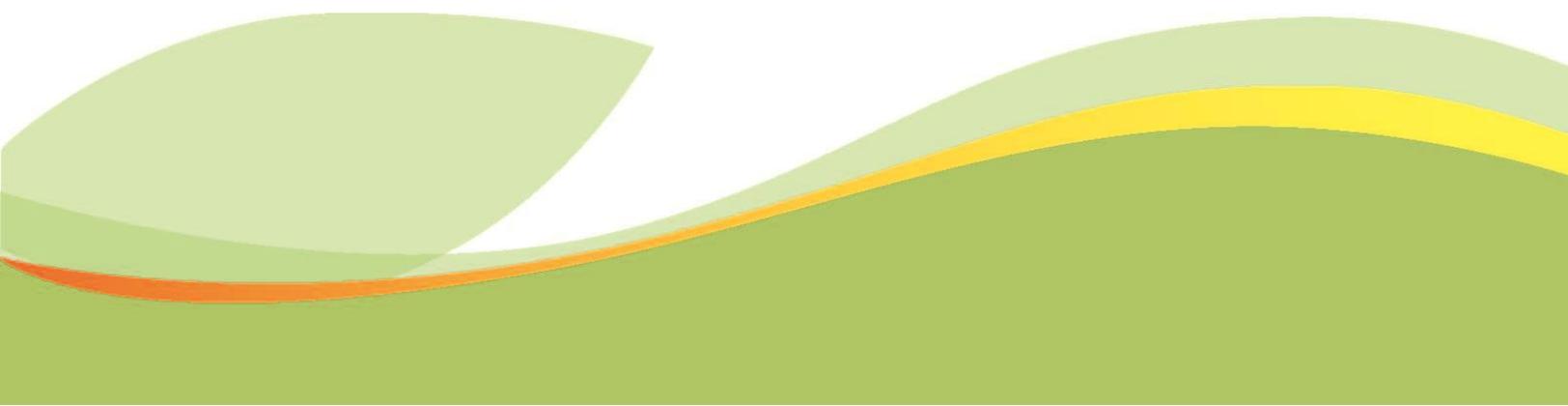




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# A policy analysis on participatory forest management approaches Participation of local population in forest management and biodiversity conservation in Viet Nam: Current challenges and perspectives



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### **On behalf of the**

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## 1. SETTING THE CONTEXT AND ISSUES

For the last decades, since the Forest Protection and Development Law 2004 (FPDL) took in force, Vietnam has made significant efforts with extents to improvement and reform of forestry policies and managerial institutions, creating some remarkable changes in the forest governance systems nationwide. The most considerable achievement that is the process of socializing forestry activities which has transformed from centrally-managed state monopoly to more decentralized management with increasing participation of multi-stakeholders including smallholders, local, communities and private sector as forest owners facilitated by forest and forestry-land allocation, forest and forest environment lease, forest protection and transaction of forest ecosystem services.

Participatory forest management approaches have presented clear changes in perceptions of policy makers and authorities at central and provincial levels, actual progresses and effectiveness that are still quite limited due to political, legal, institutional and financial barriers which have not been resolved by adequate and systematical manners.

Focusing on the people, this report will summarize and analyze current state of laws and policies, their related challenges and shortcomings, priorities and opportunities to improving and enhancing the actual, effective and stable participation of local communities in forest management, protection, usage and development in Vietnam. This discussion plays in the current context that the new Forestry Law being institutionalized for implementation that comes into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019, and referring to existing forest policies and regulations under the FPD 2004, as well as other relevant laws (Land Law 2013, Civil Code 2015, Law on Biodiversity 2008) also being recommended to revise.

Since 1990s, the efforts of promoting and engaging local people in forest management is often placed at village or commune scales, where households, groups of households and village communities are main actors. Interventions given by programs and projects undertaken by the state or non-governmental organizations are mainly focused on transferring part of state responsibility of forest protection from state-owned forest organizations (forest management boards, forestry companies) to local people through contracting mechanisms (forest protection contracts) or allocation of natural forests, accompanied by monetary incentives or/and other supports paid in accordance to state relevant regulations. Field demonstrations and implementations in many provinces across the country on this approach are known as participatory village planning (on forest-land use), community forestry, community forest management, forest co-management / collaborative management or benefit sharing. However, challenges raised from seeking truly effective and sustainable models suggests that, apart from "rhetoric" found in many reports addressing advantages and successes of participation, there is a big gap between state policies, local compliance, and workability in the field. Those evidences reflect that gap include not only the dis-connectivity, disappearance of collective management models shortly after projects ended, but also less support or hesitation given by provincial or district authorities to continue. That situation has contributed to the decline of natural forest in both area and quality that many localities have been experiencing. As a consequence, that political statements usually made up by local leaders requesting local villagers to be engaged in forests protection, ensuring forests with real owners and forestry careers for upland people, etc., has not yet been realized into appropriate policy actions and results.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (2017)<sup>1</sup>, by the end of 2016, Vietnam has 14,377,682 ha of forests, of which natural forests cover about 10,242,000 ha (71.2%) and the rest are planted forests (28.8%). In terms of management settings, in addition to 3,118,952 ha<sup>2</sup> (21.7%) of the forests being temporarily managed by Communal People's Committees (CPCs), about 11.3 million ha have been allocated to different groups of forest owners such as forest management boards (of special use forest, protection forest; 35%), households (20.4%), state forestry enterprises (SFEs, 11.2%), village communities (7.8%<sup>3</sup>) and other organizations and enterprises. As such, households and communities currently manage only more than 28%, the rest of the forests that is still dominated by state organizations (management boards, SFEs, CPCs). This raises concerns about the so-called "tragedy of the common" that natural forests are already suffering from illegal exploitation and encroachment. Overcoming this challenge in the political context as well as the history of natural resource management of Vietnam, participatory approaches need to be reviewed in order to propose changes or provide suggestions of adaptation with respect to laws (on ownership/tenure rights); integrated planning; institutions of management, coordination and implementation; financing and benefit sharing; capacity of monitoring and facilitation; priority considerations of priorities on gender, poverty and ethnic minorities.

## 2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK REVIEW

The Directive No.13<sup>4</sup> of the Party Central Committee's Secretariat Board in 2017 reaffirmed their political views and solutions on "participation" in the country's forest management and protection as indicated by the following points:

- Forest management, protection and development (FMPD) is the responsibility of the whole political system, agencies, organizations, households and individuals; strengthened monitoring given by people, communities, social organization and public media for FMPD;
- Promoted socialization/social engagement with mechanisms and incentives to facilitate people and economic sectors to participate in FMPD;
- Assembled the objectives of forest protection and development with supports to production development, living improvement, income generation, livelihoods and social security for local villagers, ethnic minorities in upland and border areas especially for forest dependents; completed allocation of forest and forestland with certificates to organizations, individuals, households and communities by 2018.

The above-mentioned political guidance then incorporated by the Government in the new Forestry Law (or the revised LFPD) which was approved by the National Assembly in

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 1819/QĐ-BNN-TCLN dated 16/5/2017 by MARD on national forest status in 2016 (MARD, 2017a)

<sup>2</sup> This data is inconsistent with the "unallocated forest area managed by the Commune People's Committee of 2,700,819 ha, representing 19.2% of the national forest area," according to the Report on Forest Protection and Development Plan 2011-2016. aligned with forestry sector restructuring presented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development at the Forestry Conference on March 17, 2017 (MARD, 2017b)

<sup>3</sup> During the five years of implementation of the Forest Protection and Development Plan, the area of forest allocated to the community increased from 298,984 ha in 2011, to 1,110,408 ha in 2015 (MARD, 2017b).

<sup>4</sup> Directive No. 13-CT / TW dated 12/01/2017 of the Party Secretariat Board on enhancing the leadership of the Party for forest management, protection and development.

November 2017 and will be enforced in early 2019, thereby, “participation” in forestry activities is already presented in Article 3 addressing the following principles:

- Socializing forestry activities; ensuring fairness in interest sharing between the State, forest owners, organizations and individuals engaged in forestry activities;
- Ensuring organizational settings with respect to commodity chains linking from forest protection, forest development, forest utilization to processing and trade of forest products in order to increase forest values;
- Ensuring transparency and participation of organizations, households, individuals, communities involved in forestry activities;

Compared to the FPDL 2004, the range of forest actors indicated by the new law is certainly broader, not only setting for forest protection, development and usage, but also expanding to forest product processing and trade. This means that not only the state playing their role in the past, but business and market are also key actors. As such, visioning commodity chains (forest products, forest services) becomes an important orientation for designing participatory forest management solutions; consequently, stakeholders involved in forest management would include those actors outside Vietnam, especially when forest products and forest environmental services are regulated according to international agreements such as VPA-FLEGT, FSC or REDD +.

The above contexts result to a difference in forest management compared to traditional approaches (monoculture, domestic, state-driven) as all stakeholders will (must) share approaches and development options on:

- Creating sustainable forest landscapes; diversifying socio-economic benefits from sustainable forest management (sustainable land use; secure of forest environmental service values)
- Promoting good governance of forest resources and roles of independent monitoring or multi-stakeholder monitoring;
- Ensuring multi-sectorial/cross-sectoral coordination in forest management with necessary safeguards to mitigate environmental and social risks.

As forest owners (Article 8 of the Forestry Law), households and communities are still considered as the target of national forest policies, although there are differentiation and limitation with regards to their rights and levels of engagement/participation among different types of forest, such as rights to ownership of natural and planted forest as production forest (Article 7), forestry planning (Article 12), forest allocation, forest lease (Articles 14, 16), participation in forest management (Article 24, 26), forest protection (Article 43), forest utilization (Article 58) or provision of forest environmental services (Article 65). Overall, these regulations do not differ significantly from the current regulations on the participation of households and communities under the FPDL 2004. As stated in the new Forestry Law, orientations to formulate coming forest policies must comply the following requirements:

- The State protects legitimate rights and interests of organizations, households, individuals and communities engaging in forestry activities;
- The State organizes and provide supports to the extent of management, protection and development of production forests; forestry seedlings; forest plantation; forest restoration; implementation of forest environmental services; longer rotation

plantation; conversion of small-timber forest plantation to large-sized wood plantation forest; sustainable forest management; processing and trading forest products;

- The State guarantees ethnic minorities, forest depending communities with forest and forestry-land allocation for combined agro-forestry and fishery production; having cooperation/collaboration and alliance with forest owners in forest protection and development; benefit sharing from forests; practicing culture and beliefs associated with forests according to the Government's regulations.

It can therefore interpret that the Government will apply/maintain participation of households and communities in forest areas through "forest allocation", "forest allocation associated with land allocation" (for production forests, customary forests) and "cooperation and alliance" with forest owners linked to "forest benefit sharing" (for management of protection and special use forests; plantation of production forests). Applying or improving application of such forest management forms may require the state to review its regulations and practices in place in order to clearly identify appropriate and effective institutions (of participation) and facilities (techniques, financing, capacity), ensuring consistency or harmony with other current regulations (on civil, land, economic-service organizations, functions of social organizations, etc).

The following assessment is a summary of the advantages and disadvantages related to promotion of local participation in forest management from the perspectives of setting priority issues.

Priority issue	Advantages/Opportunities	Disadvantages/Challenges
Forest Ownership Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Specify the ownership of production forest which is planted forest of forest owners (Article 7, Forestry Law - FN).</li> <li>- Do not recognize the ownership rights, but recognize the rights of forest owners in the community of customary forests (special use forests), water protection forests (protection forests) (Article 5, FN).</li> <li>- Be able to promote communities, households to become forest owners managed by the Commune People's Committee through forest land allocation;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is no change in ownership of the natural forest (NF) in the FL (Article 7). It only recognizes the ownership of the entire population represented by the State for most of the area of special-use forest, protection forest (PF)</li> <li>- Forest owners are not allowed to lease natural forest land to organizations, households or individuals (Article 14, FL)</li> <li>- The right to access forest and forest land according to customary law of ethnic minority people is not legally recognized</li> </ul>
Interdisciplinary Planning and Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National and provincial forestry planning (Article 10, FL) is the basis to resolve disputes/conflicts over forest land use between households and communities with forest owners as organizations; collaboration on forest landscape restoration (agroforestry); compliance to logging ban;</li> <li>- Ensure the participation of local communities in collecting, absorbing and explaining opinion on forestry planning (Article 12)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is unclear that the consistency of the forest planning with the provisions of the Planning Law including (guiding) the participation of stakeholders related to (integrate / harmonize the objectives, minimize risk) will come in effect in 1 January 2019.</li> </ul>
Policy, legal and institutional framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The legal framework on community forestry has been improved, in line with the practicality of forest allocation aligned with land allocation; investment-support; forest products exploitation and use; benefit sharing; focus on village communities and productive forests (natural forests).</li> <li>- In 2016, the Forest Protection Department was assigned as the focal point for monitoring and managing community forests in Vietnam (Decision 01/QĐ-TCLN-VP dated 06/01/2016)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of a comprehensive, consistent, low cost and trackable policy; lack of detailed national data on community forestry;</li> <li>- The village community is not a legal entity, so impossible to develop appropriate community institutions for forest development, forest product trade and PFES.</li> <li>- No national program found on community forest management;</li> <li>- Forest Ranger Improvement (Decision 1920/QĐ-TTg by PM dated October 24, 2014) does not include the task of community forest management</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requirements to initiate "Forest co-management", "community participation in management" (special use, protection forest), "land use dispute resolution" (forestry companies) with village communities are available in forestry policies to 2020 in Decision<sup>5</sup> # 57 / QĐ-TTg, # 24/2012 / QĐ-TTg, # 24/2012 / QĐ-TTg, # 126 / QĐ-TTg; # 17/2015 / QĐ-TTg; # 886 / QĐ-TTg; Decrees<sup>6</sup> # 99/2010 / QĐ-TTg; 117/2010 / ND-CP; # 118/2014 / ND-CP aim at households and village communities through forest management contract;</li> <li>- The Department for Management of Special-use Forests and Protection Forests established from the Department of Nature Conservation (under Vietnam Administration of Forestry) has the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Results and lessons learned from the pilot benefit sharing from sustainable Forest Protection and Development in accordance with Decision 126/QĐ-TTg in Bach Ma and Xuan Thuy NPs are not clearly publicized on possibility of scaling-up;</li> <li>- The draft PM decision on forest co-management compiled by the Department for Forest Development has been delayed since 2015; the concept of "Forest Co-management" is not defined in the Forest Law, replaced by the concept of "cooperation, linkage" on forest protection and management.</li> <li>- The content of "collaborative management" or "comanagement" is not mentioned in the "National Capacity</li> </ul>

<sup>5</sup> Decision 57/QĐ-TTg dated 09/01/2012 by Prime Minister approving the National forest protection and development plan for 2011-2020; Decision 07/2012/QĐ-TTg dated 08/02/2012 promulgates some policies to strengthen forest protection; Decision 24/2012/QĐ-TTg of June 01, 2012 on investment policy for special - use forest development 2011 - 2020; Decision 126/QĐ-TTg on piloting benefit sharing in sustainable management, protection and development of special-use forests; Decision 17/2015/QĐ-TTg dated 09/6/2015 on Regulations on protection forest management; Decision 886/QĐ-TTg dated 16/6/2017 by PM approving the national program on sustainable forestry for 2016-2020

<sup>6</sup> Decree 117/2010/ND-CP dated 24/12/2010 by GoV on organization and management of special-use forest systems; Decree 99/2010/ND-CP dated September 24, 2010 by GoV on PFES policy; Decree 118/2014/ND-CP dated December 17, 2014 on reform, development and improvement of SFES

	responsibility to consult the Government on reforms of natural forest management and protection forces according to the requirement on staff reduction	Development Plan for Protected Area Management in Viet Nam to 2025, with a vision to 2030" under Decision 626/QĐ-TTg. dated 10/5/2017 issued by PM <sup>7</sup> ; - There is no assessment of the "public services" of communities participating in forest protection and management such as cooperatives, cooperative groups, community forestry enterprises;
Management, facilitation, implementation, monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Central policies require and encourage local authorities and forest owners to apply co-management mechanisms;</li> <li>- There have been many assessments and practical experiences on forest co-management from ODA projects funded by JICA, WB, UN-REDD, GIZ, WWF, FFI, PanNature, CERDA, RECOFTC, etc.</li> <li>- There will be new models for forest management such as Adaptive Collaborative Management Approach (ACMA) under the REDD + / FCPF project in the North Central Coast 2018-2025 (model of District Forest Management Board ); Village Conservation Planning (VCP) under the BCC / ADB / GEF project in Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue, Quang Nam 2018/2019</li> <li>- Experiences from Governmental agencies (Vietnam Administration of Forest) and NGOs (CIFOR, PanNature, FORLAND) on monitoring participatory forest management and forestry activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of comprehensive, specific guidelines to apply; lack of sanctions. Local policies (forest and forest management plans) have not clarified measures to implement forest co-management</li> <li>- The current policy has not clarified the role of NGOs to support and consult especially assist local community to improve their capacity in forest management.</li> </ul> <p>It is necessary to clarify the scope and requirements for collaborative forest management in sustainable forest management / forest certification, REDD +, VPA-FLEGT at different scales (village / commune, district, province / region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Include "participation" and "collaborative management" in forest governance monitoring and evaluation frameworks which are currently developed or piloted under PFES, REDD + and VPA FLEGT; or monitoring the Sustainable Forestry Development Program 2016-2020</li> </ul>
Financial mechanism and benefit sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are many policies and guidelines on financing to support community participation in forest management namely Decision # 07/2012 / QĐ-TTg, # 24/2012 / QĐ-TTg; # 38/2016 / QĐ-TTg; Decrees # 99/2010 / ND-CP; # 147/2016 / ND-CP, # 75/2015 / ND-CP;</li> <li>- PFES revenue tends to increase from 2018; The payments for households and communities are higher and more stable</li> <li>- Lessons learned from benefit sharing from REDD + pilot models, collaborating with private sector on financing for forest protection and management such as PFES</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local budgets are limited, delayed preventing investment, and financial support for community participation in forest protection and management in the area;</li> <li>- Financial support for forest owners (VND 100,000/ha/ year) is low, it is difficult to attract people to participate in forest protection;</li> <li>- Forest management boards, forestry companies prefer to contract forest protection staff rather than with village communities.</li> <li>- Monitor and improve the effectiveness of PFES payments associated with the formation of community institutions that actually participate in forest protection and management.</li> <li>- There are no Public-Private Partnership (PPP) directives connecting private sectors with forest protection and management and benefit sharing from ecotourism development.</li> </ul>
Gender, poverty reduction, ethnic minorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policies have focused on ethnic minority and the poor linking forest protection and improvement of people's life in buffer zones;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Involvement of women in forestry policies has not been institutionalized;</li> </ul>

<sup>7</sup> The project also aims to implement the "National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 with a vision to 2030" (Decision 1250/QĐ-TTg dated July 31, 2013) and the "Strategy for management of special-use forests, marine protected areas and inland water PAs in Vietnam to 2020 and vision to 2030 (Decision 218/QĐ-TTg dated 07/02/2014) and the "National planning for special-use forest system to 2020 with a vision to 2030" (Decision 1976/QĐ-TTg dated 30/10/2014)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Many livelihood credit policies for low intensive households can be integrated / combined with state forest protection and management programs.</li><li>- REDD + and the FLEGT VPA require the State to abide international law and realize the agreements on community rights, ethnic minority, and gender.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The traditional intellectual property rights of ethnic minority communities' traditional medicine are not protected by law for the equal benefit.</li></ul>
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### 3. KEY ACTORS AND LESSONS LEARNT

The Vietnam Administration of Forestry (VNForest of MARD) is the focal point functioning in state management and advice to the Government on national forestry operations, including multi-stakeholder collaboration in forest management, protection and development, forest product processing and trade. Their current organizational reform and management practices show that efforts to further formulate initiatives and policies to increase multi-stakeholder participation in forest management, or more specifically on forest co-management, need to include different VNForest's agencies such as Forest Protection Department, Department of Special-use and Protection Forests Management, Forest Development Department, Legal-Inspectorate Department and Forest Protection and Development Fund. VNForest also needs to involve and collaborate with the General Department of Land Administration and the General Department of Environment (MONRE), in addition to relevant agencies from MPI, MOF, MOJ and Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs.

Local governments (provincial, district, communal people's committees) and provincial agencies (DARD, DONRE, Department of Finance, Provincial FPD and FPD Fund) and state forest owners (management boards, forestry company) must be key players in both policy shaping and implementation. Their vision, awareness and experience in forest management that are important to shape institutions and enforcement measures for collaborative manners. Such forest owners and local forest rangers can also assist local communities and households joining in consultation processes with regards to co-management initiatives and agreements, thus their feedbacks to be then incorporated in relevant policies.

The Central Forestry Project Management Units of MARD that is a focal point for the initiative Adaptive Collaborative Management Approach (ACMA) under the FCPF / ERPD project to be implemented in six Northern Central provinces from 2018-2025, and the UN-REDD/UNDP program, the ADB/BCC/GEF funded project supporting village conservation planning (VCP) in the Central Coastal provinces, or JICA projects on forest co-management in Lam Dong and resource management in the North West should be coordinated and consulted on both technical and financial issues for policy development and piloting.

Local and international NGOs with experiences in forest co-management, community forestry, monitoring and evaluation of forest governance, PFES, SFE reforms in land use, forest restoration, securing rights for ethnic minorities, such as WWF, FFI, CIFOR, RECOFTC, SNV, ICRAF, Winrock, Forest Trends, Tropenbos-Vietnam, PanNature, CERDA, CSDM, CIRUM, COPE; networks such as VNGO-FLEGT, FORLAND, Vietnam REDD + Network, etc. can share their experiences and play roles in facilitation and monitoring towards participation. With this perspective, national and provincial associations of forestry sciences, associations of national parks and protected areas, social organizations (e.g. Farmers' Association, Vietnam Forest Owners), experts from FIPI and forestry departments, universities that should also be connected to discussion and consultation.

Finally, with a vision of creating sustainable landscapes, so identifying and involving hydropower, forestation, tourism, rubber, coffee and other high-tech agriculture companies in forestland use is also considered necessary and appropriate.

The experience of engaging and retaining stakeholders in forest management in Vietnam, particularly local forest dependent communities, could have come up with some of key lessons and messages as follow:

- Raising awareness of the necessity and urgency of a real, adequate, effective participation of local communities and key stakeholders in sustainable forest management;
- Sharing state power and responsibility for forest management and adopting new participatory institutions with a fair and transparent benefit sharing that are a good way to promote good governance or shared-governance in forestry sector; not trying to form new state organizations;
- Maintaining multi-stakeholder participation in forest management is seen as a process of engagement, negotiation, mutual learning, changing individual and collective behaviors which needs time, commitment, resources and impetus for shaping shared goals and action plans; and secure generation of cash and non-cash benefits compatible to low income ethnic minorities and local communities as core motivation;
- There should be regulations and policies to support implementation; encourage and empower forest owners (organizations) to actively take actions; promote the role of state agencies, NGOs or intermediaries such as the Forest Management Council in monitoring and active assistance.
- There should be a policy guiding the coordination and integration of budgetary and non-budgetary resources for participatory forest management at both management and implementation levels;

#### 4. CORE ISSUES TO PUTTING FORWARDS

In 2018 and beyond, while the Government of Vietnam is developing and issuing guidelines for the implementation of the new Forest Law, continuing to implement other existing forestry policies, and proposing changes in related law, the advocacy of people / community participation in forest resource management should consider the following priorities and options:

a - Should there be a separate policy to regulate and guide the facilitation of collaborative/participatory forest management?

- Inherited the existing forest co-management (draft), continue reviewing, revising and mobilizing to (re)form a decision issued either by the Prime Minister or MARD minister in accordance with the new Forestry Law;
- Redefine scope of main contents of collaborative management then to propose integrations / combinations into those decrees or circulars guiding the implementation of the Forestry Law;
- Based on existing regulations, incorporating REDD + and PFES policies and programs, MARD could develop and issue a separate proposal/project to implement forest co-management and collaborative management nationwide;
- VNForest could develop, consult and issue a technical guideline for state forest owners to collaborate with forest rangers and local authorities on the application of forest co-management; and integrating into the annual work plan of the forest owners;

b - Review, evaluate and define the scope and types of innovative institutions for collaborative forest management in line with Vietnam's political and legal context, including:

- Identify relevant institutions for enabling collaborative forest management that are rather than village community, including scaling up at commune, inter-commune, district or inter-sectorial forests levels;
- Review and select models as Forest Management Council (district level) to connect local state forest owners and link them with local households and communities in shared planning, resource coordination and monitoring implementation of co-management activities;
- Optimize participation of provincial FPD Fund and using PFES funding to promote effective forest protection and management in collaborative models;
- Transform and upgrade voluntary or cooperative institutions of communities themselves into legal entities such as community cooperatives, cooperative groups, community forestry enterprises with supports from the existing (relevant) regulations in providing forest protection and management services to the state; and state forest owners;
- Review or pilot community protected area models (CPA/ICCA) for community forest areas that are high-valued conservation protection forests through purposes of multi-functional use and management (conservation, livelihood, services); social organizations/ NGOs models collaborating with the state on special-use and protection forests management through technical cooperation or long-term forest lease.

c - Link forest management with the implementation of Forest Protection and Management Plans, special-use and protection forest areas and forestry companies

- Review and prioritize resolutions of land use disputes, conflicts, and illegal encroachment between villagers and forest owners; addressing the shortage in land use;
- Identify, demarcate based on the results of forest inventory, grant land use rights to forest owners, and fully consider the customary role of local communities;
- Support community, and buffer zone households to participate in forest restoration, large-scale forest plantation, improve forest landscape by agroforestry;

d - Provide guidance on how to develop a benefit sharing mechanism as a core for identifying stakeholders in forest management under long-term sharing plans that are appropriate to the context of natural forest closures given by law;

e - Evaluating the willingness, capacity building needs of stakeholders responsible for management, facilitation, implementation and monitoring of policies and implementation of collaborative forest management, including forest rangers, forest owners, local authorities and community representatives, social / non-governmental organizations, etc. Establish and operate networks of facilitators, trainers or consultants on the development of forest co-management; develop specialized forest management training courses for forestry faculties and universities;

f - Integrate content of participation/collaboration in forest governance monitoring and evaluation frameworks currently being developed by stakeholders or PFES monitoring.

## 5. OPTIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Define a framework for collaborative forest management priorities to advocate adequate integration into draft guidelines for the implementation of Forest Law (decree level)
- Review and evaluate the effectiveness of existing models of forest management cooperation as a basis for recommendations to promulgating policies or guidelines in line with legal framework (guideline) for FMP;
- Support and motivate establishment and operation of a facilitator network for forest co-management; including plans to implement capacity building activities;
- Collaborate with VNForest and non-state organizations to pilot models of Forest Management, Protection and Development with priority given to protection forests and special use forests;
- Support, promote the integration of collaborative forest management in Vietnam Forest Governance and Monitoring Framework, or PFES, REDD +, FLEGT monitoring.

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