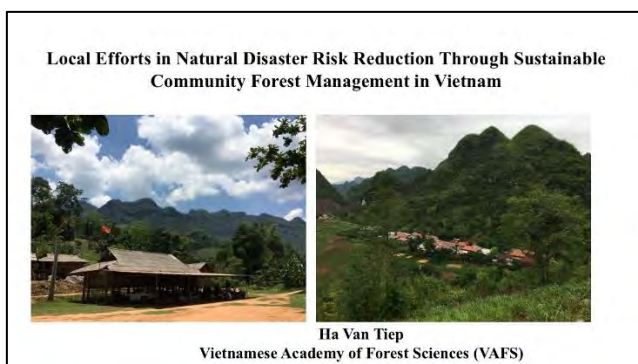


# Local Efforts in Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Through Sustainable Community Forest Management in Vietnam

Dr. Hà Văn Tiệp

Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS)

## ● Title



Good morning (afternoon) ladies and gentleman. My name is Ha Van Tiep, I come from Vietnam, I am now working in Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences. I am very happy to be here to present the topic: Local efforts in natural disasters risk reduction through sustainable community forest management in Vietnam. My presentation will take 20 minutes. I am happy to get your comments and questions to make my presentation better.

## ● Contents

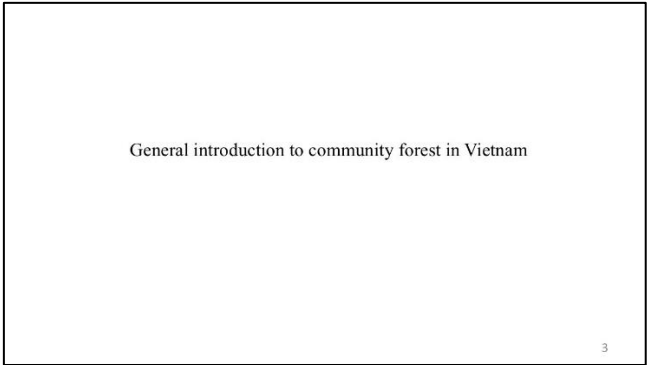
Contents
1. General introduction to community forest in Vietnam
2. Community empowerment through community forest management (CFM)
3. Community's uplifting livelihood through CFM
4. Community forest in natural disasters risk reduction
5. Challenges and recommendations

2

My presentation focus on 5 contents. Firstly, I will talk about community forest in Vietnam, secondly, I will mention about community empowerment through community forest management, next I will present to you community uplifting livelihood through community forest management in selected commune, Muong Gion commune, Quynh Nhai district, Son La province, Northwest of Vietnam. Next, I will present community forest in natural disasters risk reduction based on the results of our survey 350 households. Finally, I will discuss the challenges and recommendations to promote awareness of local people on natural risk

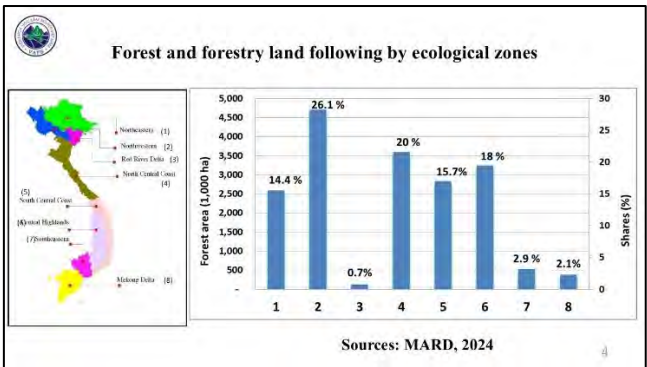
reduction based on community forest management.

- General introduction to community forest in Vietnam



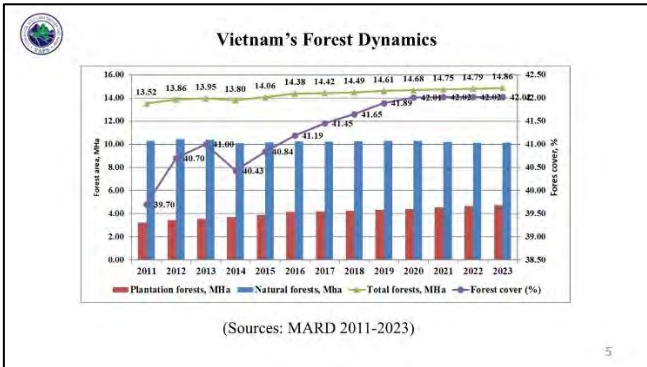
Now, let me talk about introduction to community forest in Vietnam

- Forest and forestry land following by ecological zones



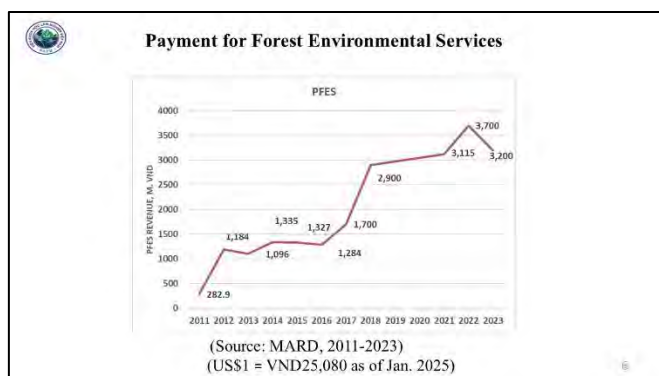
That is the shape of Vietnam country like letter “S” with long country and divided into 8 forest ecological zones, in which Northwestern occupied 26,1% of total forest and forest land of the country, following is North central coast is 20%, the smallest is red River Delta is accounting only 0.7%. That indicate the forest and forestry land are not equally distributed in Vietnam.

- Vietnam’s Forest Dynamics



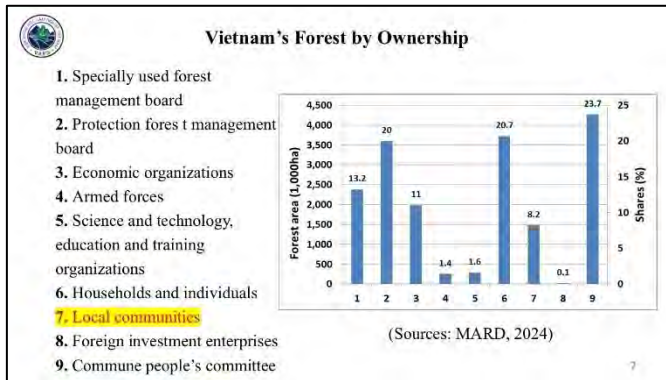
That figure shows the Vietnam's forest dynamics with 4 indexes as plantation forest, natural forest, total forest of the country and forest cover. The total forest of the country was 14.86 million ha, it consists of both natural and plantation forest. The plantation forest was slightly stable development about 450 million ha in 2023, most of tree species for forest plantation were fast growing species like Acacia and Eucalyptus, very few native species were planted due to very long rotation benefits, it may be 50 years compared with 5 years by Acacia and Eucalyptus. Thanks to the strict forestry law, the natural forest was kept stable in recent year about 10 million ha. The curve forest cover showed that in the past was low only 39.7% in 2011, it increased up to 42% in 2021, 2022 and 2023. Now, Vietnam government is not so much attention on increasing forest cover, it would be kept stable 42%-45% over country and try to improvement of quality of forest both natural and plantation.

- Payment for Forest Environmental Services



Now, I talk about payment for forest environmental services (PFES), this is a successful model in Vietnam. Local people who are living near forest and protecting forest will get money from companies who used natural sources come from forests such as hydro electric power plant, aquaculture...etc. The curve showed that total money of PFES was not stable due to depending on benefits from companies. It reached 3,700 million Vietnam Dong (equal 147 thousand USD) in 2022.

- Vietnam's Forest by Ownership



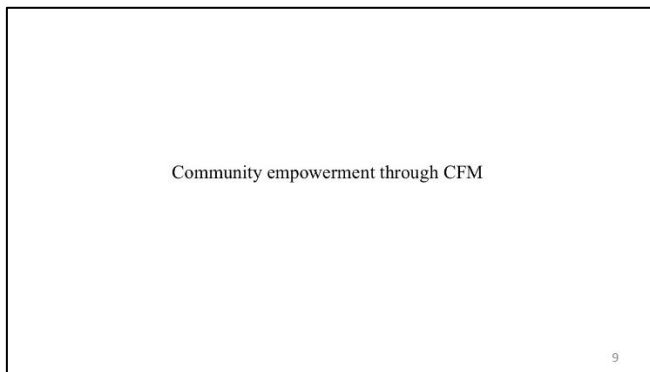
There were 9 ownerships of forest in Vietnam but not equally the areas of forest. In which commune people's committee occupied largest forest areas 23.7% of total forest, second was households and individual, and protection forest management board was 20.7%; 20% respectively. The local communities were 8.2% with 1,500 million ha. That indicated that community forest has important roles of forest protection in Vietnam.

- Key important forest policies related to community empowerment on CFM



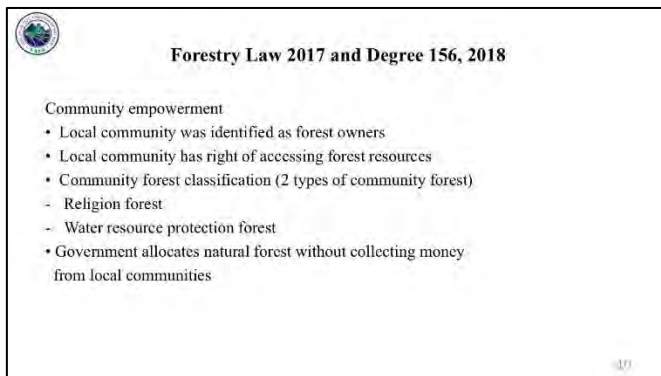
In Vietnam, the government has issued many policies that related to community forest management, in which the most important policy is Forestry Law in 2017 and degree 156, 2018, and PFES, and Vietnam Forestry Strategy Development period 2021-2030 and vision for 2050 (2021) and others. That all supported to sustainable forest management in general and community forest management in specifically.

- Community empowerment through CFM



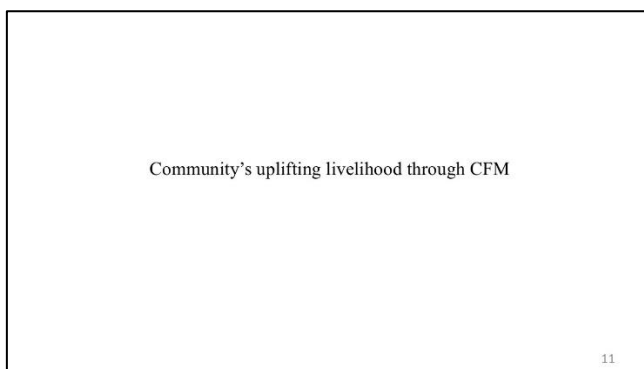
Now, I am moving to present about community empowerment through CFM.

- Forestry Law 2017 and Degree 156, 2018

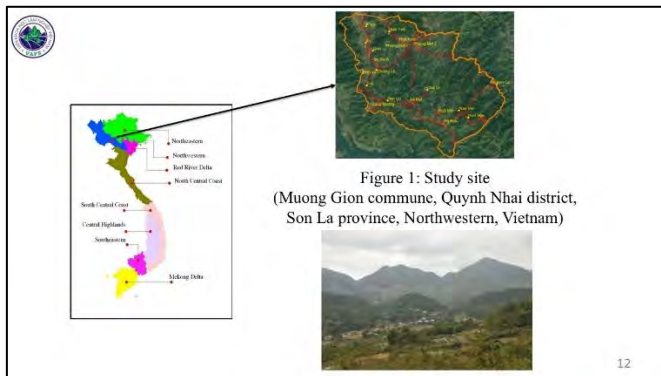


In Forestry Law, local community was identified as one of owner forest, local community has right to access forest resources, and community forest was classified into religion and protecting water resource forest. Government will allocate natural forest without collecting money to local communities. In short, community forest management was recognized as one kind of regime forest management in Vietnam.

- Community's uplifting livelihood through CFM

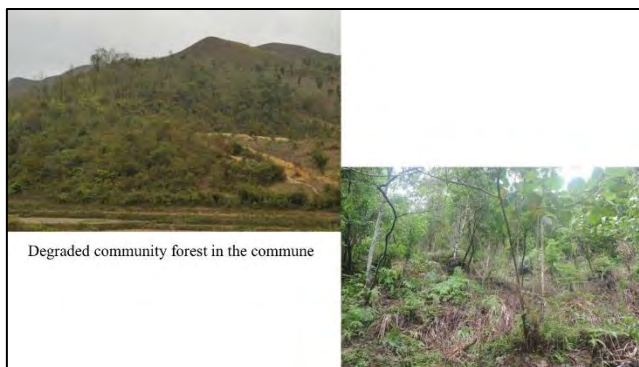


Now, I would like to talk about the benefit that local community can get from their community forest management.



To better understand that we selected one local commune, in Northwest region of Vietnam, Muong Gion commune, Quynh Nhai district, Son La province to conduct survey.

- Degraded community forest in the commune



I will show you the pictures of community forest, that were degraded forest.

- Characteristics of the selected villages in household survey

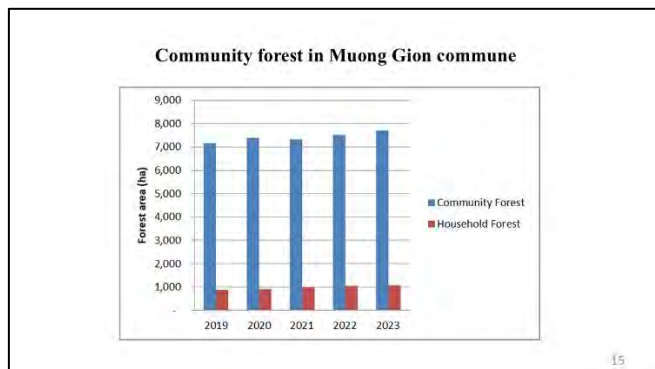
**Characteristics of the selected villages in household survey**

11 villages were selected in the survey among 19 villages in the commune

No	Name of villages	Major of ethnic minority	Total number of households in the village	Number of households interviewed	The percentage of number households interviewed in each village	Notes
1	Phiang Mưn 1	Thái	255	43	16.9	100% Thai people
2	Khốp	Thái	183	31	16.9	99.7% Thai people
3	Xa	Thái	271	46	17.0	100% Thai people
4	Giôn	Thái	204	34	16.7	99.6% Thai people
5	Bô Xanh	Thái	280	47	16.8	98.3% Thai people, 29.8% Kinh and others ethnic minority
6	Chiêng Lê	Thái	98	26	26.5	82.3% Khang people
7	Mác Lưn	Khang	130	26	20.0	84.5% Thai people
8	Nà Mạt	Thái	110	26	23.6	100% Thai people
9	Huôi Măn	Thái	99	26	26.3	65.9% Thai people and 34.1% Khang people
10	Pà Ngà	Thái	102	26	25.5	100% Mong people
11	Huôi Văn	Mông	75	26	34.7	
	<b>Total</b>		<b>1,807</b>	<b>357</b>		

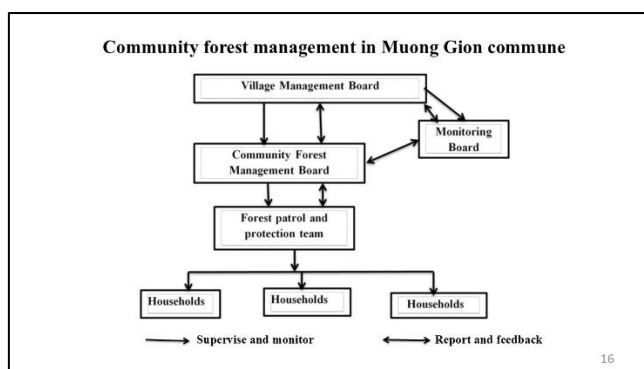
In the selected commune, we selected 11 villages in total of 19 villages to conduct survey, most of local people are Thai people, one village is Khang and one is Hmong people, they were presented to local people in Northwest region of Vietnam.

- Community forest in Muong Gion commune



The figure showed that the areas of community forest was larger than households forest in the commune, nearly 8,000 ha of community forest compared with only 1,000 ha of households forest in 2023. That indicated the community forest management was main forest management in the commune.

- Community forest management in Muong Gion commune



In the village meetings, it was agreed to consolidate CFMB, monitoring board and community forest protection group. Organizational structure of CFMB was shown in the figure. The community forest management board includes 5 members (04 men and 01 woman). Monitoring board has 5 members include 2 women, accounting for 40%. Board members are members of Village Party Committee, Women's Union, Youth Union, Farmers' Union, the elders with the following personnel. Community forest protection team has 54 people divided into 9 groups. Each group has 01 leader and 01 deputy leader. That ensured that community forest will be well protected and all members in the community have responsibility on forest protection.





To gather information, we first have a meeting with commune people committee to introduce our purposes and make a plan going to villages for household interview.

- Community's livelihood improvement

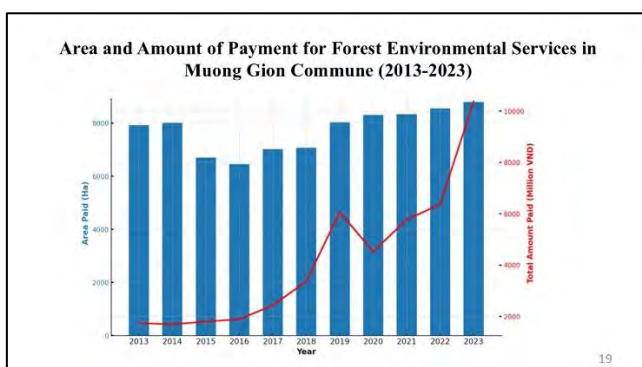
**Community's livelihood improvement**

1. Selective logging (not for commercial)
2. NTFPs collection
3. Payment for forest environmental services (20-25 USD/ha/year)

18

Based on community forest management, local people can get benefit from their forest. First thing they can do selective logging for their house construction not for sale, of course, they have to get permission from leader of village and commune. Second thing, local people can collect NTFPs, it is also for their daily consumption. Last thing, they can get PFES with 20-25 USD/ha/year.

- Area and Amount of Payment for Forest Environmental Services in Muong Gion Commune (2013-2023)





Details on forest area, total payment amount, and the number of forest owners benefiting from the forest environmental service program will be analyzed and evaluated as follows

- The area eligible for payments initially saw a slight increase from 2013 to 2014 but dropped significantly in 2015 and 2016. After a moderate recovery in 2017, the area stabilized and has shown steady growth from 2018 onward, reaching its peak in 2023.

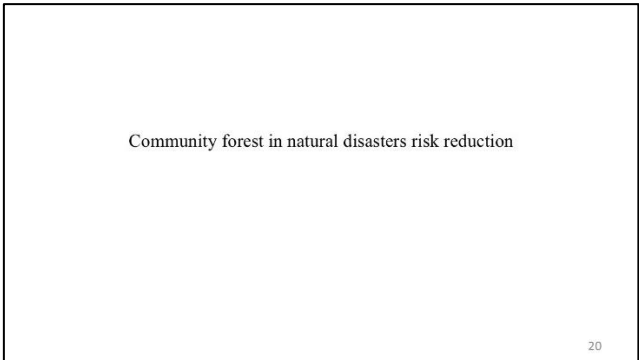
- The total payment amount has shown a strong upward trend from 2013 to 2023, with some minor fluctuations (due to variations in the forest area covered by the PFES program and differing annual payment rates). Significant increases in payments were observed during the periods 2017-2018 and 2021-2023. Notably, 2023 recorded the highest payment amount in the entire period, exceeding 10 billion VND.

- Causes of changes and fluctuations:

- + During the period from 2015 to 2016, there was a forest inventory conducted in Son La Province. Many forest areas did not meet the standards and were excluded from eligibility for payments under the forest environmental service program (FESP).

- + Additionally, the annual payment amount fluctuated due to changes in the forest area eligible for FESP payments and variations in the annual payment rates.

- Community forest in natural disasters risk reduction




Community forest has played very important roles on natural disaster risk reduction.

- Main natural disasters occurred in the commune

**Main natural disasters occurred in the commune**

- Flash flood
- Landslides
- Cyclone and hailstone rain
- Hoarfrost
- Very cold and damaging cold weather
- Drought



21

There are some kind of natural disasters occurred in the commune such as flash flood, landslides, cyclone and hailstone rain, hoarfrost, very cold and damaging cold weather and drought.

● Awareness of local people on forest functions

**Awareness of local people on forest functions**

No	Rules of forest	Number of households responded				
		Strongly agree	Mildly agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mildly disagree	Strongly disagree
1	Forest in good conditions is effective in decreasing the risks.	327 (91.1%)	8 (2.3%)	13 (3.7%)	2 (0.6%)	0 (0%)
2	Restriction to logging along rivers and streams is effective in decreasing the risks.	290 (82.9%)	46 (13.1%)	12 (3.4%)	2 (0.6%)	0 (0%)
3	Restriction to logging in areas with steep slopes is effective in decreasing the risks.	297 (87.2%)	41 (11.4%)	12 (3.4%)	3 (0.9%)	0 (0%)
4	Restriction to conversion of forest land to crop lands effective in decreasing the risks.	238 (67.4%)	98 (27.4%)	15 (4.3%)	2 (0.6%)	1 (0.3%)

n = 350 households

22

The table indicated that most of interview households (93.4% to 67.4%) agreed that the good quality forest and good forest management has effective in decreasing the risks. This proved the awareness of local people on forest protection was high.

● Needs to reduce damages caused by natural disasters

**Needs to reduce damages caused by natural disasters**


No	Activities	Number of households responded				
		Highly necessary	Somewhat necessary	Neither necessary nor not necessary	Somewhat not necessary	Not necessary at all
1	Planting more trees	316 (90.3%)	25 (7.1%)	5 (1.4%)	3 (0.9%)	1 (0.3%)
2	Providing permanent or temporary construction works to control flash floods, debris flows and landslides	206 (58.9%)	127 (36.3%)	8 (2.3%)	9 (2.6%)	0 (0%)
3	Enhancement of disaster prevention education	230 (65.7%)	108 (30.9%)	9 (2.6%)	3 (0.9%)	0 (0%)
4	Providing weather warnings for heavy rain	218 (67.1%)	108 (30.9%)	7 (2%)	3 (0.9%)	0 (0%)
5	Constructing evacuation facilities for heavy rain	184 (52.6%)	135 (38.6%)	10 (2.9%)	18 (5.1%)	3 (0.9%)
6	Providing aids to disaster victims	307 (87.7%)	40 (11.4%)	2 (0.6%)	1 (0.3%)	0 (0%)

n = 350 households

23


Local people also think that planting more trees also help to reduce damages caused by natural disasters. So, local government should have a planting tree projects that provide trees for them to plan. Promoting community forest management also

- Challenges



### Challenges

- Limited financial capacity of local people in natural disasters mitigation
- The unexpected change in weather condition under climate change
- Degraded community forests
- Poor forest management techniques
- Others: land tenure and conflicts; low benefits from natural community forest management; poverty in remote areas.



24

- Providing education and training to local people on natural disaster reduction
- Timely warnings of natural disasters to local people
- Constructing natural disaster prevention works in places where natural disasters easily occur such as landslide protection embankments
- Improving quality of community forests
- Planting and protecting forests in slope watershed areas

- Recommendations

### Recommendations

- Providing education and training to local people on natural disaster reduction
- Timely warnings of natural disasters to local people
- Constructing natural disaster prevention works in places where natural disasters easily occur such as landslide protection embankments
- Improving quality of community forests
- Planting and protecting forests in slope watershed areas

25

- Supporting (technically and financially) to sustainable livelihoods (NTFPs, agroforestry practices etc.)
- Expanding PFES concept and operation to payment for emission reduction and carbon enhancement
- Transferring advanced techniques in agriculture and forestry, and access to market

- Recommendations (cont.)

#### Recommendations (cont.)

- Supporting (technically and financially) to sustainable livelihoods (NTFPs, agroforestry practices etc.)
- Expanding PFES concept and operation to payment for emission reduction and carbon enhancement
- Transferring advanced techniques in agriculture and forestry, and access to market

26

Thank all you very much for your attention and would like to get your questions and comments.

Thank you very much for your attention!

Dr. Ha Van Tiep  
Email: [havantiep@vafs.gov.vn](mailto:havantiep@vafs.gov.vn)

Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences  
(VAFS)



Tel.: +8424 38389 031  
Fax : +8424 38389 722  
Web: [www.vafs.gov.vn](http://www.vafs.gov.vn)

