

Mission Report

Participatory Land Use Planning and Forest Land Allocation Recent Developments in Community-based Forest Management in Quang Binh Province

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Vietnamese – German Technical Cooperation Project on Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Central Vietnam (SMNR-CV)



Consultant Report

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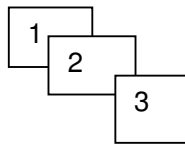
1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Special thanks to Mr. Cao Xuan Chinh, Project director and Dr. Hans-Jürgen Wiemer, chief technical advisor for providing me the opportunity to conduct this follow-up mission in the SMNR-CV project.

Further thanks to Mr. Nguyen Viet Nhung from the Forest Protection Sub-Department for very effective and open discussions during the final debriefing meeting.

Cover photos:



- 1- Courtesy of KfW 6 - Forest rehabilitation and forest management project
 - Participatory forest inventory during forest allocation in accordance with Circular 38 in Quang Ngai province.
- 2- Courtesy of GTZ- Project on Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Central Vietnam (SMNR-CV)
 - Red book certificate on forest land allocated to a forest user group in Tuyen Hoa district, Quang Binh province.
- 3- Courtesy of GTZ – Project on Rural Development Dak Lak province(RDDL)
 - Community based timber harvest in Ea H'Leo district during benefit sharing pilot in Dak Lak province.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CBFM	Community-based Forest Management
DARD	Province Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
Dbh	Diameter at breast height
DFD	Department of Forest Development
DoNRE	Province Department of Natural Resources and Environment
FIPI	Forest Inventory and Planning Institute Vietnam
FLA	Forest Land Allocation
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
GTZ	Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (German Agency for Technical Cooperation)
Ha	Hectare
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (German Financial Cooperation)
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MoNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
ODA	Overseas Development Agencies
PCFCG	Province Community Forestry Consultant Group

Exchange rate: 1€ = 23.000 VND

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This consultancy has been designed as a follow-up mission on the legal issuance of the project PLUP-FLA manual as official province guideline.

As introduced during a previous consultancy, the concept of participatory forest inventory as stipulated in Circular 38 has become a compulsory part of FLA procedures in Quang Binh province.

To the consultants' knowledge this is the first provincial legal guideline in entire Vietnam which details clear technical instructions on a participatory forest inventory in line with Circular 38 and forms a significant contribution to community-based forest management in Vietnam.

During the provincial PLUP-FLA workshop the consultant presented field experiences on applying participatory inventory under various German funded projects in Vietnam and highlighted the link to Community-based Forest Management procedures as a crucial follow-up process after forest allocation to local people.

After the workshop, a 3-days training course for provincial technicians and forest policy decision-makers was conducted to further promote the new concept and the necessity of participation as a means to reduce labour cost for involved forestry professionals and to increase accuracy of obtained inventory data (by using local knowledge on forest type distribution and tree species).

Training results confirmed the inventory concept to be far below national cost norms on FLA procedures as stipulated in the recent Decision 112/2008/QĐ-BNN, dated 19th November 2008. No technical difficulties were encountered during the training exercise and a 16 ha forest block mapped, inventoried and forest characteristics calculated as required for the issuance of land use certificates and attached forest management profiles.

As experienced during the training, provincial participants showed to be extreme hesitant to comment on the proposed CBFM concept or even embark on CBFM piloting in Quang Binh with budget shortage mentioned as biggest hindrance.

Despite this fact, several national and ODA projects are going to pilot CBFM procedures in Quang Binh province with independent budget sources.

Effective cooperation between projects is therefore of outmost importance to ensure a common orientation and CBFM development in the province.

It was therefore proposed that DARD would function as coordinating body between projects with the Province Community Forestry Consultant Group as advisory board on technical and administrative procedures under CBFM.

The consultant further updated the project CBFM manual by incorporating recent CBFM development in Vietnam and it is hoped to be applied as main orientation during provincial CBFM piloting under various projects.

A provincial workshop on this matter is proposed for Q1 2009 with the aim to agree on a common CBFM strategy for the province.

3 INTRODUCTION

The project on Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Central Vietnam (SMNR-CV) is implemented by the Provincial Peoples Committee in the Province of Quang Binh with assistance from the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

As specified in the Operational Plan for 2008 under work area 3 on community forestry the Project has supported the Provincial Community Forestry Consultant Group (PCFCG) in adjusting provincial guidelines on forestland allocation in line with national GoV Circular 38/2007/TT-BNN.

Due to ongoing adjustments of the joint Circular on FLA by MARD-MONRE the issuance of the project manual as the official provincial guideline on FLA has seen a substantial delay. On the 16th of December 2008 the project manual has been temporarily approved by the director of the provincial DARD and a final approval will be reached as soon as the national joint Circular on FLA has been issued (expected by 01/2009).

This assignment was designed to provide a contribution to i) promoting the widespread application of the new guidelines of PLUP-FLA and ii) the final revision of the project manual on Community-based Forest management (CBFM) as a crucial follow-up of ongoing FLA in Quang Binh province.

The main tasks of the consultancy are defined as follows:

- Participate in a provincial workshop on the implications of the new FLA guideline for a widespread application in the province. The consultant will share his experience on technical issues and institutional issues (e.g. need for cooperation among line departments and different levels administration) in this process.
- Organise a 3 - 5 days follow-up training course on participatory forest inventory in the process of FLA. The major objective of the training is to increase acceptance of this method among the major forestry-decision makers and key staff of the line departments and other organizations at provincial level (DARD, FPD, DFD, FIPI, DoNRE, others) and representatives of selected districts and communes.
- Conduct field visits to the projects' CBFM demonstration models and discussions with forestry-related decision makers and stakeholders as basis for a revision and update of the project CBFM manual to the most recent CBFM development in Vietnam. The consultants output is expected to form the basis for further discussions and adjustments among forest-related authorities of Quang Binh aiming at a provincial approval as the official CBFM guideline for the province.

Forest inventory field work has been conducted in Bo Trach district, NT Viet Truong commune. Project CBFM models have been visited in Tuyen Hoa district, Dong Hoa commune and Minh Hoa district, Hoa Hop commune.

For detailed information about the Terms of Reference and the mission itinerary please refer to Annex 1 & 2.

4 PROVINCIAL WORKSHOP ON PLUP-FLA IN QUANG BINH

On the 17th of December, the project organised a provincial workshop to promote the newly issued PLUP-FLA guideline for Quang Binh province.

Mr. Phung Van Bang from the Forest Protection Sub-Department presented the provincial Decision 2311/QD-SNN (see Annex 3) on the temporary¹ issuance of the project manual as official province guideline on PULP-FLA.

The provincial PLUP-FLA guideline is detailing a process of 8 main steps following recommendations from DoNRE and FPD representatives. The guideline is furthermore describing a participatory forest inventory as compulsory part of FLA procedures as introduced during a previous assignment by the consultant.

To the consultants' knowledge this is the first legal provincial guideline in entire Vietnam which details clear technical instructions on conducting a participatory forest inventory as stipulated in Circular 38 and forms a significant contribution to community-based forest management in Vietnam.

The workshop was further attended by Mr. Nguyen Hong Quang² who presented main adjustments and implications regarding the draft inter-ministerial Circular on FLA procedures.

Major adjustments are summarised as follows:

- Legal forest user rights over forest resources require one land use right certificate (red book certificate) plus an attached forest management profile.
- The cadastral certificate and cadastral maps are issued by the respective sections under DoNRE while the forest management profile and forest status map is prepared by the respective Forest Protection sections under DARD.
- Land use certificates issued prior to the date of the joint Circular are to be updated in line with this Circular.
- Forest management profiles are the basis for forest valuation, utilisation and trading and require a periodical update.
- The format for forest management profiles has still to be defined (for the time being the summary table form as provided in Annex 7 of Circular 38 has to be used instead).
- The joint Circular is not proposing any adjustments to Circular 38/2007/TT-BNN³ on the techniques for forest resource assessment in the process of FLA.

¹ Due to the ongoing revision of the inter-ministerial Circular on FLA by MARD-MoNRE some minor adjustments might still be required before a final approval of the provincial PLUP-FLA guideline can be granted by DARD Quang Binh. An approval is expected by January 2009.

² Director of the Informatic and Databases Division of the Forest Protection Department under MARD

- Despite the joint Circular remaining in a draft stage only, Decision 112/2008/QD-BNN on cost norms for the implementation of FLA has already been issued and signed by Vice-Minister Mr. Nhi on the 19th November 2008.
- The cost norm is designed as a “dynamic” cost norm based on the number of labour days.
- As explained by Mr. Quang average cost per ha (for areas of < 5 ha in plot size allocated to local people) are estimated at around 600.000VND (~ 30 Euro).
- No source of funding has yet been identified for the implementation of FLA following the new cost norms.

During the afternoon session specific questions and orientations for a province-wide implementation have been discussed within three working groups. Regarding the concept of participatory forest inventory the following major points have been discussed:

- Cost norms as detailed in Decision 112/2008/QD-BNN have somehow contradictory norms compared to Circular 38 regarding sample intensity to be applied during forest resource assessment. Following Circular 38, the sample intensity has to be defined based on the coefficient of variation of each specific forest block and will most likely result in a significant lower sample intensity than the proposed 2% as in the national Decision. Provincial implementation will therefore follow the technical and more flexible standard of Circular 38 which further implies reduced costs as compared to Decision 112.
- The expenditure of time per sample plot layout and tree measurement is estimated with 2 labour days following Decision 112. However, field results from testing the participatory forest inventory have revealed much lower time expenditures of around 4-5 sample plots/team/day⁴ only. The project inventory concept is therefore by far most cost-effective than the standard set in the national Decision.
- Circular 38 stipulates that forest resource assessment can be conducted by any professional forest company. However, for Quang Binh province no potential service providers apart from Sub-FIPI technicians were identified by the participants. It was therefore proposed to employ members from the district and commune FLA working groups for field measurement. FIPI technicians will be responsible for forest inventory design, GIS database management and data analysis including volume calculation from the data obtained by the district and commune groups.
- Despite the issuance of the Decision on national cost norms no source for funding could be identified by participants. Mr. Nhung in his closing speech mentioned funding options under various

³ 38/2007/TT-BNN, dated 25/04/2007 on guidelines for procedures for forest allocation, forest rental and withdrawal to organisations, households, individuals and communities

⁴ One measure team consists of one technician accompanied by two forest receivers

projects (PNKB Region Project, Pro-poor Forestry Project, TFT...) as well as from potential provincial and national budget lines.

Regarding an implementation of CBFM schemes as follow-up procedures of FLA, the following issues have been discussed:

- The development of community forest management plans is stipulated in Circular 38, however no legal technical concept has yet been approved to facilitate this process.
- Similar to previous meetings, participants often referred back to already existing Decisions on forest management, harvesting and management plan development to be applied for the context of CBFM. However, after a detailed discussion it was clarified that current regulations are only applicable for forest enterprises/companies but not suitable for forest management by households or communities.
- Benefit sharing procedures are still unclear and do not provide ensured incentives for local people to invest in forest development. In this context Mr. Quang mentioned that the Ministry is encouraging the provincial governments to adjust the current legal national frame in accordance with their local requirements.
- Prior to field implementation the Forest Protection Sub-Department and Provincial Forest Department need to consult the Provincial People Committee to issue an regulation on the piloting of CBFM procedures. In this context it is recommended that a clear benefit sharing policy should be developed and approved by the province prior to any CBFM piloting to ensure clear incentives for local people to invest in long-term forest development activities.

As a follow-up of the workshop a meeting with Mr. Nhung from the Forest Protection Sub-Department Quang Binh was organised. Mr. Nhung further clarified that the main steps and procedures as detailed in the PLUP-FLA guideline are legal binding procedures for any organisation/project working on FLA in the province. However, to ensure the practicability of the guideline some flexibility is allowed for the timing of specific steps (e.g. project afforestation activities are allowed to be conducted prior to the issuance of red book certificates in conflict-free areas with clear ownership boundaries).

It was further mentioned that the current FLA project under DoNRE⁵ is paused until the final issuance of the inter-ministerial Circular has been issued.

FPD and DARD are currently working on adjusted provincial benefit sharing guidelines to be submitted to the PPC for a temporary approval until clear benefit sharing arrangements will be provided by MARD.

⁵ The project on “digital mapping and issuance of forestry land use right certificates” based on Decision 672/QĐ-TTg of the Prime Minister, implemented by the Cadastre and Engineering Survey Company assigned by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE).

CBFM piloting is not included in provincial budget plans for 2009 but piloting will be conducted under different ODA projects operating in the province with DARD functioning as coordinating body between projects. CBFM pilots will follow a similar concept as tested under the TFF funded pilot program on community forest management by MARD and as described in the project CBFM manual. Forest management will be based on stem number per diameter class only without requiring conventional volume estimates.

Pilot implementation will be limited to one commune first and based on the results final guidelines will be developed for a province-wide application.

5 PARTICIPATORY FOREST INVENTORY TRAINING

Following the provincial Decision on the PLUP-FLA methodology and guideline, the consultant facilitated a 3-day training course on the application of the participatory inventory concept as integrated part of FLA procedures. The objective was to promote the new concept and to increase the acceptance among main decision-makers and key staff of forestry-related departments at provincial level.

The training was attended by participants from various government departments and agencies such as Provincial Forestry Department, Forest Protection Sub-Department, Sub-Forest Inventory and Planning Institute (FIPI), Center for Science and Technology, District Forest protection rangers and Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park staff.

Furthermore representatives from Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park Region Project, Pro-Poor Forestry Project (PPFP) by SNV, FFI Forest Garden Project, the Center for Research and Consultancy on Natural Resource Management Hue and technicians from Long Dai forestry company participated in the training course.

In preparation of the training course a 25 ha forest block has been mapped by use of GPS/GIS technology and participants being trained in designing a systematic sample plot layout by use of MapInfo software (see Annex 4 for GIS training database).

During a one day training exercise, the application of handheld GPS units, plot layout and tree measurements have been conducted by two groups with no technical difficulties encountered despite rather strenuous terrain with slopes of up to 70%.

The field exercise highlighted once again the importance of involving local people during forest blocking and tree identification and measurement:

- During forest blocking conducted by only the consultant and one project staff, apart from the intended mature natural forest block a rather large forest gap dominated by wild banana trees were mistakenly included and had to be excluded again during later data processing which would have never happened if the consultant had been guided by a local person.
- Tree species identification was mainly relying on one local national park staff out of a group of ten participants. Following national guidelines from the FIPI, inventory results can only be approved if the number of unidentified species remains below 30%. Such a result would not be feasible for many of the participating technicians without a local tree finder.

The last training day was used for data analysis and introduction of the proposed CBFM concept which is supposed to become a compulsory follow-up procedure of FLA in the future.

Data analysis was conducted by using data as obtained during the training and an already aggregated sample from Binh Dinh province with over 10.000 individual tree measurements obtained for FLA implementation.

Participants independently completed data entry into the Excel database and conducted a non-linear regression analysis to develop a two-factor volume function.

The completed forest inventory data as developed during the training is provided in Annex 5.

All steps have been guided through illustrated handouts provided as hard and softcopy to participants. For an overview of implementation steps as completed during the training exercise please refer to Annex 6.

No objections or considerations for adjustments of the concept have been received from participants.

Training results again confirmed the feasibility of the participatory inventory concept and based on previous field experiences from other provinces where the concept has been applied/piloted, the following cost estimates are considered realistic:

Table 1: Estimated time requirements for a participatory forest inventory in the process of Forest Land Allocation

#	Activity	Unit	Quantity	Labour day	
				Technician	Allottee
1	Field verification of forest block boundaries by use of handheld GPS units	ha	30-40	1	1
2	GIS based forest inventory design (identification of sample plot number, design of systematic grid net, sample plot location)	Forest block	20	1	--
3	Forest inventory plot layout and tree measurement	Sample plot	4-5	1	2
4	Data analysis for 10 distinct forest blocks (Forest block data entry from tally sheet into Excel database; development of volume function; completion of forest characteristics summary table form)	ha	500	2	--
5	GIS result map production and completion of forest management profile	ha	500	4	--
Σ	Entire process (step 1-5) for 10 forest blocks	ha	500	~60	~95
			1	0,125	0,2

The described process is far below related budget positions as stipulated in national Decision 112/2008/QD-BNN and the approach is therefore considered very suitable to be implemented under provincial/national budgeting during a province-wide application by the local administration.

6 COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT GUIDELINE

The consultant has updated the CBFM project manual (version December 2007) by incorporating recent community forestry experiences from Vietnam. The guideline is detailing main principles, administrative and technical procedures involved in CBFM and is hoped to be applied as main orientation during provincial CBFM piloting under various projects. (refer to Annex 7 for the CBFM manual).

The guideline consists of two parts and several appendixes. The first part provides an overview of main steps and involved technical and administrative procedures in the process of CBFM planning.

The second part is structured along session plans detailing time requirements, equipment, process and expected outcome to provide step by step guidance during real implementation including prepared training posters and reporting formats.

Each session plan forms a stand-alone implementation step to be adopted in accordance with the real needs and contents of the specific implementation area, assignment or field of work.

Furthermore, formats required during CBFM (including forms for the establishment of the village and commune forest management boards, CBFM plans, application forms, and record books) are provided in the respective appendixes.

Reporting and approval procedures have been reduced to a minimum to avoid placing too many bureaucratic barriers in front of local people.

CBFM has to minimise complicated and time consuming application and approval procedures to avoid local people falling back into spontaneous, unregulated forest utilisation as currently practised.

In this view and based on discussions with local forest users, the establishment of a Village Forest Management Board is proposed to be compulsory only for CBFM schemes in which forest resources have been allocated to entire communities.

In case forest land has been allocated to individual households and is protected and managed under forest user groups, the establishment of a VFMB is obligatory based on the demand of the user group members.

As revealed during discussions with local forest allottees, user group management with individual tenure rights seems to be the preferred option at least for the majority of people from Kinh ethnicity.

Two main appendixes have been further added to the previous version providing detailed information on:

- Description of main conceptual thoughts of the Sustainable Forest Model (SFM) and the technical steps involved in the elaboration of SFMs for specific forest types. SFM are applied to define sustainable harvest options throughout all diameter classes to satisfy the varied demand of local forest users. The concept is based on previous work from the GTZ RDDL project and experiences from the KfW 6 forest rehabilitation and

forest management project and are in line with guidelines applied within the pilot on community forest management under MARD. The guideline further includes first thoughts on principles for nation-wide standards for SFM development and application.

- Silviculture and harvesting operations for natural forests under smallholder management. The guideline is designed following international safety standards as defined by the FAO code of harvesting⁶ and technical guidelines on Reduced Impact Logging⁷ (RIL). Adherence to the regulations will minimize damage to the residual stand and at the same time maximize the volume of timber to be sustainably extracted. Afforestation, enrichment planting and NTFP management are not detailed in the guideline as these aspects are sufficiently covered under available provincial guidelines and are mostly relevant for management of bare land only.

The SFM concept as proposed in the guideline is currently applied in the community forestry program under MARD on a scale of 40 communes. Following the issuance of official letter 815/CV-LNCD, dated 12th June 2007 a total of 42 SFMs have been developed by the project covering all agro-ecological regions in Vietnam, which can be referred to when developing SFMs once a detailed FLA forest inventory database for Quang Binh province will be available.

However, as the CFM program under MARD has been designed prior to the issuance of Circular 38, it is not taking advantage of the data pool made available under FLA procedures.

The guideline is furthermore not detailing any volume figures to be calculated for the SFM which would allow for a comparison with conventional timber harvesting guidelines in Vietnam (Decision 40/2005/QD/BNN). Such data is forming a compulsory part of any FLA forest inventory and can therefore be instantly obtained without any extra cost. Such reference figure is understood of being of crucial importance to reach an acceptance and finally a legal endorsement of the SFM by an administration that is used to volume-based forest management only.

It is therefore recommended to develop independent SFM for the specific forest condition of Quang Binh province once sufficient data from FLA procedures has been made available.

In view of facilitating CBFM piloting, temporary SFMs can be developed and later adjusted once profound inventory data is made available. A similar sequence has been successfully tested under a KfW funded CBFM scheme in Quang Ngai province.

⁶ Dykstra, D. and R. Heinrich (1996): FAO Model Code of Forest Harvesting Practice. FAO. Rome

⁷ P. Sist, D. Dykstra, and R. Fimbel (1998): Reduced-Impact Logging Guidelines for Lowland and Hill Dipterocarp Forests in Indonesia. CIFOR Occasional Paper No. 15

7 FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

PLUP-FLA procedures have been defined as legal procedures for Quang Binh province and a number of national and ODA projects have scheduled implementation for 2009 with own budget provided. However, current national cost norms are not yet reflecting actual implementation costs and would require a revision to be applicable for Quang Binh province.

Furthermore, strict supervision of field implementation of new introduced mapping and forest inventory procedures will be required to ensure sufficient accuracy of obtained forest stand data for CBFM follow-up procedures and 5-year forest management plan preparation. The project on FLA under DoNRE has been halted due to such problems encountered during implementation.

As experienced during the provided training course, participants showed to be extreme hesitant to comment on the technical CBFM concept or even embark on CBFM piloting in Quang Binh.

However, as revealed during the conducted field visit, the pressure on remaining natural forests is extreme with ongoing conversion of degraded natural forest stands into exotic monocultures (*Acacia* and *Eucalyptus*) and requires immediate action and piloting of CBFM schemes to reverse this trend.

At present, several projects are going to embark on CBFM in Quang Binh province:

- The SMNR-CV project, which has tested CBFM since several years and has completed an up-to-date draft CBFM manual as guidance for pilot implementation, however with only limited budget resources available for small scale piloting only.
- The PNKB Region project funded by KfW, which is new to the region and is equipped with sufficient budget for a larger scale implementation (targeted 15.000 ha).
- The Pro-poor Forestry Project by SNV, which just started operating in November 2008 and is going to embark on CBFM schemes in several provinces of the region with own budget sources.

Effective cooperation between these projects is therefore of outmost importance to ensure a common orientation and CBFM development in Quang Binh province.

Mr. Nhung from FPD therefore proposed DARD to function as coordinating body between projects with the Province Community Forestry Consultant Group (PFCG) as advisory board on technical and administrative procedures under CBFM piloting.

As already proposed in the annual work plan 2009 of the Project, a provincial workshop is therefore recommended (1st Quarter of 2009) to embark on:

- Lessons learnt from current CBFM pilots in Vietnam (Community forestry pilot program under MARD, GTZ RDDL, SMNR-CV, KfW 6...)

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- Introduction of the available project CBFM guideline, its compliance with technical procedures under the national CBFM pilot and its suitability to be used as frame for piloting CBFM in Quang Binh.
 - Statements from Ministerial representatives on the clear orientation of the national forest strategy towards CBFM and the expected contribution to this achievement by the respective provincial authorities.

The aim of the workshop is therefore to pave a common way ahead and, of outmost importance to provide a unambiguous message from Central level to be articulated to provincial forest policy decision-makers on the urgent need for field piloting of CBFM as a contribution to national forest policy development in Vietnam.

ANNEX 1: TERMS OF REFERENCE

Short-term Assignment: Work Area 3 “Community Forestry”

Consultant: Dr. Björn Wode

1. Background information

The project on Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Central Vietnam (SMNR-CV) is implemented by the Provincial Peoples Committee (PPC) in the Province of Quang Binh with assistance From the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the German Development Service (DED). Its overall objective is that the *stakeholders in the project region manage their natural resources in a sustainable way*. The implementation of project interventions is structured into three work areas:

- I. Decentralized Planning (LED/ Participatory SEDP/CDP)
- II. Participatory Agricultural Extension (PAEM) and Value Chain Promotion
- III. **Community Forestry** (FPDR, PLUP-FLA, CBFM)

In the forestry area, 2 **sub-indicators** still remain to be fulfilled, namely:

In Quang Binh, improved provincial guidelines are issued on forest land allocation (until 06/2008) and on community forestry (until 06/2009), and are applied in all rural districts by the relevant stakeholders in the protection and sustainable management of forest resources.

In previous missions, the consultant has contributed to up-dating and revising the project manual on “Participatory Forest Land Use Planning and Forest Land Allocation” (FLUP-FLA) and has trained relevant stakeholders in Quang Bnh in the method of “Participatory Forest Inventory” as a key operational tool to implement FLA in the field. The issuance of the project manual as the official provincial guideline on FLA has seen a substantial delay, because new regulations from the national level (Circular 38 of MARD and the joint circular on FLA by MARD-MONRE) had to be integrated into these provincial guidelines. This process will come to an end in November 2008 with the guidelines being issued by the director of the provincial DARD.

Accordingly, the respective **milestones** and project outputs were revised as follows:

- By 12/2008, the final revised version of CBFM methodology guideline is made available.
- By 03/2009, the integrated methodology of PLUP-FLA is institutionalized.
- By 03/2009, provincial guidelines are issued on the application of “community-based forest management” (CBFM), and are applied in at least 02 districts.

2. Objectives of the assignment:

The objectives of the mission are a contribution to the “roll out” (or widespread application) of the new guidelines of PLUP-FLA and a further contribution to the final revision of the available project manual on Community-based Forest management (CBFM).

3. Specific tasks:

- During the field assignment, the consultant will participate in a **provincial workshop** with all forestry-related stakeholders to communicate the implications of the new FLA guidelines for their widespread application in Quang Binh. The objective of the workshop is to stimulate widespread acceptance and active cooperation and support for this process. The consultant will share his experience on technical issues and institutional issues (e.g. need for cooperation among line departments and different levels administration) in this process.
- Based on the first round of **training on “Participatory Forest Inventory”** held by the consultant in July 2008, a follow-up training will be organized by the consultant during his assignment. The major objective of the present training is to increase acceptance of this method among the major forestry-decision makers and key staff of the line departments and other organization on the provincial level (DARD, FPD, DFD, FIPI, DONRE, others), representatives of selected districts and communes. Therefore, a convincing comparison between conventionally applied inventory methods and the advantage of the new method are to be highlighted. Depending on the time availability of the trainees, the training will take 3 to 5 days of which at least 1 day for practical application and demonstration in the pilot village of July.
- Based on intensive discussions during the field visit with forestry-related decision makers and stakeholders, including the project staff of SMNR-CV, as well as a visit to the CBFM demonstration models of the project, the consultant will revised and up-date the available **project manual on CBFM**. The aim is to produce an output that is technically at the most recent level of CBFM development in Vietnam, and which finds a maximum of agreement among the relevant decision makers and stakeholders (see above) in Quang Binh province. The consultant’s output is to be the basis for further discussions and possible modifications by forest-related authorities and will hopefully lead to the issuance of as official “CBFM guidelines” by the director of DARD within the timeframe of the respective project indicator (June 2009).

4. Outputs / Deliverables (in English)

- Brief mission report (max. 10 pages) on the above tasks 1 and 2, with major statements and recommendations
- Revised CBFM manual, with changes/modifications against the previous version clearly marked in the text

5. Reporting deadline

- Brief mission report 10 days after completion of field mission
- Revised CBFM manual until January 19, 2009

6. Time schedule and total input days

The field assignment is scheduled for 21 days (December 8 to 28, 2008), including preparation and travel to and from Quang Binh. Reporting (desk job) will account for an additional 9 days, thus totaling 1.0 month (30 days) of consultancy.

The consultant is expected to conduct a follow-up mission (around 15 days) in March 2009.

ANNEX 2: MISSION ITINERARY

Period: 08/12/2008 – 05/01/2009

7.1.1 DAY & DATE 7.1.2 LOCATION AND TASK

Mon,	08/12	Travel to Dong Hoi, meeting with CTA and project staff
Tue- Tue	09/12 - 16/12	Editing of revised PLUP-FLA guideline Preparation of inventory measure tools Preparation of training documents Preparation of workshop presentation Meeting with PNKB Regional Project; Meeting with Mr. Quang Forest Protection Department Hanoi
Wed,	17/12	LUPLA workshop Quang Binh province
Thu,	18/12	Forest survey for training exercise
Fri,	19/12	Forest survey for training exercise; Development of GIS database; training handouts
Sat,	20/12	Training on participatory forest inventory concept
Sun,	21/12	Training on participatory forest inventory concept
Mon,	22/12	Training on participatory forest inventory concept
Tue,	23/12	Documentation of training results; final adjustments to forest inventory database
Wed,	24/12	Meeting with Mr Nhung Forest Protection Sub-Department Quang Binh province; Field visit to Tuyne Hoa district, Dong Hoa commune and Minh Hoa district, Hoa Hop commune
Thu,	25/12	Discussion of field results with project technician; Review of available project CBFM manual
Fri,	26/12	Review of forest inventory and CBFM related legal documents; meeting with project technicians
Sat,- Sun,	27-28/12	Review of CBFM material from other ODA projects in Vietnam (GTZ RDDL, KfW 6, CFM pilot under MARD)
Mon,	29/12	De-briefing meeting with project staff; Travel to Hanoi
Tue,- Sat.	30/12-3/01	Completion of Community-based Forest Management manual
Sun,- Mon.	4/01-05/01	Report writing

**ANNEX 3: DECISION 2311/QD-SNN ON ISSUANCE OF
PROVINCIAL PLUP-FLA GUIDLINE****QUANG BINH PPC
DARD**

No.: 2311/QD-SNN

**SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
Independence – Freedom – Happiness***Dong Hoi, dated 16th December 2008***DECISION****Ref.: Temporary promulgation of the Guideline on Participatory Land Use
Planning and Forest Land Allocation in Quang Binh province****DIRECTOR OF DARD**

Pursuant to Decision No. 528/2008/QD-UBND dated 25/03/2008 of the PPC of Quang Binh province on merging Department of Aquaculture and Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) into Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) of Quang Binh province;

Pursuant to Law on Forest Protection and Development dated 03/12/2004; Decision No. 23/2006/ND-CP dated 23/03/2006 of the Government of Vietnam guiding the implementation of Law on Forest Protection and Development;

Pursuant to Land Law dated 26/11/2003; Decree No. 181/2004/ND-CP dated 29/10/2004 of the Government of Vietnam guiding the implementation of Land Law;

Pursuant to Circular No. 38/2007/TT-BNN dated 25/04/2007 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development guiding procedures on forest allocation, lease and withdrawal for organizations, households, individuals and communities;

Pursuant to the Minutes of Meeting among Department of Natural resources and Environment (DONRE), Forest Protection Department (FPD) and the SMNR-CV project on agreeing the contents of the Guideline on Participatory Land Use Planning and Forest Land Allocation in Quang Binh province;

Based on the proposal of Heads of Forest Protection Department (FPD)

DECIDES

Article 1: Promulgate temporarily enclosed with this Decision the Guideline on Participatory Land Use Planning and Forest Land Allocation in Quang Binh province.

Article 2: FPD has the responsibility to print, disseminate and instruct the usage of this Guideline in a proper and effective way (cost supported by the SMNR-CV project).

Article 3: Chief of the Secretariat of DARD, Heads of FPD and heads of relevant organizations are responsible for implementing this Decision.

This Decision comes into effect since the signing date.

C.c.:

- As mentioned in Article 3
- Quang Binh PPC (report)
- Filed: Office, Planning Section

DIRECTOR OF DARD
Tran Van Tuan
(signed and stamped)

**ANNEX 4: TRAINING EXERCISE
FOREST BLOCK GIS DATABASE**

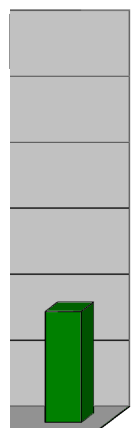
**Not printable
Refer to soft copy**

**ANNEX 5: TRAINING EXERCISE
FOREST INVENTORY DATABASE**

Sample



Huyện		Bo Trach		Xã		NT Viet Trung		Thôn		--		Lô rừng		Long Dai											
08-14,9 cm Cấp kính		15-19,9 cm Cấp kính		20-24,9 cm Cấp kính		25-29,9 cm Cấp kính		30-34,9 cm Cấp kính		35-39,9 cm Cấp kính		40-44,9 cm Cấp kính		45-49,9 cm Cấp kính		50-54,9 cm Cấp kính		55-59,9 cm Cấp kính		60-64,9 cm Cấp kính		> 65 cm Cấp kính			
Số cây	Thể tích	Số cây	Thể tích	Số cây	Thể tích	Số cây	Thể tích	Số cây	Thể tích	Số cây	Thể tích	Số cây	Thể tích	Số cây	Thể tích	Số cây	Thể tích	Số cây	Thể tích	Số cây	Thể tích	Số cây	Thể tích	Số cây	Thể tích
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
4730	272,6	1982	309,7	1214	352,1	1214	561,1	511	368,3	575	575,1	320	477,9	320	589,3	192	458,6	256	763,8	0	0,0	256	1870,5		



>45

96	124	76	76	32	56	84
4,9	19,9	24,9	29,9	34,9	44,9	>45

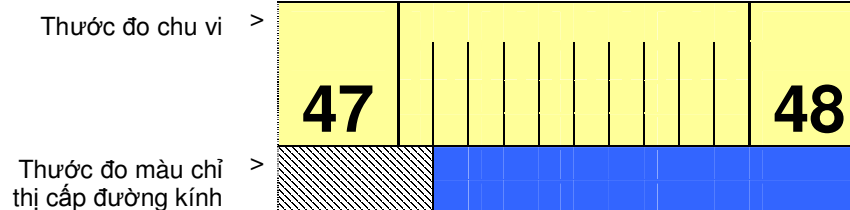
Số liệu (ha)	
Số cây/ha	724
Trữ lượng [m³]	413,0
Tiết diện ngang [m²]	41,8

Số liệu (Lô rừng)	
Diện tích lô	15,98
Số ô mẫu [#]	5
Đường kính tr.bình [cm]	22,5
Chiều cao tr.bình [m]	15,7
Số cây [lô rừng]	11.570
Trữ lượng [lô rừng]	6.599

Biểu thức tính trữ lượng	
Y=	$e^{\ln(a)+b*\ln(x)}$
A=	3,860951045
B=	0,464245529

Thước dây màu

Cấp đường kính	Chu vi	Màu
08-14,9	25,13	Vàng
15-19,9	47,12	Đen
20-24,9	62,83	Kí sắc
25-29,9	78,54	Xanh
30-34,9	94,25	Châm
35-44,9	109,96	Đỏ ca
>45	141,37	Đỏ

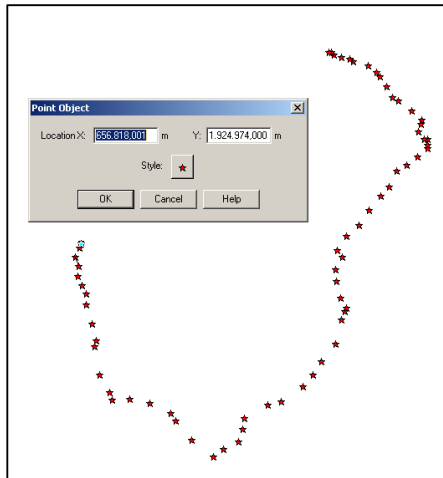


Thước dây dùng để đo (a) chu vi và (b) màu chỉ thị cấp đường kính

Tính toán số ô mẫu theo lưới ô vuông

Diện tích ô mẫu [m ²]	500
Dung lượng mẫu [%]	1,5
Diện tích [ha]	15,89
Số ô mẫu [#]	4,767
Khoảng cách lưới ô vuông [m]	183

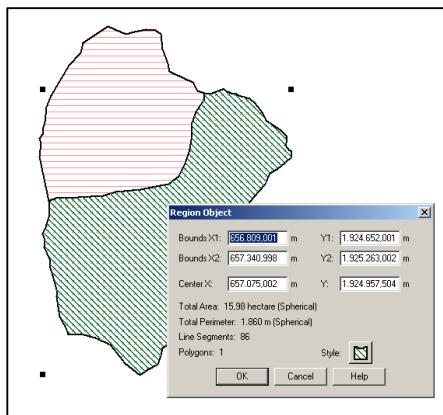
ANNEX 6: TRAINING EXERCISE – PROCESS OVERVIEW



Step 1: A forest block of medium/rich natural forest (25 ha) has been delineated by GPS technology and waypoints manually entered into a GIS database for production of a forest vegetation cover map. A total of around 100 waypoints have been marked and entered.

Time expenditure: 4 hours (including data entry into GIS database)

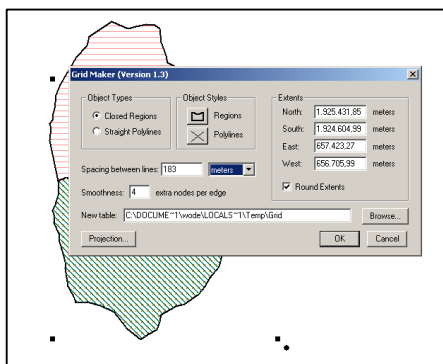
Labour: 1 technician, 1 local allottee



Step 2: Waypoints were linked to a polygon for calculation of area size. An area of degraded forest land was excluded from forest inventory and a forest block size of 15,98 ha identified for conducting a participatory forest inventory.

Time expenditure: < 10 min

Labour: 1 technician

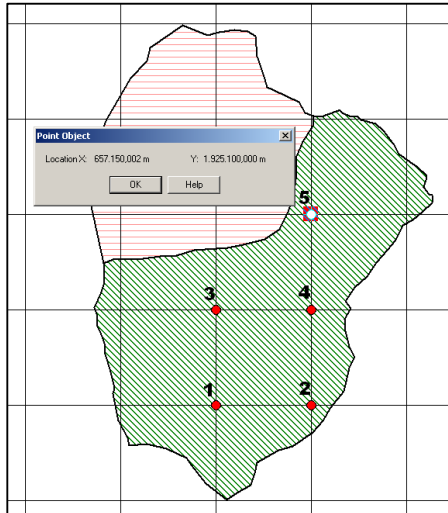


Step 3: Based on the total block size and the applied sample intensity the sample grid net width was defined (183 m) and a systematic sampling design laid over the digital forest block map.

The grid net distance was automatically calculated by the prepared Excel database.

Time expenditure: < 10 min

Labour: 1 technician



Step 4: The coordinates of each sample plot (grid net point) were manually copied into GPS receivers. Based on a sample intensity of 1,5% a total of 5 sample plots were required.

Time expenditure: 15 min (including set-up of GPS receiver to required map datum and coordinate system)

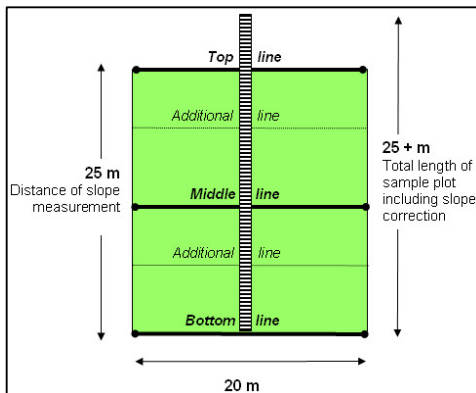
Labour: 1 technician



Step 5: Preparation of field measure tools. A set of improvised measure tools were prepared by the consultant including 2 nylon ropes (each 20m), slope measure tool and girth/diameter class measure tape

Time expenditure: 45 min/set

Labour: 1 technician



Step 6: Locating sample plots in the field by use of GPS. Sample plot layout (based on a total size after slope correction) and tree measurement including tree height measurement for 3 trees/plot.

Time expenditure: 4-5 sample plots/team/day

Labour: 1 technician, 2 local allottees

Nhập số liệu - Kết quả điều tra

Huyện	Bò Trach
Xã	NT Việt Trung
Thôn	--
Tên lô rừng	Long Dai

Diện tích [ha]	15,98
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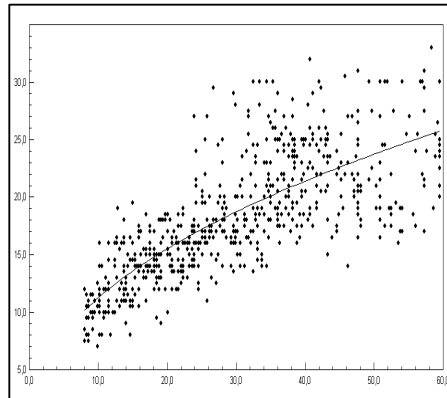
# Ô mẫu	Loại cây	Chu vi	Chất lượng	Chiều cao
1	2	3	4	5
1	Cút Ngựa	35	C	
	Da Hương	71	B	
	La Van	85	B	15
	Quách Tom	175	A	22
	Vàng	185	A	20
	Chùa	82	A	

Step 7: Data input of forest inventory tally sheets into Excel database.

Formatting of data to be used in development of diameter height equation.

Time expenditure: 10 min/tally sheet

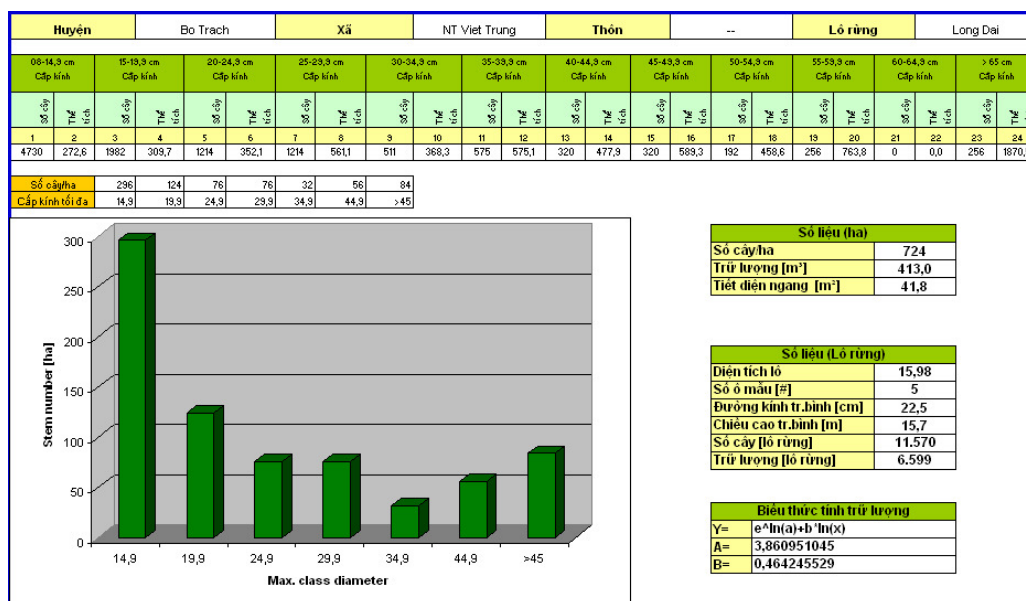
Labour: 1 technician



Step 8: A non-linear regression analysis was completed by use of DataFit software. As a result a two-factor diameter height equation as defined by FIPI was calculated and results entered back into the Excel inventory database for volume calculation.

Time expenditure: 15 min

Labour: 1 technician



Step12: Forest characteristics are provided automatically in a print version on one page to be kept by district agencies for monitoring of forest vegetation cover changes and implementation of 5-year and annual CBFM plans.

The left side depicts a diameter-stem number distribution to be applied for CBFM plan development. Each column represents the stem number of a respective diameter class.

The right side provides all forest characteristics required for the issuance for forest land use certificates and attached forest management profile. Stand figures are given in per hectare values as well as figures for the total forest block.

The total standing timber volume of 413 m³ would translate into a forest status of IIIa3 or rich forest according to Decision 682/BNN by MARD.

Forest characteristics are then entered into a forest management profile, however at present the summary table provided in Circular 38 has to be used instead until the inter-ministerial Circular on Forest Land Allocation has been issued.

Time expenditure: 15 min/forest management block

Labour: 1 technician

ANNEX 7:

MANUAL ON COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT

Third revised Version

January 2009

Submitted as separate Document