

**Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG) Vietnam:
Supporting Poverty Alleviation through Community Forestry**



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Final Narrative Report

(For the period of September 2006 to September 2009)

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Table of contents

1	Introduction	2
2	Project progress over time	3
2.1	Phase 1: September 2006 – August 2007	3
2.2	Phase 2: September 2007 – August 2008	4
2.3	Phase 3: September 2008 – September 2009	7
2.4	Achievements of project objective and outputs – a summary	8
3	Forest governance development	10
4	Management	10
5	Lessons learned	11
6	Impacts from FGLG Vietnam	12
6.1	Impacts within the team	13
6.2	Impacts beyond the team	13
7	Tentative plan for the future	14

List of Boxes

Box 1:	Planned outputs for FGLG Vietnam from 2006 - 2009	3
Box 2:	FGLG Vietnam supports to local people in Thon 4	6

List of Figures

Figure 1:	The learning journey of FGLG Vietnam	13
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List of Tables:

Table 1:	List of written outputs produced by FGLG Vietnam	8
Table 2:	Presentations by FGLG Vietnam at national and international events	9
Table 3:	Tactics of working in multi-stakeholder FGLG Vietnam	12
Table 4:	Key activities by FGLG Vietnam for the period of 2009-2013	14

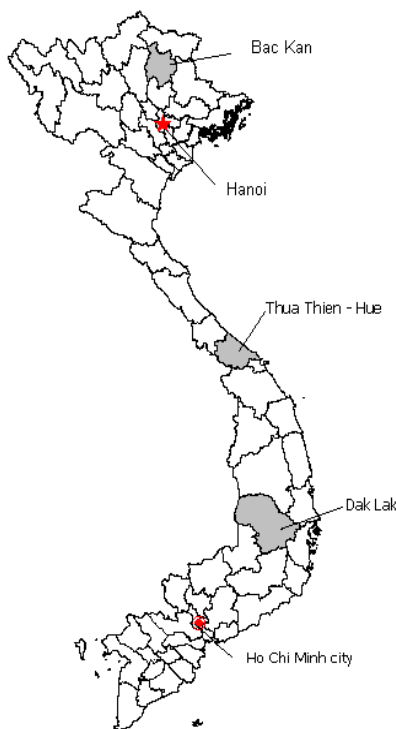
1 Introduction

The Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG) Vietnam was part of a global initiative working toward better governance in forestry. It focused on *sharing and learning from experiences on poverty alleviation through community forest management (CFM)*. The focus was on poverty alleviation because it was one of the major concerns in Vietnamese forest sector. Vietnam made important progress in reducing the number of people living below the poverty line, from 58.2% in 1993 to 16% in 2006. In the forestry sector, however, it was still unclear to what extent forestry had contributed to lifting poor people out of poverty and the impacts of forestry on the poor were vague.

Furthermore, the focus of FGLG Vietnam was on CFM because CFM recently gained legal recognition¹. Work was being done to develop guidelines in pilot project site for wider implementation of CFM at the national level later. FGLG expected to provide contribution to this work with concrete examples of how CF worked at local level and what benefit sharing arrangements were in use in existing CF experiences from on-going projects or traditional cases. FGLG's contribution would focus on how future state CFM policy could contribute to alleviate poverty in the forest area through equitable and sustainable benefit sharing arrangements.

To achieve the intended objective, FGLG Vietnam was divided into three phases, with concrete outputs to be achieved for each phase (see details in Box 1):

- Phase 1 (September 2006 – August 2007) aimed to get a clear understanding on CFM situation and its connection with poverty alleviation in the selected provinces.
- Phase 2 (September 2007 – August 2008) focused on mutual learning among local communities and FGLG members (through cross-site exchange visits and study tours) and more pro-poor distribution of forest benefits.
- Phase 3 (September 2008 – January 2009, later extended to September 2009): focused on documenting lessons learnt, preparing recommendations, and disseminating project findings to relevant audiences.



Project sites – FGLG Vietnam

FGLG Vietnam was convened by an independent researcher and was represented by various organizations, including central government, provincial government, university and civil society organization. The project worked in three provinces (namely Bac Kan, Thua Thien Hue and Dak Lak) in three regions of Vietnam. Thua Thien Hue and Dak Lak started at the beginning of the project and Bac Kan joined later in second phase.

¹ Forest Protection and Development Law passed by the National Assembly in November 2004.

Box 1: Planned outputs for FGLG Vietnam from 2006 - 2009

For phase 1:

- Two provincial reports documenting results of survey on existing CFM in the respective provinces and the proposed activities for the coming phase.
- A national synthesis report summarizing key findings, implications, and activities from the provincial reports

For phase 2:

- Exchange visits and study tours on CFM and forest benefit sharing are organized for local people and officials
- Up to two communities in each province are assisted to deal with some major problems identified in CFM survey to promote more pro-poor derivation and distribution of benefits from CFM

For phase 3:

- A final report (English and Vietnamese) on lessons learnt and policy implications
- A policy brief (English and Vietnamese) summarizing major findings and policy recommendations

(Source: FGLG Vietnam Workplan, revised 23 February 2007)

2 Project progress over time

2.1 Phase 1: September 2006 – August 2007

Main activities carried out:

- *Open project bank account:* In September 2006, with supports from RECOFTC (legal documents, letter of introduction) two accounts (one in Vietnamese Dong and another in Euro) were opened under RECOFTC name for the use of FGLG work in Vietnam.
- *Set up the team:* Between September and November 2009, efforts were made to set up FGLG Vietnam team. Initially, the team consisted of ten members: three people from national level (including the convener), and seven people from two provinces (Thua Thien Hue and Dak Lak).
- *Conduct CFM survey in Dak Lak and Thua Thien Hue provinces:* The survey took place between December 2006 and June 2007 in Thua Thien Hue and Dak Lak provinces. The survey provided an overview of CFM in the respective provinces and went into details in eleven communities (five communities in Dak Lak and six in Thua Thien Hue). Fieldwork took place until March 2007. Data analysis was done and provincial reports on survey findings were drafted by June 2007, including proposed areas of focus for FGLG in the next phase.
- *Organize provincial and national workshops to discuss CFM survey findings and future FGLG activities:* Draft CFM survey reports were discussed at respective provincial workshops. In Thue Thien Hue province, the workshop was organized on May 24 2007 in Hue city with 25 participants. In Dak Lak, the workshop was held on June 8 2007, with 18 participants. The national workshop was organized on 29 August 2007 in Hanoi and was attended by 30 people.

- *Prepare CFM reports and revise project workplan:* two provincial reports documenting CFM findings and discussing the proposed areas of focus were prepared before the provincial workshops. On the basis on these reports, a national synthesis was prepared in English and Vietnamese by August 2007. The report synthesized findings from the CFM surveys in the two project provinces and discussed main areas of focus for FGLG in the second phase, which were: 1) legality of CFM, 2) the conditions for forest to be managed under CFM arrangements, and 3) forest management and pro-poor benefit sharing.

Achievement of planned outputs:

Both planned outputs for the phase 1 were achieved (see Box 1 – see also a summary of FGLG Vietnam achievements in 2.4). The provincial reports were discussed in the respective provincial workshops and the national synthesis was discussed in national workshop in Hanoi. Provincial reports were prepared in Vietnamese and the draft version translated into English. The national report was prepared in both English and Vietnamese.

In addition, the importance of findings from CFM survey encouraged the team to prepare a brief discussing policy implications of the key survey results. This activity was carried out in the second phase (see discussion later).

Assessment of progress

Generally, the process was on time. There was, however, a delay in getting the final reports ready: the provincial report from Dak Lak was ready by May 2008, report from Thua Thien Hue in July 2009, and the national synthesis report in April 2008. The main reason for the delay was the time availability of team members to spend on the report. In Thua Thien Hue, the significant delay was (mainly) due to the unclear designation of tasks by the team leader.

2.2 Phase 2: September 2007 – August 2008

Main activities carried out:

- *Prepare a policy brief based on findings from CFM survey:* This activity was not in the original plan but was added at the beginning of the second phase. A six-page policy brief based on findings from CFM survey were prepared in English and Vietnamese. The brief tried to promote that idea of how to make CFM work better to support the local communities and to alleviate poverty.
- *Develop activity plan and approach:* between November 2007 and January 2008, a concrete activity plan and work approach for the provinces were developed. Collecting data to address the focus areas of the project through exchange visits and study tours to the local communities was generally employed in Dak Lak and Thua Thien Hue. It was



A policy brief summarizing lessons from CFM survey

also agreed that a third province – Bac Kan - was to be added to the project. However, because of late inclusion and no CFM survey done, FGLG team in Bac Kan would only participate in study tours and meeting in other provinces.



Participants shared experiences in a field visit

- *Organize visits to local communities:* A series of field visits were conducted to not only project sites (Dak Lak, Thua Thien Hue and Bac Kan provinces) but also to other provinces where good examples of forest management by local communities existed. Concrete lessons learned from the study tours and exchange visit were documented in a separate report².

- *Provide technical support to one village in Thua Thien Hue province:* Thon 4 village of Thuong Quang

commune, Nam Dong district was selected for the project support to improve local capacity to manage forest after allocation. A report documenting supports provided and lessons learned from this activity was prepared in English and Vietnamese.

- *Conduct a study on potential for community timber certification in one village in Dak Lak province:* The idea of the study was to explore a possibility for timber certification for village with forest RBC. The study covered T'Ly village where villagers were given forest in 2003 and commercial timber logging was experimented in 2006. A reported was prepared in Vietnamese and translated into English.
- *Prepare a forestry legal handbook on key issues confronted by the local communities:* in response to the findings from the CFM survey in phase 1, Dr. Pham Xuan Phuong, vice director of Legal Department under MARD and a team member of FGLG Vietnam was commissioned to produce a forestry legal handbook that addressed key issues that local people would need or had confronted. To make the book address the real issues at the local level, a four day field-visit was conducted.
- *Share lessons learned and experiences:* FGLG Vietnam took most possible opportunities to share and discuss its experiences with national and international audiences. FGLG Vietnam members participated in all FGLG global meetings in Uganda (2006), India (2007) and Malawi (2008). In addition, its members also participated and presented in the following events:
 - International Conference on Forest Tenure and Poverty Alleviation in Bangkok between September 4-7 2007.
 - FLEGT meeting with representatives from different FLEGT initiatives and concerned people in Hanoi on March 17th 2008.
 - Asia-Pacific Forestry Week in Hanoi between April 21-26 2008
 - 13th Biannual International Conference of the International Association of the Studies of the Commons (IASC) in Cheltenham, UK, July 15-19 2008.

² See Nguyen, T.Q., Tran, T. N., Hoang, T. H., Community Forestry and Poverty Alleviation: A Synthesis of Project Findings from Field Activities. Report from FGLG Vietnam. May 2009.

Achievement of planned outputs:

The two planned outputs of this phase were successfully achieved (see Box 1 and Section 2.4). With regard to output 1, there were 16 trips organized by the project to 25 different villages in 7 provinces, including three project provinces (i.e. Bac Kan, Thua Thien Hue and Dak Lak). The visits benefited over 250 participants, including FGLG members, policy makers at national and provincial officials, district technician and local people.

For output 2, support was provided to one community in Thua Thien Hue in terms of training and legal supports (see details in Box 2). In Dak Lak province, FGLG support was targeted to identification of roadmap for community timber certification in T'Ly village, which is an important issue for the local people.

Box 2: FGLG Vietnam supports to local people in Thon 4

For a year (from early 2008 and early 2009), FGLG Vietnam provided the following supports to the residents of Thon 4 village (and neighboring villages):

- *legal training on rights and responsibilities of local households and communities in managing allocated forest*: one course was organized for 25 participants from Thon 4 and their neighbors.
- *setting up and supporting operations of a commune level forest governance learning group*: a group of 12 people were set up and received training in participatory approach and facilitation skills. The group members were also involved in study tours organized by FGLG team in Hue.
- *setting up and supporting operations of farmers' learning group in community forest management*: two groups of 10 farmers each were set up, focusing on bee keeping and indigenous tree species. Trainings were provided to members of both groups on the topics of their interest. After that, supports were provided to help farmers with bee keeping and indigenous tree nursery and planting.

Assessment of progress

In general, all planned activities were carried out by the end and the planned outputs were successfully met. There was, however, a general delay in the work progress for this phase. Planned activities, particularly the community visits, took place or finished from two to four months later than scheduled. Some activities (e.g. support to community in Thua Thien Hue) did not happen or complete until the next phase (i.e. after August 2008). There were two major reasons: one was the availability of FGLG members to undertake the activities as planned (see discussion in phase 1); and the other was the seasonality of the activities. Support to community, for example, needed to follow the seasonality of event (e.g. training on bee keeping should take place only in dry season) and project team had to wait until the good time.

In addition, the draft forestry legal handbook was meant to be shared with villagers during visits made after that by FGLG team (see above). However, due to lack of close enforcement, this was not always done. The dissemination of the handbook and its contents was not as it was expected.

2.3 Phase 3: September 2008 – September 2009

Main activities carried out:

- *Organize workshops to discuss lessons learned and recommendations:* the national workshop was held in Bac Kan on November 14-15 2008 and hosted by Bac Kan DARD with participation of around 40 people from various organizations. The first part of the workshop was held in the premise of Bac Kan DARD, consisting of presentations from FGLG team and the participating organizations. The second part was a field visit to a CFM project by Thai Nguyen University (TNU) in Na Ri district (Bac Kan) where community forest used to be ‘open access’ in the past and encroached by the villagers but is now put under protection by the villagers themselves, thanks to the help of a CFM project by TNU. Two provincial workshops were organized in January 2009 in their respective locations. The workshop in Thua Thien Hue province was hosted by Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry. Dak Lak’s workshop was hosted by Dak Lak Association of Forestry Sciences and Technology.
- 
- FGLG national workshop in Bac Kan, November 2008**
- *Document lessons learned and prepare policy recommendations:* lessons learned from the field activities were documented into different reports. From Dak Lak team, there were two reports: one on the findings from study tours and another on community timber certification. The first draft reports from Dak Lak were ready by January 2009 and the revision was made in March. Two reports were produced by Hue team: a report on findings from study tours and a report on supports provided to local community. At the national level, a report synthesizing lessons learned from study tours and a policy brief was prepared in March 2009 and revised several times until September. A write-up of the most important tactic employed by the team in the past three years was also prepared. A final narrative report (this report) was available in September 2009. In addition, a policy brief on lessons learned from field supports to a community in Hue was also prepared.
 - *Co-organize national CFM Workshop:* FGLG Vietnam was requested by IUCN Vietnam to co-organize a national workshop on CFM in Hanoi on 5th June 2009. The workshop was hosted by Department of Forestry of Vietnam and attended by around 70 participants from different organizations in Hanoi and the provinces. After the workshop, FGLG took the lead in preparing the book of proceedings. The original intention was to produce both English and Vietnamese versions. However, reviewers suggested not to proceed with the English version as the papers were not of the publishable quality. Suggestion from the reviewers was taken and only Vietnamese version of the proceeding was produced.
 - *Support production of a documentary film on FGLG Vietnam activities:* Vietnam was selected as one of the three countries for a film consultant from IIED to make a film about FGLG activities. A Vietnamese film crew was hired to do the filming with instruction from IIED film consultant. Vietnam Multimedia Corporation VTC-I was selected to provide the filming service. Between 14-21 July 2009, a film on FGLG

activities in Vietnam was shot. The film covered activities in two villages in Thua Thien Hue province and video interviews of five different people in Hue and Hanoi.

Achievement of outputs:

Achievements in this phase were beyond the planned outputs as stated in Box 1. FGLG Vietnam did not only produced a synthesis report of its findings and lessons learned and a policy brief on policy implication of project findings but also reviewed and published documents prepared by the project in the past. In addition, FGLG Vietnam also produced other documents that were not in the original plan (e.g. CFM Workshop Proceeding). Detailed list of project publication is presented in Section 2.4.

Assessment of progress:

Similar to the phases 1 and 2, the general implementation process in this phase was slow and later than originally planned. The discussion in Section 4 later will go into details the contributing factors.

2.4 Achievements of project objective and outputs – a summary

The discussion so far indicated that, as a learning group, FGLG Vietnam was rather active in exploring existing (good) practices in community forest management and promoting sharing of these practices and experiences among local communities, FGLG members, local officials and other concerned stakeholders. FGLG team members also worked hard to identify good practices in poverty alleviation and factors contributing or hindering efforts to reduce poverty. In short, the objective of promoting sharing of experiences in poverty alleviation through CFM was successfully met.

To keep the learning and sharing going on beyond the project life, FGLG Vietnam paid significant attention to producing written outputs. Altogether, it produced 16 different documents during the past three years (Table 1). Of which, ten documents were produced mainly for internal purpose (i.e. working document for FGLG Vietnam’s own purpose or to share with RECOFTC, IIED and other FGLG country teams) and six documents published in hard and soft forms to share with larger group of audience. Of the latter, four were printed in both English and Vietnamese and two were only in Vietnamese (with unpublished English version).

Table 1: List of written outputs produced by FGLG Vietnam (the full list is provided at Annex 1)

Document title/ contents	Date published/ finalized
Unpublished documents (for internal purpose only)	
1. FGLG Vietnam Work Plan	Aug 2006, Jan 2008, Jan 2009
2. CFM survey report from Dak Lak	March 2008
3. CFM survey report from Thua Thien Hue	May 2009
4. Provincial report on lessoned learnt from field visits by Dak Lak team	March 2009
5. Provincial report on lessoned learnt from field visits by Thua Thien Hue team	June 2009
6. Synthesis report on lessons learned from field visits	September 2009

by FGLG team	
7. Report on possibility for community timber certification in Dak Lak province	March 2009
8. Report on supports provided to local community in Thua Thien Hue province	June 2009
9. Tactics write-ups	September 2009
10. Final project progress report	September 2009
Published documents	
11. CFM survey synthesis report	September 2009
12. FGLG Policy brief No 1, based on CFM survey findings	April 2008
13. FGLG Policy brief No 2, based on lessons learned from field visits	August 2009
14. FGLG Policy brief No 3, based on experience in supporting local community	September 2009
15. Forestry legal handbook (published in Vietnamese only)	September 2009
16. Book of proceedings from national CFM workshop (published in Vietnamese only, in collaboration with IUCN and DOF)	August 2009

In addition, FGLG Vietnam also prepared written documents (i.e. presentation and poster) to share at national, regional and international forums, workshops or conferences that its members attended (Table 2).

Table 2: Presentations by FGLG Vietnam at national and international events

Document title/ contents	Event name and date
1. Posters on FGLG Vietnam	FGLG global meetings in Uganda (2006), India (2007) and Malawi (2008)
2. Poster on findings from CFM surveys in Dak Lak and Thua Thien Hue	International Conference on Forest Tenure and Poverty Alleviation in Bangkok, September 4-7 2007
3. Poster summarizing key information from FGLG Vietnam	Asia-Pacific Forestry Week in Hanoi, April 21-26 2008
4. Paper presentation comparing traditional and new form of CFM (based on CFM surveys in Dak Lak and Thua Thien Hue)	13 th conference of the International Association for the Studies of the Commons (IASC) in Cheltenham, England, July 15-19 2008.
5. Paper presentation (at plenary) on experiences from FGLG Vietnam	National CFM workshop in Hanoi, 5 June 2009
6. Paper presentation (at group work) on experience from FGLG Hue	National CFM workshop in Hanoi, 5 June 2009

3 Forest governance development

In the past, forest resources in Vietnam were under state management and the term state management became too often heard. FGLG Vietnam brought the concept of forest governance to a wide number of people. Most importantly, FGLG Vietnam contributed to a number of key governance development issues in forestry sector:

- Multi-stakeholder participation in forestry: FGLG Vietnam emphasized on the involvement of different stakeholders other than state actors in forestry.
- Local capacity in making decision and successfully managing forest resources: FGLG Vietnam explored good examples of community (self) management of forest to share with different stakeholders
- Legality of community forestry: FGLG Vietnam worked toward promoting legal recognition of existing self managed CFM and allocation of forest to community for management.
- Community forest management and pro-poor benefit sharing: FGLG Vietnam actively engaged in the analysis of good practices in poverty alleviation through CFM and identification of factors hindering pro-poor forest benefit sharing arrangements.

4 Management

In general, the project management effectively contributed to the achievements discussed so far. There were nevertheless issues in project management and coordination that need to be discussed here for future improvement:

- *The part-time engagement of the team members:* Most FGLG members had full-time jobs and they only worked part time for the project activities. The positive side of this was there were a lot of chances for FGLG experiences to be applied through the regular jobs of its members, which magnified the potential impacts from FGLG. In addition, FGLG was also able to benefit from the experiences gained during the regular jobs of its members. On the other hand, implementation of project activities was strongly dependent on the project members' work schedule in their regular jobs; thus very often caused delay in the workplan. As this fact was and would be unavoidable, FGLG workplan should be very flexible and there should be a contingency in terms of time for the fulfillment of project plan.
- *Communication with DOF:* during the last three years, communication with Department of Forestry of Vietnam (DOF) was not as frequent as it had been expected at the beginning of the project. The contact person in DOF for FGLG Vietnam was a very busy person. Meetings with him about the project were only possible once a year and often very short. Alternatively, electronic and hard copies of FGLG documents (Vietnamese only) were sent to him. Although the limited communication with DOF leaders did not affect the implementation of FGLG in the past three years, it was obviously that the contribution from the project's experiences in the field on the national policy making process could be better if this communication was improved. To bridge this gap, FGLG was in close contact with DOF's Community Forestry Pilot Project and tried to bring the experiences learned from FGLG to the national CFM policy making process through this channel. FGLG actively engaged members of CFM Pilot Project in its events. The CFM Pilot Project coordinator was involved with

all national meetings with FGLG and found the work of FGLG very useful and relevant to her project.

- *Communication among team members*: communication among FGLG members was also an issue during the past three years. Originally, it was planned that team members would meet every six months to review and share past activities and to discuss future plan. However, only two team meetings were organized in the first year. No subsequent meeting took place until the visioning workshop on 6 June 2009 as it was not possible for team members to arrange time and more importantly the travel budget (the original budget allocated to the project in August 2006) was too limited. As a learning project, lack of team building activities obviously had an impact on the cross-sharing and learning among team members. For example, team members from Dak Lak and Thua Thien Hue could have shared with each other their experiences in organizing field visits to local communities and would be able to learn from the others. During the vision workshop on 6 June 2009, team members agreed that from 2010 onward, team meeting should be organized once a year and will be an opportunity for reviewing past activities, discussing future plan, sharing experiences, learning from the others and building up the teamwork.
- *Coordination and communication in filming of FGLG activities*: as mentioned above, a film crew was hired to help film FGLG activities under the guidance of an IIED consultant. Overall, the footage produced by the film crew was of the minimal quality level accepted by the IIED consultant. Two issues that need to be highlighted here: 1) coordination with the villagers and 2) communication between the IIED film consultant and the Vietnamese crew. On the first issue, FGLG team underestimated the need for a team member to accompany the film crew to help with unexpected issues. Due to a technical problem, the film crew had to return to one of the villages for re-filming. However, without an FGLG member to accompany, villagers demanded an unreasonable amount of money to participate. After unsuccessful attempt to negotiate with the villagers, the film crew had to return to Hue without being able to do any filming. The problem was solved afterward when a member of FGLG Hue team travelled together with the film crew and stayed until they finished.

On the second issue, the communication between the IIED film consultant and Vietnamese film crew could improve. The film consultant was not very happy with the quality of the work of the film crew. For example, the microphone did not work on the first day, some of the footage was over-exposed and could not be used, and the duration for each shoot was often too short for any editing. However, the film crew also had some difficulties. They normally produced film with concrete guidance on what scenes to shoot and for how long. Without such guidance, it was difficult for them to know whether they had been able to meet the expectation of the consultant.

5 Lessons learned

As a learning group, there were various lessons that had been learned over the past three years. Some of them are:

- *A multi-stakeholder group was useful for mutual learning*: As governance related to different stakeholders, the involvement of these people in the FGLG group was to bring representatives of all concerned stakeholder groups on board. Our experience over the three years indicated that a multi-stakeholder group created a chance for mutual learning and sharing of experiences and information among group members.

For example, policy makers and law enforcers were able to learn analytical results from researchers and real life problems and good practices from community members. At the same time, community members got a chance to raise their voice and to improve their legal knowledge. Researchers also had chance to see how their analytical research could better serve the real life issues raised by policy makers and community members.

Table 3: Tactics of working in multi-stakeholder FGLG Vietnam

Tactics	Purposes	Steps
Involve policy makers in the team	Convey lessons learned into national policy-making and implementation process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select key and interested policy makers • Invite them to join the group • Involve them in learning events • Discuss with them about lessons learnt and their implications
Work with academia and practitioners	Make sure that the lessons learnt are carefully analyzed and practically appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select key and interested persons • Invite them to join • Involve them in learning events • Ask them to analyze and review lessons learnt

- *Legal status of CFM was important for local communities:* Legal recognition of CFM could be very important for the community. Legal rights could play a role in providing basis for exclusion of unauthorized forest users. They entitled communities to important benefits from and related to forests. The absence of legal rights could prevent local communities from protecting their forest from outsiders. It would also be hard for the community to receive official support from outside for forest development. Government should endeavor to provide legal title to community forest. Such title would particularly be useful for communities to protect their rights and the investment they put into the forest, when there were conflicts or overlapping claims on the forest.
- *Policy brief worked well in disseminating key messages:* for disseminating issues on forest governance, both full reports and policy briefs were prepared. The experience so far was that policy brief worked quite well in bringing the message to different stakeholders as it was short, concise, attractive and well prepared. The feedbacks received on project publications were mainly about the policy briefs, which clearly indicated that briefs could capture the attention of audience much better than the long reports.



Red Book Certificate – The highest land title in Vietnam

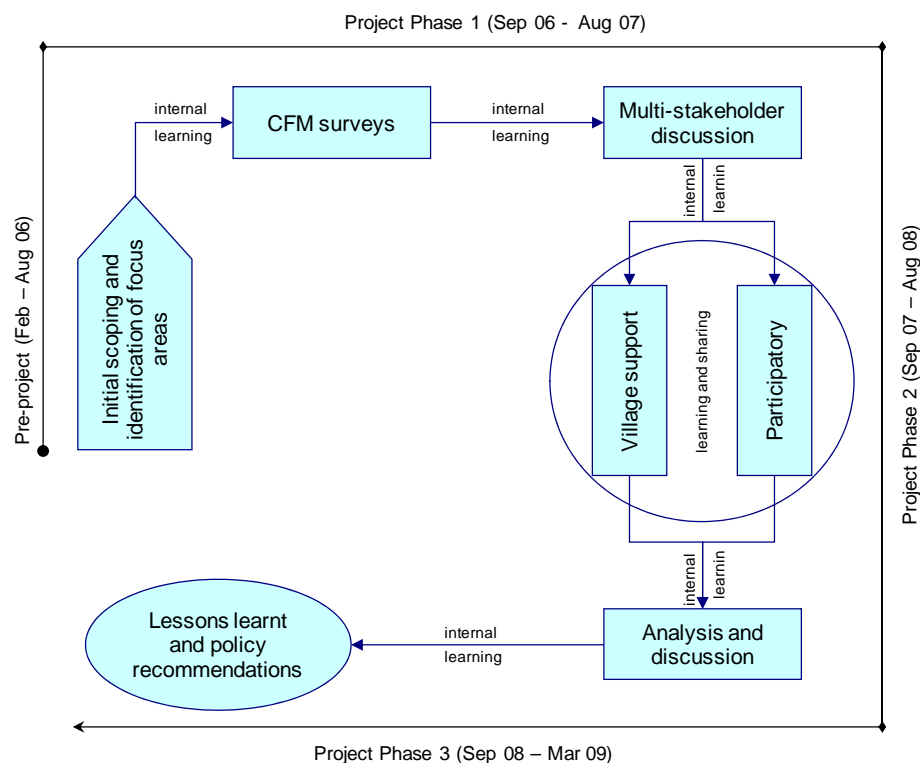
6 Impacts from FGLG Vietnam

Two levels of impacts created by FGLG Vietnam are discussed in this Section: Impacts of on the FGLG team members and impacts beyond the learning group.

6.1 Impacts within the team

Within the team, FGLG Vietnam created an important learning platform for sharing and learning. As indicated in Figure 1, the project emphasized in the internal learning process in each and every stage of the journey. Team members were able to learn new experiences from within the province as well as across the provinces/ countries through the project activities in topics relevant to community forest management addressed by the project, which helped them in their daily job. A team member from MARD's Policy Department indicated that the experiences he learned from field visits and workshops with FGLG were very useful for him to discuss with MARD leaders on forest policies.

Figure 1: The learning journey of FGLG Vietnam



Secondly, FGLG Vietnam brought the concept of forest governance to its members. Forest governance was a new concept and not often properly explained in Vietnamese language. FGLG Vietnam had a good opportunity to introduce this concept to its team members. A presentation made by Elaine Morrison in the national workshop in Hanoi in August 2007 provided a good understanding of forest governance and what it encompassed. Through project activities, team members also had chance to experience governance's issues (see Section 3).

6.2 Impacts beyond the team

FGLG Vietnam left various impacts beyond the team. The field visits to 25 communities benefited over 250 participants and more than half are from partner organizations and local communities. Participants expressed important learning experiences through these visits. As the former director of DARD Bac Kan in the FGLG Vietnam national workshop in Bac Kan 14-15 November 2008:

“I have heard of community forest management in workshops in Thailand, the Philippines, and Australia. This is the first time I hear about CFM experiences right in my own town”

Not only learning, the impact FGLG Vietnam had on CFM also contributed to the expansion of CFM. For example, having learnt from the CFM experiences presented by the FGLG team in the national workshop in Bac Kan, Bac Kan DARD director (also FGLG member) asked a district vice chairman to accept proposal for CFM in one of the communes in the district.

FGLG experiences also contributed to the development of CFM guidelines and related issues in Vietnam. Close cooperation with CFM Pilot Project gave a good chance for FGLG Vietnam to introduce its experiences and lessons learned to the former. In addition, FGLG member from MARD used the experiences he learned from FGLG to integrate in the forestry regulations that he later involved in the development.

A short statement made by Dr. Nguyen Ba Ngai, interim director of Bac Kan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, during the Visioning Workshop on 6 June 2009 captured the key impacts that FGLG Vietnam produced:

“The project focus areas about CFM and poverty alleviation are realistic and appropriate to the forestry sectoral development. The project has been able to contribute to the preparation of state regulations on CFM. FGLG was able to build up a learning approach in forest governance. There was cross learning within the project. Bac Kan province was able to learn from Dak Lak and Thua Thien Hue provinces and from the visits to communities in other countries (India and Malawi).

In addition, FGLG experiences and publication were also adopted in various circumstances and found useful by researchers working in the issues related to CFM. For example, the first policy brief produced by FGLG Vietnam was used in postgraduate course on developing countries in Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich. Experience from Thua Thien Hue team was adopted in the undergraduate curriculum at Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry in Vietnam.

7 Tentative plan for the future

For the period of 2009-2013, FGLG Vietnam plans to cover all the four outputs. It continues working in three existing provinces (Bac Kan, Thua Thien Hue and Dak Lak) and at the national level.

Table 4: Key activities by FGLG Vietnam for the period of 2009-2013

Key outputs and activities	Purposes
Output 1: Forest Rights and small forest enterprise	
Assess the benefit sharing arrangements for trans-boundary forest areas	Evidence for make recommendation on management of trans-boundary forest areas
Assess existing trials on timber logging by local communities	Evidence to make recommendation on timber logging by communities
Promote allocation of legal title to forest to communities	Enhance land/ forest use security for the community A step toward land titling to communities with traditional CFM
Assess the forest land allocation (FLA) program	A comprehensive picture on the process and outcome of FLA to recommend future changes

Output 2: Legitimate Forest Products	
Study on NTFP development	Improved income from forest for local communities
Support timber certification by local community in T'Ly village of Dak Lak	Improved income and sustainable forest management
Engage in national FLEGT process	Contribute the lessons from FGLG to national FLEGT
Output 3: Pro-poor climate mitigation and adaption through forestry	
Assess the potential contribution of PES for the poor and organize pro-poor PES Workshop	Improved understanding on potential of PES to contribute to the poor
Study on changes in natural resource uses to adapt to climate change	Understanding on the initiatives by local people to adapt to climate change
Study on contribution of dry forest to mitigate climate change	Evidence to make recommendation on conversion of forest into rubber/ coffee plantation
Output 4: Trans-national learning and preparedness	
Present lessons from FGLG Vietnam in regional and international events	To share experiences from FGLG Vietnam
Organize internal FGLG Vietnam learning events on annual basis	To promoting internal sharing and learning from FGLG work
Attend FGLG global learning events	Share lessons among FGLG country teams and to extend collaboration between Vietnam and others

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