

FGLG-Vietnam

NARRATIVE REPORT 2011



Report on Progress of the Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG) Vietnam

Reporting period:

January 2011 – June 2011



**Nhóm
Học Hỏi
về
Quản Trị
Rừng**

Contact person:

Dr. Nguyen Quang Tan, Country Program Coordinator,
RECOFTC - Vietnam Country Program
Floor 3, No 2, Tran Huy Lieu street, Ba dinh, Ha Noi, Vietnam
Tel: +84 (0)4 3726 4745
Fax: +84 (0)4 3726 4746
Email: tan@recoftc.org
Website: www.recoftc.org

1. Description

1.1. Name of beneficiary of grant contract:

Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC), also known as RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests.

1.2. Name and title of the Contact person:

Dr. Nguyen Quang Tan, Vietnam Country Program Coordinator.

1.3. Name of partners in the Action:

Vietnam Forest Administration or VNFOREST (formerly known as Directorate of Forestry)

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Bac Kan province

Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry

Sub-department of Forestry, Thua Thien Hue province

Association for Forestry Science and Technology, Dak Lak province

1.4. Title of the Action:

Social Justice in Forestry

1.5. Contract number:

1.6. Start date and end date of the reporting period:

January 2011 – June 2011

1.7. Target country:

Vietnam

1.8. Final beneficiaries &/or target groups:

See 1.3

1.9. Country (ies) in which the activities take place:

See 1.7

2. Assessment of implementation of Action activities

2.1. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

Output 1: Forest rights and small forest enterprise

Activity 1.1: Assess forest tenure and benefit sharing arrangements

An outline of the assessment and draft work plan for this activity in 2011 have been developed at the national level; discussed and agreed with FGLG members from the three provinces (Bac Kan, Thua Thien Hue and Dak Lak) during the 2011 annual meeting June 30 – July 1.

Activity 1.2: Promote allocation of forest title to local communities

As planned, this activity was initiated in Thua Thien Hue province. It is fortunate that during the last six month, FGLG Hue team has found out that the province also has a plan to allocate forestland use title to local people. The team has been in discussion with local (district) authority and offered to provide support in awareness raising and facilitating the discussion with local people in Pho Trach village if the district agrees to allocate forest land to the village. At the moment, decision has not been made by local authority and FGLG members are working with local officials to convince them.

Following Thua Thien Hue, Bac Kan and Dak Lak also want to facilitate the allocation of forest to local communities within their respective provinces. At the moment, the provincial teams have initiated discussion with concerned authorities. Dak Lak team wants to combine this activity with another donor funded project. FGLG key contact person in Dak Lak is also the provincial coordinator of the above mentioned project so the synergy between the two projects is likely.

Activity 1.3: Raise awareness on legal rights and responsibilities to forests of local communities

During the last six month, the forestry legal handbook for local communities (prepared by FGLG Vietnam in the previous phase) has been discussed. In the second half of 2011, a team member from Hanoi will take the lead to revise the document and prepare a training material for local communities as well as the detailed session plan for one-day training. The material and training plan will then be shared with all team members for comments.

Output 2: Legitimate forest products

Activity 2.1: Engage in national FLEGT process

As mentioned in the overall workplan of the project, FGLG Vietnam's engagement in FLEGT is to emphasize the need to put local communities, particularly forest dependent people, in the center of the discussion on forest governance and trade so that the rights and benefits of these communities will be given adequate attention

During the 2011 annual meeting, team members have agreed that FGLG should not only engaged in the national process but also at the provincial level as well, as the issue of legality of forest products is also of interest for local people. In addition, this activity should not only focus on FLEGT process but also expand to cover the process related to Lacey Act.

Output 3: Pro-poor climate mitigation and adaption

Activity 3.1: Participate in REDD network and national REDD Program development and implementation

During the last six months, FGLG Vietnam team members, particularly the convener, have been actively participating in different REDD/ climate change related meetings in Vietnam:

- Attending two monthly meetings and chairing one meeting of the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG). During the meetings, members of the group updated on the four subthemes' work in the past months as well as the upcoming plan. In addition, the meetings were also chance for members to share information on climate change related activities they / their organizations have undertaken so far. More information on CCWG meetings and activities is available at <http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/ccwg>
- Chairing two meetings of the Mitigation sub-theme under CCWG. As the chairperson of the mitigation subtheme of the CCWG, FGLG convener was in charge of chairing the group meetings. Two meetings were held in the first half of the month: the first meeting (March 2011) focused on reviewing 2010 activities and planning for 2011. At the end of the first meeting, the group agreed to focus on REDD and energy as the main topic for 2011. The second meeting (May 2011) reviewed the activities did in April and May and discussed the plan to organized mitigation workshop in June. Both meetings also provided chance for members to share their or their organizations' work in mitigation area.
- Attending two quarterly meetings of national REDDnet: The meetings were chaired by MARD leaders. The meetings were chances for REDD net members to be updated on the national REDD process, including the work of the REDD technical WG.
- Attending meetings of REDD technical working group in the thematic areas of 1) local implementation, 2) MRV and REL, and 3) Benefit distribution system. In the first thematic area, issues being discussed in the meetings included

experiences from SNV pro-poor REDD project in Lam Dong, ICRAF work in Bac Kan, UNREDD Program in Lam Dong. On second thematic area, the work so far mainly focused on development of MRV system for Vietnam. The BDS thematic area focused on the preparation of the BDS system for REDD in Vietnam, to be piloted under UNREDD Program Phase 2. More information on REDD workgroup is available at <http://vietnam-redd.org/Web/Default.aspx?tab=intro&zoneid=108&subzone=113&child=147&lang=en-US>.

- Facilitating discussion in a national workshop on mitigation initiative (under CCWG). As mentioned above, the mitigation workshop was held on 23 June 2011. The FGLG convener was present at the workshop and facilitated the discussion. At the meetings, various experiences on energy saving, improved cooking stove, micro-organic fertilizer, clean development mechanism, REDD. More information on the workshop is available at: <http://www.srd.org.vn/en/content/sharing-workshop-community-based-climate-change-mitigation-practices>
- Attending Climate change workshop in Quang Tri. As part of the process to improve the capacity of group member in climate, a FGLG member from Hue participated in a two day workshop in Quang Tri. The workshop mainly focused on providing introduction to climate change, adaptation and mitigation measures.

Activity 3.2: Establish and strengthen links with other REDD-related initiatives in Vietnam

During the last six month, relationships have been maintained with UN-REDD Vietnam Program, SNV pro-poor REDD project, CCWG, VNGO-CC, GTZ and NORAD funded REDD+ capacity building for grassroot level (managed by RECOFTC)

New link has been set up with JICA on their REDD study in Vietnam.

Activity 3.3: Raise awareness on climate change, particularly REDD

The plan was to provide TOT training to FGLG members and develop training package in the first six months of 2011, in collaboration NORAD funded REDD+ capacity building project. Nevertheless, there is a general delay and the activity will take place in the second half of 2011. Six members of FGLG team (two from each province) will be trained in a TOT training and they will work with Hanoi team member to develop training materials for their respective provinces.

A new activity was added under this main activity. Under collaboration with CCWG project on capacity building for CSOs on climate change, FGLG Vietnam has contributed to developing a handbook on climate change issues for community members. FGLG will help publish this book and distribute to local communities

Output 4: Trans-national learning and preparedness

Activity 4.2: Host FGLG Global learning event in Vietnam

With the plan to host the FGLG global meeting in Vietnam at the end of 2011, the convener has paid a visit to Thua Thien Hue province to work with Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry (HUAF) for organization of the event. In general, the University is happy to co-organize the event with RECOFTC Vietnam. The HUAF Director has assigned the Faculty of Forestry to be in charge and to report to him on necessary matter.

The convener also spends one day, together with FGLG Hue key contact person – also Vice Dean of HUAF, to do scoping of potential sites for the event. The two also had discussion with local event-organization agency to explore the possibility to collaborate with them in organizing the learning event. FGLG convener will be in contact with IIED in UK for further discussion/ preparation for the event.

Activity 4.3: Present lessons from FGLG Vietnam in regional and international workshops/ meetings

The film produced by FGLG Vietnam in 2009 has been heard in Vietnam. Hanoi TV planed to show it on their Channel 1 (H1) on July 20 2011 at 23:35PM. However, it was not shown as the planned schedule. Will need to contact the source for the date and time the film is/was shown.

Activity 4.4: Organize internal FGLG Vietnam learning and annual work planning

As mentioned in the previous report, due to time crashes of FGLG members and the late finalization of the grant contract for the whole period, FGLG Vietnam was not able to organize internal learning and annual work planning in 2010. The 2010 meeting was then organized on 7 January 2011 in Hanoi. The meeting was participated by representatives from Hanoi (2 people+ administrative/ accounting assistant), Bac Kan (1 person), Thua Thien Hue (2 people) and Dak Lak (one person). During the meeting, the following issues were covered:

- Introduction about FGLG global project
- Introduction about FGLG Vietnam and its previous phase
- FGLG Vietnam film
- FGLG Vietnam activities carried out in 2010
- Workplan for FGLG Vietnam in 2011
- Other issues: membership, contracting, etc.

On 30 June and 1 July, the 2011 annual meeting for FGLG Vietnam was held, with the participation of 10 people (four from Hanoi, one from Bac Kan, two from Thua Thien Hue, two from Dak Lak and one from RECOFTC Bangkok). The meeting covered the following issues:

- Overview of FGLG global and Vietnam

- Overview of FGLG Vietnam 2011 Workplan
- Review and discussion on 2011 Workplan
- Other activities
 - o Climate change handbook for local communities (with CCWG capacity building project on climate change for CSOs).
 - o Study on enabling communities to exercise their rights (with RRI, handled by RECOFTC)

Project management:

FGLG membership: FGLG membership has been expanded at the provincial level (see Annex 1). Two more members (one female) have joined FGLG Hue team. Similarly, one new member has joined Bac Kan team. In Dak Lak, AFST has issued a decision to officially appoint team members.

2.2. IMPLEMENTATION CONTRACTS

Three contracts with local partners for implementation of FGLG activities in Vietnam have been agreed upon:

Bac Kan: with Le Cam Long, on behalf of FGLG Bac Kan team

Thua Thien Hue: with Hoang Huy Tuan, on behalf of FGLG Thua Thien Hue team

Dak Lak: with Dak Lak Association for Forestry Science and Technology

2.3. UPDATED ACTION PLAN

An updated action plan for 2011 is provided in Annex 2

3. Partners and other Co-operation

3.1. Assessment of the relationship between the formal partners

The partnerships have been going well so far. Partners were actively participating in the process of reviewing workplan 2010 and first half of 2011.

3.2. Assess the relationship between RECOFTC and State authorities in Vietnam

RECOFTC maintains good working relationship with VNFOREST, its key partner in Vietnam, as well as local authorities and VNFOREST line agencies at local level where it works.

3.3. Description of relationship with other organizations involved

- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), Bac Kan province: Relationship with Bac Kan DARD started from the previous phase of FGLG when a member of FGLG team in Hanoi moved to Bac Kan DARD. As two members previously from Bac Kan have moved to Hanoi, they are now replaced by two new members. The relationship between RECOFTC and DARD Bac Kan is not limited with the implementation of FGLG but it covers also other work as well.
- Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry (HUAF): Relationship with HUAF started in the previous phase of FGLG Vietnam. Similar with DARD Bac Kan, HUAF is a partner with RECOFTC for not only FGLG but also other RECOFTC's work in Vietnam.
- Sub-department of Forestry (Sub-DOF), Thua Thien Hue province: Same with HUAF, relationship with Sub-DOF of Thua Thien Hue started in the previous phase of FGLG Vietnam. So far the relationship has been mainly on the implementation of FGLG activities.
- Association for Forestry Science and Technology (AFST), Dak Lak province: Dak Lak AFST has been a partner to implement FGLG activities since the previous phase of FGLG. Till date, the relationship has been mainly on the implementation of FGLG activities.
- Communities members in Dak Lak, Thua Thien Hue and Bac Kan provinces: Communities in the three project sites have been the target groups and beneficiaries of FGLG since its beginning (2006).

3.4. Outline any links you have developed with other actions

Links have been developed with the following actions throughout the course of implementing FGLG activities in Vietnam:

- RECOFTC implemented NORAD funded project on REDD+ capacity building for grassroot level
- Climate change working group (CCWG)
- Vietnamese Non-government organizations and climate change (VNGO-CC) network
- IUCN Vietnam's Strengthening Voices for Better Choices project
- Care Vietnam's Community Empower Forest Management Project
- National Community Forestry Pilot Project
- UN-REDD Vietnam Program
- SNV Pro-poor REDD project
- GTZ Forestry Program
- Tropenbos International (TBI) Program in Vietnam
- JICA REDD+ study

3.5. If your organisation has received previous EC grants in view of strengthening the same target group, in how far has this Action been able to build upon/complement the previous one(s)?

(List all previous relevant EC grants).

4. Visibility

The contribution of EU is being ensured in the action through various means:

- Capacity building for team members and local partners
- Documentation of analytical work and lessons learned
- Preparation of publication in various means (e.g. reports, policy briefs, video)
- Inclusion of policy/ decision makers in the process of learning and sharing

Name of the contact person for the Action: Nguyen Quang Tan, Ph.D.

Location: Hanoi, Vietnam

Date report due: 31 July 2011

Date report sent: 1 September 2011

Annex 1: List of current members of FGLG Vietnam

Name and title	Background/ Affiliation	Contact details
National level		
Dr. Nguyen Quang Tan (Convener)	Resource Economist, Vietnam Country Program Coordinator of RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests	RECOFTC Vietnam No 2, Tran Huy Lieu, Hanoi Tel: (+84) (0) 912 902 785 Email: tan@recoftc.org
Prof. Dr. Nguyen Ba Ngai	Agricultural Economist, Deputy General Director, Directorate of Forestry of Vietnam	Directorate of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, 2 Ngoc Ha, Hanoi Tel: (+84) (0) 912 062 171 Email: ngai-xm@hn.vnn.vn
Dr. Pham Xuan Phuong	Agricultural Economist, former vice director of Legal Department under MARD.	No 10, Group 4, Thanh Luong, Hai Ba Trung District, Hanoi. Tel: (+84) (0) 914 623 078 Email: pxuanphuong@fpt.vn
Ms. To Thu Huong	Program Coordinator, Vietnamese-German Forestry Program	Vietnamese German Forestry Program, 340 Bach Dang street, Hanoi Tel: +84 4 3728 0771 Email: huong.to@gtz.de
Mr. Nguyen Duy Thanh	Forester, Directorate of Forestry of Vietnam	Directorate of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, 2 Ngoc Ha, Hanoi Tel: + 84 (0) 912 504 842 Email: thanh_bk08@yahoo.com
Bac Kan province		
Mr. Le Cam Long	Forester, Head of Planning Section, Bac Kan DARD	Bac Kan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, No 13, Truong Chinh Road, Bac Kan Town, Bac Kan Tel: + 84 (0) 0983 351 349
Mr. Luong Van Ha	Forester, Bac Kan DARD	Bac Kan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, No 13, Truong Chinh Road, Bac Kan Town, Bac Kan Tel:
Thua Thien Hue province		
Mr. Hoang Huy Tuan	Forester, lecturer of Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry	Forestry Faculty, Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry, 102 Phung Hung, Hue City, Thua Thien Hue province Tel: (+84) (0) 914 263 761 Email: hoanghuytuan69@yahoo.com

Ms. Tran Thi Thuy Hang	Forester, lecturer of Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry	Forestry Faculty, Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry, 102 Phung Hung, Hue City, Thua Thien Hue province Tel: (+84) (0) 989 229 872 Email: thuyhang2577@yahoo.com
Mr. Nguyen Huu Huy	Forester, expert from Forest Sub-department of Thua Thien Hue	Forest Sub-department of Thua Thien Hue, 3 Le Hong Phong, Hue City, Thua Thien Hue province
Mr. Tran Vu Ngoc Hung	Forester, expert from Forest Sub-department of Thua Thien Hue	Forest Sub-department of Thua Thien Hue, 3 Le Hong Phong, Hue City, Thua Thien Hue province Tel: (+84) 914 425 533

Dak Lak province

Dr. Tran Ngoc Thanh	Forester, head of Agriculture and Forest Product Processing Unit of Dak Lak DARD and Secretary of Dak Lak Association for Forestry Science and Technology	Dak Lak Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, 47 Nguyen Tat Thanh, Buon Ma Thuot, Dak Lak. Tel: (+84) (0) 913 435 100 Email: mekongdl@dng.vnn.vn
Mr. Ho Viet Sac	Forester, expert of Dak Lak Association for Forestry Science and Technology	Dak Lak Association for Forestry Science and Technology, 47 Nguyen Tat Thanh, Buon Ma Thuot, Dak Lak.
Mr. Le Thanh Thinh	Forester, expert of Dak Lak Association for Forestry Science and Technology	Dak Lak Association for Forestry Science and Technology, 47 Nguyen Tat Thanh, Buon Ma Thuot, Dak Lak.
Mr. Tran Dang Khoa	Forester, expert of Dak Lak Association for Forestry Science and Technology	Dak Lak Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, 47 Nguyen Tat Thanh, Buon Ma Thuot, Dak Lak. Tel: (+84) (0) 905 246 622 Email: khoabmt@yahoo.com
Prof. Dr. Bao Huy	Forester, Lecturer of Tay Nguyen University, member of Dak Lak Association for Forestry Science and Technology	Dak Lak Association for Forestry Science and Technology, 47 Nguyen Tat Thanh, Buon Ma Thuot, Dak Lak.
Ms. Tran Ngoc Dan Thuy	Environmentalist, Dak Lak Association for Forestry Science and Technology	Dak Lak Association for Forestry Science and Technology, 47 Nguyen Tat Thanh, Buon Ma Thuot, Dak Lak. Tel: (+84) (0) 905 356 922
Ms. Nguyen Thi Phuong Uyen	Expert of Dak Lak Association for Forestry Science and Technology	Dak Lak Association for Forestry Science and Technology, 47 Nguyen Tat Thanh, Buon Ma Thuot, Dak Lak.
Mr. Ngo Nhat Khanh	Expert of Dak Lak Association for Forestry Science and Technology	Dak Lak Association for Forestry Science and Technology, 47 Nguyen Tat Thanh, Buon Ma Thuot, Dak Lak.

Annex 2: Annual workplan for 2011

Objective	Activities	Who	When	How
Output 1: Forest rights and small forest enterprise				
1.1. Assess forest tenure and benefit sharing arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop concept note and assessment tool (including first testing) ▪ Collect data in the field (Dak Lak, Thua Thien Hue and maybe Bac Kan) 	FGLG teams at provincial level, with support from national team, in consultation with concerned actors (policy makers, communities, etc)	From February 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Literature review ▪ Meetings ▪ Internal discussion ▪ Field testing
1.2 Promote allocation of forest title to local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue discussion with relevant officials on allocation of forest rights to Pho Trach village ▪ Initiate discussion in Bac Kan ▪ Combine with ADB funded FLICHT project to promote allocation of forest land to local community in Dak Lak 	FGLG teams at provincial level with support from national team	From January 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting with officials and distribution of relevant documents ▪ Invite officials to meetings and field visits
1.3 Raise awareness of legal rights and responsibilities by local communities concerning forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop awareness raising packages ▪ Test the packages in Dak Lak and Thua Thien Hue 	FGLG Hanoi and provincial team	Package development: Jan-Nov 2011 Testing: Dec 2011 – Mar 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Desk review ▪ Consultation ▪ Internal discussion ▪ Field testing ▪ Reflection and revision

Output 2: Legitimate forest products				
2.1 Engage in FLEGT and Lacy processes at appropriate level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend meetings when appropriate 	FGLG Hanoi and provincial teams	As appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend meetings Share lessons and view points Join electronic discussion
Output 3: Pro-poor climate mitigation and adaption through forestry				
3.1 Participate in REDD network and national REDD Program development and implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend meetings when appropriate Contribute to issues raised in the REDD working groups 	All team members	When appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend meetings Share lessons and view points Join electronic discussion
3.2 Establish and strengthen links with other REDD-related initiatives in Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate sharing of REDD information with the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) and members of the Vietnam NGO Climate Change (VNGO-CC) network Attend meetings held by REDD projects to learn and share lessons from FGLG 	All team members	When appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek contacts Meet with concerned people Share lessons and view points
3.3. Raise awareness on climate change, particularly REDD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop awareness raising package/s Test the package/s in Ha noi (Dak Lak and Thua Thien Hue) Develop and publish handbook on climate change for community members 	National team, with support from provincial teams. In collaboration with VNGO-CC network and CCWG	From February 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use existing resources from RECOFTC and other partners Organize topical meetings/ training Prepare and distribute publications

Output 4: Trans-national learning and preparedness				
4.2 Host FGLG international learning event in Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare and organize the event ▪ Coordinate with RECOFTC, IIED and country teams ▪ Facilitate discussion at the event and a field visit 	National team and Hue team to lead in collaboration with IIED	Preparation to start in April 2011 for event in March 2012.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify suitable venue and site for meeting and field visit ▪ Work with IIED and national partners on preparation ▪ Hold and facilitate the event
4.3 Present lessons from FGLG Vietnam in regional and international workshops/ meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attend relevant events to share lessons and experiences 	FGLG team members	When appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify events ▪ Submit abstract if needed ▪ Make presentation and participate in discussion ▪ Follow up with concerned audience members
4.4 Organize internal FGLG Vietnam learning and annual work planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organize annual meeting in Hanoi to review past activities and plan for 2011 	National team to take lead	January 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organize team meeting, with a focus on 1) reviewing past work, and 2) planning for 2011.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organize annual meeting in Hue for team building, review of past activities 	National team and Hue team to take lead	June 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organize team meeting, with a focus on 1) team building, 2) reviewing past work, and 3) planning for upcoming work.
4.5. Contribute lessons learned from FGLG Vietnam to IIED's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Document the approach applied by FGLG Vietnam in 	Tan (national	November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finalize the document on FGLG Vietnam's

Power Tools series	the Power Tools format	convenor)	2011	approach
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Report on Progress of the Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG) Vietnam

Reporting period:

July 2011 – December 2011



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Contact person:

Dr. Nguyen Quang Tan, Country Program Coordinator,
RECOFTC - Vietnam Country Program

Floor 3, No 2, Tran Huy Lieu street, Ba dinh, Ha Noi, Vietnam

Tel: +84 (0)4 3726 4745

Fax: +84 (0)4 3726 4746

Email: tan@recoftc.org

Website: www.recoftc.org

1. Progress with activities

Output 1: Forest rights and small forest enterprise

Activity 1.1: Assess forest tenure and benefit sharing arrangements

In general, this activity is a bit late as planned but not in a substantial way. After the 2011 annual meeting in Hue on June 30 – July 1, the provincial teams have revised the concept note and developed the data collection tools. In Bac Kan province, the team has conducted initial scoping visit to collect preliminary data in four sites. Further data collection will still be needed before report writing can take place. In Thua Thien Hue, no data collection has taken place yet as the team members have been busy organizing the FGLG global event in March 2012. In Dak Lak province, data collection was completed and report writing is in process.

Activity 1.2: Promote allocation of forest title to local communities

The activity was initiated in Thua Thien Hue province. The Thua Thien Hue team has held a number of meetings with local (district) officials on allocation of the sandy forest to Pho Trach villagers. In general, the district is in agreement. There is a small issue with the natural characteristics of Pho Trach's sandy forest. The 'sandy forest' is not qualified as forest under the existing forest law of Vietnam (the height of the trees is too low and the canopy is not closed), it is thus not possible to be part of the district plan for allocation of forest to local community (as mentioned in the previous report). Nevertheless, the district will prepare an official letter to the province, requesting for the case of Pho Trach (and other villages) as the 'sandy forest' is a type of vegetation cover of this sub-climatic area, which has important value in environmental protection and local culture. The FGLG team in Thua Thien Hue will closely monitor the process and follow up with the district officials.

Also in Pho Trach, in 2011 villagers were able to receive financial support from provincial budget for conservation of the sandy forest. The support was from the national 5 million hectare reforestation program (5MHRP), covering the sandy forest in Pho Trach and other nearby villages as well. The money is not very large in quantity but has significant implication on the outcome of the work the FGLG team in Thua Thien Hue has been trying to achieve for the last few years. In addition, it can be seen as one step toward recognizing the rights to Pho Trach people to the sandy forest that they are managing. Nevertheless, it is important to note that FGLG alone will not be able to achieve this outcome. While study tours to the village organized by FGLG and the information provided by the team to district and provincial officials certainly have raised awareness on what local communities can do to protect their own forest, financial support to villagers would not be possible without the availability of the budget from 5MHRP.

In Dak Lak province, the team conducted exploratory visits to three sites to understand the on-going issue related to forest tenure and allocation of forest rights

to local communities. This is the first step toward promoting allocation to rights to communities and the information collected will help the team understand what is going on in the tenure situation in the project site and therefore will be better prepared for the advocacy to come in 2012.

In Bac Kan, the team has organized a number of discussions with local authorities and forest officials.

Activity 1.3: Raise awareness on legal rights and responsibilities to forests of local communities

There is not much of progress with regard to this activity in the last six months. The FGLG Hanoi member who has agreed to take the lead to revise the document and prepare a training material for local communities as well as the detailed session plan for one-day training has been busy with other assignments. The activity is moved to 2012.

Two members of FGLG team in Hue were present at 5 day training organized by FAO and RECOFTC on forest tenure governance and assessment in December 2011. The training provided a framework for assessment of forest tenure situation and development of forest tenure reform program/ plan. It was expected to contribute to FGLG work on development of awareness raising on forest rights for local communities.

In Bac Kan province, the team has reviewed existing situation in the province and prepared a tentative contents (right issues) for the awareness raising.

Activity 1.4: Training on forest governance

This is a newly added activity. The intention was to provide training on natural resource governance to FGLG members and partners, using the training manual already developed by RECOFTC in collaboration with IUCN and SNV. During the last six months, translation of the training manual into Vietnamese has been done and the training is planned for 2012.

Output 2: Legitimate forest products

Activity 2.1: Engage in national FLEGT process

During the past six months, there were two events in Hanoi (National FLEGT Workshop on 3-4 August 2011 and a consultation meeting with EU delegation on 23 November 2011) the Vietnam convener missed due to clash of time. He however had a meeting with representative from FERN (a UK based NGO) to discuss how to engage Vietnamese CSO in the VPA negotiation process. After the meeting, both sides have agreed to work together in promoting the involvement of Vietnamese CSO in the process but will need to discuss on the concrete plan to move forward.

Output 3: Pro-poor climate mitigation and adaptation

Activity 3.1: Participate in REDD network and national REDD Program development and implementation

During the last six months, FGLG Vietnam team members, particularly the convener, have been actively participating in different REDD/ climate change related meetings in Vietnam:

- Attending 5th meeting of national REDDnet: The meeting was attended by over 50 participants and chaired by MARD leaders. It provided a chance for REDD net members to be updated on the national REDD process, including the work of the REDD technical WG and the development of the national REDD program.
- Attending meetings of REDD technical working group in the thematic areas of 1) local implementation, 2) Benefit distribution system, and 3) Private sector engagement.

Activity 3.2: Establish and strengthen links with other REDD-related initiatives in Vietnam

During the last six month, relationships have been maintained with UN-REDD Vietnam Program, SNV, CCWG, VNGO-CC, GIZ, JICA and NORAD funded REDD+ capacity building for grassroot level (managed by RECOFTC)

New relationship set up with Participatory Governance Assessment (PGA) initiative from UNDP (more information on PGA in Vietnam is presented under governance development section).

Activity 3.3: Raise awareness on climate change, particularly REDD

In collaboration NORAD funded REDD+ capacity building project (managed by RECOFTC VN), two training of trainers (TOT) in climate change and REDD+ were organized in July and August 2011 with participation of 7 members of FGLG team in Bac Kan, Thua Thien Hue and Dak Lak. After the training, a plan was made for FGLG Hue members who attended the TOT training to conduct a training for provincial partners. Nevertheless, due to busy schedule of the Hanoi and Hue team members, the plan has been moved to April-May 2012.

An activity was planned under collaboration with CCWG project on capacity building for CSOs on climate change (CCCB) for FGLG Vietnam to contribute to the development, publication and distribution of a handbook on climate change issues for community members. At the 2011 annual meeting, FGLG members reviewed the draft handbook prepared by CCCB and agreed that the handbook was not appropriate for community members as many topics it covered were too academic for them. Due to the shortage of time for CCCB to revise the handbook, comments from the FGLG members were not taken into account. The CCCB project later withdrew their request for printing support from FGLG as it was able to cover the cost.

Output 4: Trans-national learning and preparedness

Activity 4.2: Host FGLG Global learning event in Vietnam

As the global learning event was moved from November 2011 to March 2012, its preparation also moved accordingly. The convener has been working closely with Hue team, particularly the colleagues from Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry. Venue for workshop has been selected after careful consultation with IIED. Potential field sites have also been identified and scoping visit will be conducted in early 2012 to prepare for the field program of the event. Other preparatory work is ongoing.

On the occasion of the FGLG global learning event, RECOFTC would like to organize a site event to celebrate its silver jubilee.

Activity 4.3: Present lessons from FGLG Vietnam in regional and international workshops/ meetings

Part of the film produced by FGLG Vietnam in 2009 will be used by RECOFTC for the video commemorating the 25 years anniversary of the organization.

Activity 4.4: Organize internal FGLG Vietnam learning and annual work planning

The annual meeting of 2011 was organized on 31 June-1 July as mentioned in the previous report.

2. Forest Governance Developments

The past six months marked three important developments in forest governance in Vietnam. The first one is the start of the Forest Governance Monitoring (FGM) by FAO. A team of Vietnamese experts worked with FAO consultants to assess the current situation of forest governance in Vietnam, following a framework developed by FAO team. A workshop was organized in January 2012 to present findings from the mission and to discuss plan for FGM project of FAO in the coming years. FGLG was present in the January workshop and will monitor the process closely to make contribution at the relevant time.

The second development is an UNDP initiated work on Participatory Governance Assessment (PGA). By essence, PGA aims to establish a system of information on governance issues (governance data) through the development of governance indicators which can be measured over a period of time. It is first of all appropriate to the ongoing REDD+ process in Vietnam and in the long run will be relevant for the implementation of forestry related programs/ projects. First presentation on PGA was done in November 2011 at the kick-off meeting of REDD+ governance working group (see below). It is planned that

the collection of necessary data and consultation meetings at different levels under PGA will take place in 2012. FGLG convener was not present in the November 2011 meeting due to time clash but has been in close discussion and has shared relevant documents from FGLG with UNDP and will maintain the relationship in the future.

Thirdly is the establishment of the Sub-technical working group (STWG) on Governance in REDD+. The group is meant to discuss the governance issues related to the development and implementation of national REDD+ program as well as REDD+ related projects. The kick-off meeting was held in November 2011 but the convener of FGLG Vietnam was not able to attend. FGLG team members will attend and contribute to this working group when possible.

The developments described above indicate the recognition of the role of governance. FGLG Vietnam will try to be more proactive in the coming year to contribute from its experiences on the lessons learned as well as the approaches to move forward. This in turn will be useful for FGLG Vietnam team members as they will be able to learn from the other initiatives and share their own experience with the others.

3. Impacts

As presented in Section 1, villagers of Pho Trach in Thua Thien Hue province were able to receive financial support from local government to protect the forest. Although the amount of money is not significantly large, it is the recognition of local officials to the role of Pho Trach villagers in protection such forest and one step toward recognizing their rights to the forest. While it would be difficult to attribute this fact to any single factor, the visits of different groups of people, including local government officials, to Pho Trach village organized by FGLG team in the first phase and the discussion between FGLG team members and local officials have obviously caught the attention of local officials on the role of villagers in protecting the forest resource.

During the past six months, the experiences from FGLG Vietnam were accepted for publication in two places. An article summarizing key lessons from FGLG Vietnam work in phase 1 has been published in Vietnamese Journal of Anthropology (in Vietnamese language). The journal has distribution channel throughout the country. FGLG experience was also published in a newsletter prepared by Forest Sector Support Partnership (FSSP) (Issue No 32-33 on Governance), available in two languages (English and Vietnamese) in hard copy and electronic format at www.vietnamforestry.org.vn.

4. Lessons learned

Several lessons have been learned from the work in the past six months and earlier work of FGLG Vietnam. The main ones include:

- Local communities play important role in forest management and in REDD+: Local people have been living in and near forest for generation and their life and livelihoods are connected with forest. As a result, local communities are in the best place to manage the local forests. The case of Pho Trach, for example, indicates that local (forest) authorities have recognized the important role of villagers in conserving the

forest resource. In Dak Lak province, the preliminary finding from forest tenure arrangements also indicated this. Though this is not new to the FGLG team, it is extremely important to reemphasize on this fact as the local communities tend to be marginalized in many discussions on REDD+.

- Full and active participation of local communities in forest management and REDD+ initiatives depends largely on how they are incentivized. Absence of clear and secure benefits, local communities are unlikely to actively participate in any (forest related) activity. Again, this is not a new lesson but in the context of REDD+, it is important to bring this forward as the potential success of REDD+ is considered dependent on the active participation of local communities. Without having sufficient incentive both materially (i.e. forest products for daily use and/ or cash income) and non-materially (such as the recognized rights, improved voice).
- It is important to raise the awareness of local officials on the role of local communities in forest management as the former are often in doubt of the capacity of the latter. Since its beginning, FGLG Vietnam has combined various awareness raising activities, such as organization of field visit for government officials and local people to learn what is going on in the field and to create a forum for exchange information between villagers and officials, publication of policy briefs on lessons learned from the field, organization of regular meetings with local people and officials. It is hard to say which of these means of awareness raising work best as it is believe that a combination of them together contribute to the expected impacts.

5. Implications for the work ahead

The recent development in forest governance in Vietnam has important implication for FGLG work in Vietnam. It is obvious that the government is taking governance issues more seriously and the experiences from FGLG for the last few years have come to play important role. FGLG will continue to monitor the development and will offer contribution where relevant. Moreover, FGLG Vietnam will try to be more proactive. It will prepare necessary background information on forest governance in Vietnam, based on its work experience for the past five years, and provide suggestion for forest governance development in Vietnam.

In addition, REDD has been going on in Vietnam for the last few years and the country is currently in the final stage of developing the national REDD+ Program. One of the main issues remained is how to address the safeguards as required by COP Decisions. Most of the discussion on REDD+ so far in Vietnam has been mainly focused on benefit distribution and MRV. Although a working group on governance and another on safeguards have been established and ongoing, the process has been relatively slow and working group members are still ambiguous on how to contribute to the national REDD+ process. As a governance related project, FGLG will be actively involved in the development of social safeguards for REDD+ implementation