Promoting Land Rights for Ethnic Minority People in Vietnam

LAND RIGHTS IN VIETNAM  Research has repeatedly demonstrated that the primary contributor to chronic poverty in Vietnam is the lack of access to productive land. Over two thirds of people from ethnic minority groups (EMG), particularly those who depend overwhelmingly on agriculture and forest use for their livelihoods, live under the poverty line. Current land and forest policies have allowed communities to apply for certificates of ownership over communal land, but EMG’s access to land remains impeded by a combination of limited formal tenure, the allocation of forest land to state and private enterprises, and lack of recognition of the efficacy of traditional community forest management mechanisms. Advocating for an enabling policy environment in forest land governance is key to ensuring that the rights of people from ethnic minority groups to have access to and control over community forest land are realised and protected.

The project ‘Promoting Land Rights for Ethnic Minority People in Vietnam’ aims to contribute to the protection and promotion of ethnic minority people’s rights to community forest lands.

KEY OUTCOMES

Civil society organisations and communal authorities have the knowledge, skills and connections to effectively advocate for the inclusion of community forest land rights and management in the formulation and implementation of policy and law.

Key policy-makers recognise and support ethnic minority land rights in the coming amendment of the Law on Forest Protection and Development.

Participants
Policy-makers who will determine the content of the Law on Forest Protection and Development, particularly the Vietnam Administration of Forestry (VN Forest), the Department for Ethnic Minority Policies under the Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs in the National Assembly, the Communist Party Economic Committee and Ethnic Minority Communities in six project provinces.

Locations
10 districts in six provinces: Lao Cai, Lang Son, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh and Kon Tum.

Partners
Culture Identity and Resource Use Management (CIRUM), through the Livelihood Sovereignty Alliance (LISO) and its associated partnership with the Forest People’s Land Rights Network (LandNet).

Timeframe and budget
January 2016 - December 2018
Approx. USD $700,000

Donor
Delegation of the European Union to Vietnam and CARE International
KEY IMPLEMENTING PRINCIPLES

1. **Evidence** on the importance of ethnic minority community forest governance is available to, acknowledged and used by policy makers.

2. Increased interaction and dialogue between civil society organisations (CSOs), LandNet, communal authorities and policy makers and media on the implementation of Land Law 2013 and the coming amendment of the Law on Forest Protection and Development.

3. CSOs and LandNet coordinators and activists have increased confidence and capacity to engage in the campaign for ethnic minority community forest land rights.

4. Ethnic minority women have increased confidence to participate in decision-making on community forest management and in policy dialogue on land rights.

5. Communal authorities have increased capacity to realise their responsibilities in protecting ethnic minority communities’ forest land rights.

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**KEY EXPECTED RESULTS**

- **Basing Advocacy on Evidence**
- **Reaching Out to Wider Networks**
- **Putting Rights into Practice**
- **Promoting Women’s Agency**
- **Harmonising the Capacity of Partners**