



PROJECT

**REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MANGROVE FOREST
ECOSYSTEM IN THAI BINH PROVINCE**

GUIDANCE ON MANGROVE FOREST COMMUNITY-BASED MANAGEMENT



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I. Definition and objective

1.1. Definition of community

Community used in forest management is commune's local community. Article 3 of the Law on Forest Protection and Development in 2004 defines "commune's local community is all households and individuals living in the same village, hamlet or equivalent".

1.2. Definition of forest management community-based

Forest management, in general, and mangrove forest community-based management, in specific, is the form that communities participate in management of forests which are not under their management, use, ownership. Instead, those forests are under the management, use, ownership of other economic sectors but have a direct relationship to life, work, product harvesting, income or other benefits of the community. This form can be divided into two objects:

Forest of household, individual as a member of the community. Community participates in management with the nature of cooperation, mutual support, benefit sharing together on a voluntary basis (creating more power to protect forest, support or exchange labour with each other of forestry activities...).

Forests under management, use, ownership of government organizations (the management boards of protection forest, special-use forest, afforestation yards, state-owned forestry companies, stations ...) and other private organizations. Community participates in forestry activities such as protection, regeneration, reforestation, afforestation as employee through contracts and benefits from commitments in the contracts.

1.3. Objective of mangrove forest community-based management

Purposes of mangrove forest community-based management are environmental protection, disaster prevention, coping with climate change and generate income from fishery resources, in particular: breaking wave, wind, storm, absorbing carbon, fixing sediment, increasing aquatic resources under forest canopy; protecting of life, economic - social of coastal communities, thus, is not the purpose of producing forestry products for sell in the market.

II. Characteristic of mangrove forest community-based management

- People (community) hold a central role, they are both acting factors and beneficiaries; the experts only have advisory role, not implementation and responsibility.
- The involvement of the community right from the initial steps of the planning process and decision-making until the implementation of the of mangrove forest management.
- Community makes decisions and implementing forest management decisions.
- Community is self-responsible for income and expenditure, chance and benefits from forests according to regulations of the law and conventions of the community.
- Using the existing labour source of the community is mainly associated with the financial support of the Government and Non-government organizations in domestic and abroad.
- Forest management activities are relatively flexible, mainly focused on the protection, regeneration, natural regeneration of forests.

III. Some criteria of mangrove forest management model

Authorities allot mangrove forest management to community by Decision and Contract according to current regulations (This is one of the important criteria for establishing mangrove forest community-based management). Allotment Decision or allotment Contract have terms which clearly define interests, responsibility between forest owners and communities in which both parties agree with level of benefit according to current regulations when mangrove forest areas under community-based management are beneficial.

To meet the requirements of the community on disaster prevention, coping with climate change, ecological environment and social guarantee. Community benefits from the fruit of labour on allocated land, forest area.

Use the available resources of the community combine with the support of the Government, such as: use of labour sources of the community itself to protect and develop mangrove forests. The Government has

many support policies to strengthen the participation of local people in forest management like technical consulting, technology transferring through agricultural, forestry encouragement, annually allotted payment for forest protection, management and forest environmental services (if available), ...

There are conventions with the participation of the entire community and approved by authorities: Although the Government has issued many legal documents on forest management but the conventions of village also have important effects. If the community wants to manage the forest, it has to rely on the law of the Government, the needs of the community, intellectual standards of the people to draft and promulgate forest protection and management conventions. Contents of conventions stipulate rights and obligations of all members of the community in forest protection and development; mutual support among members of the community in the process of forest protection and development. Can say that conventions of mangrove forest management and protection is one of the important criteria to confirm the mangrove forest management of the community.

There are flexible and versatile organizational forms of forest management. Organizing the participation of community members in the voluntary spirit, long-term benefits; forms of organization and management are diversity, versatility and flexibility. Can apply organizational forms of forest management to attract all available resources in the community such as: establish specialized protection team, households in the community patrol the forest in turn or mobilize organizations at community level to participate in forest protection.

IV. Mangrove forest community-based management Board

4.1. Establish mangrove forest community-based management Board

Mangrove forest community-based management Board is established by commune and reported to People's committee at commune for approval.

Components of mangrove forest management Board include Leader of village, 4-5 members are chosen by the community from unions such as village party Cell, Youth Union, Farmer Association, Women Association, Veteran Association...

4.2. Function of mangrove forest community-based management Board

- Coordinate with local forest Ranger, community leader and political, social organizations in the village to develop mangrove forest community-based management Convention;
- Develop mangrove forest community-based management plan;
- Split the groups, households and assign them to implement mangrove forest management plan, each group, household has Head and Deputy Head;
- Mobilize capital, human resources to implement mangrove forest management plan;
- Check the implementation of mangrove forest management plan; use of forest resources and benefit sharing from forest under management and protection of allotted community;
- Develop and implement expenditure plan using Fund of mangrove forest protection and development;
- Develop periodical or unexpected report when there is request for result of mangrove forest community-based management to forest owner.

4.3. Organizational structure of mangrove forest community-based management Board

Mangrove forest community-based management Board has a Head and 1 - 2 Deputy Heads.

Village Leader is the Head of mangrove forest community-based management Board. The Head responsible for general administration and inspection of forestry activities in the village which is stipulated in the approved Convention of mangrove forest community-based management.

Deputy Heads of mangrove forest community-based management Board are responsible to support the Head in management, administration according to their assigned tasks.

V. Guidance on developing and implementing convention of community in mangrove forest management

5.1. Legal basis

Ordinance No. 34/2007/PL-UBTVQH11 dated April 20, 2007 of Standing Committee of the National Assembly on Implementation of Democracy at the Commune Level;

Decree No. 79/NĐ-CP dated July 7, 2003 of Government on regulating the implementation of democracy at grassroots level;

Directive No. 24/CT-TTg dated June 19, 1998 of Prime Minister on stipulating the elaboration and implementation of conventions of villages, hamlets, population groups;

Joint Circular No. 03/TTLT/BTP-BVHTT-BTTUBTU'MTTQVN dated March 31, 2000 of Joint-Ministry of Justice, Culture and Information, Standing Committee of Central Committee for Vietnam Fatherland Front on Directions of Building and Implementing Village Conventions of Communal Subdivisions and Inhabitants Groups;

Circular No. 56/1999/TT/BNN-KL dated March 30, 1999 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development guiding the elaboration of the convention on protecting and developing forests in the population communities in the hamlets and villages in the plains and mountain areas;

Decision No. 106/2006/QĐ-BNN dated November 27, 2006 the Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development promulgating the instruction on management of village community forests.

Forestry Manual, Chapter on Community Forestry, MARD, 2006;

The documents above have confirmed that the conventions are social normative documents stipulating the general rules which agreed by the communities to adjust the social self-managerial relationship of people in order to preserve and promote traditions, customs and cultural traditions in the hamlets, villages, and positively support in government management by law.

5.2. Requirement of mangrove forest management convention

The regulations in the convention of mangrove forest management must be consistent with the Party's policies and obey the laws of the Government, also to inherit and promote the habits and customs of the local;

Eliminate superstitious unsound customs, illegal fines causing disunity in the community;

Contents are clear, easy to understand and implement.

Propose appropriate measures, methods to help community in the area to participate in mangrove forest management effectively, ensuring the promotion of freedom and democracy for the people; encourage and create favorable conditions for the people to implement the rights and obligations of citizenship in the mangrove forest protection and management;

Ensuring the preservation and promotion of habits, customs; implementing civilized lifestyle in behavior; developing and promoting village relationships, unity, mutual affection and love, support and help each other; implementing policies, regulations of the Party and the Government on the forest protection and development;

5.3. Main content of mangrove forest management convention

Propose the rights and obligations of all members of the community on the management, protection, development and protection of mangrove habitat in which: Develop appropriate methods to help community in the area to participate in mangrove forest management more effectively. Propose 5-year plan and annual plan in mangrove forest management protection and development (Guidance on developing methods of this content is given detailed in Section VI);

Regulation on forest protection, management and mobilization of internal resources of the community to plant, tend, nurture and develop the forests which allotted to rural community in forest management, protection

Regulation on the protection and exploitation of aquatic resources under the forest canopy (if available);

Regulation on grazing in the forest;

Propose pest prevention;

Regulation on the detection and prevention of harmful agents, prevent people in other areas coming to destroy the forest for aquaculture, mining, trading, transporting illegal aquatic product and concealment behavior for such wrongdoing;

Regulation on using, breeding, plant propagating in forestry production in order to ensure the effective of forest management;

Regulation on mutual assistance and support between members of the community in the fields of security, development, and services of production and consumption of combined forestry and fishery products;

Inter-hamlet coordination to ensure effective forest protection and development;

Regulation of the community on dealing with violation of forest protection and development such as compensation for damages and penalties. But the dealing with violation in village is mostly by propaganda, education, persuasion, mediation corresponding to specific situation of each village, not prescribed sanction contrary to the provisions of law;

The commonweal works of the village on forest protection and development, pest prevention... may stipulate the mobilization of people's contribution, but must ensure the voluntariness principle and current regulations on the implementation of democracy at the commune level;

Regulation on establishment, management, use of communal forest protection and development fund:

The community meets to unanimous on establish the Fund;

Elect Fund Management Board;

Develop Fund managerial Regulation including: Revenues, permitted expenditures, responsibility and rights of community members in contribution of developing and using the Fund, responsibility of Fund Management Board, structure of operation, norm of expenditures;

Revenues: Revenues from internal community, revenues from outside the community;

Expenditures from the Fund: Expenses for the forest protection and development activities. Expenses for commodity and credit services to support production, increase income, reduce difficulty for poor households, reduce pressure on forest.

Detailed regulation on benefit sharing in community:

Regulation on beneficial structure of combined agriculture, forestry and fishery products which were harvested on allotted forest area to the community.

Regulation on the implementation of other production activities on forest area and forest land allotted by the Government to the community such as: regulation on how many % of mangrove land without forest is usable; regulation on organizing service - tourism activities in allocated forest area by the Government.

Regulation on benefit sharing when receives money, commodity according to stipulation of programs and projects in case the forest of community participate in those programs, projects.

Regulation on benefit sharing when compensated the fruits of labour, investment result to protect and develop forest according to the regulation of the Law on Forest Protection and Development and other relevant regulations of the law when the Government reclaims forest.

5.4. Develop process of mangrove forest protection convention

Step 1: Preparation

Depending on economical - social situation, habits, customs and characteristics of each village that forest rangers in charge of the area will suggest and discuss with village leader, representatives of rural organizations in to identify and select the main contents in the forest protection and development at local; arrange in priority order of importance and measures to bring out for rural community conference to discuss, debate and vote unanimously and committ to implement.

Organize rural conference tp discuss, debate and vote on establishment of the Convention.

Preparatory work needs to achieve some of the following results:

Gather the maps relating to mangrove lots, plots which were allocated to rural community; methodologies, forest and land allocation documents, legal documents of the Government related to forestry, forest management and protection; 5-year forest managerial plan of the community.

The data on mangrove resources and socioeconomic information of village is reviewed.

There is initial understanding of the forest status;

Communal mangrove forest management Board makes announcement on:

The process of elaboration of the convention, methods and objective;

The participants attend meeting; pay attention to women invitation;

Agreement of the first meeting date.

Step 2: Develop mangrove forest management convention

Village leader convenes conference in 2 forms: the plenum of people or conference of representational families in the village. Participating in the meeting there are also: The forest rangers in the area, communal Leader, communal forestry Board, Women's Union staffs. Commune and village staffs come forward and operate the meeting together. The conference discusses the draft content of mangrove forest protection convention of village, public voting through each section and overall convention. It is important that the regulations and terms of the convention is based on the needs of forest management, are discussed and decided by the people. Outsiders only provide policies and regulations of the law when necessary so that people can manipulate and integrate it into their regulation.

Methodology:

Introduce the objective of establishing protection, management and development convention: General discussion to clarify the objective of establishing convention.

Discuss to establishing convention for each topic:

Identify the main issues related to the forest management, protection and development: Listing the problems that people want to discuss related to the management, protection and development of their forests. Group the issues and arrange in priority order to discuss elaboration of the convention.

Convention of forest management and development: Discuss the par-

ticipational responsibility in forest management and development plan of the village.

Grazing convention: Explain clearly to the people about the negative effects of livestock grazing on new planting forest and natural regeneration forest. Encourage farmers to discuss and reach a consensus on which regulation should be applied to grazing in each forest areas: Which area is permitted for grazing? How is grazing procedure? The community identifies and agrees on the level of compensation and penalties.

Quy ước chăn thả: Giải thích rõ ràng cho người dân về tác động tiêu cực của việc chăn thả gia súc đối với rừng mới trồng và rừng tái sinh tự nhiên còn non. Thúc đẩy nông dân thảo luận và đi đến thống nhất về quy chế nào sẽ được áp dụng đối với việc chăn thả trong từng diện tích rừng: Khu vực nào được quy định cho chăn thả? Các thể thức chăn thả như thế nào?. Cộng đồng xác định được và nhất trí về các mức bồi thường và xử phạt.

Benefits and responsibilities of forest owners and forest protectors: The community identifies the benefits, income and expenditure sources of community funds.

Procedure of compensation and reward: The community determines who has authority to judge compensation for the violation, the authority of village leader and forest management board. The community agrees with procedures and level of compensation, reward.

Agreement on draft of convention in the community: The topics related to forest protection, management and development convention protection, which are mentioned above, after collecting suggestions and agree to correct. Vote a forest management board in village and determine remuneration, responsibility, working principle of this board.

Need to keep record with the signature of the village leader and secretary of the conference. The record and draft convention of mangrove forest protection are sent to the People's Council and Communal People's Committee.

After having the convention draft and suggestion of the village conference, forest management board finishes the convention document

with the support of local forest rangers. The writing in the convention should be simple, using the local language, understandable to people; finally, convention need to be approved for the last time in front of the village community to have an agreement (organize village meeting to agree on the convention draft).

If the contents of the convention are approved by at least 2/3 number of the participants in the conference, the People's Committee will consider and propose to the Chairman of People's Committee in district for approval.

The convention of forest protection, management and development in village after being approved by Chairman of People's Committee in district, People's Committee in commune organizes communal conference to disseminate the contents and methods of implementing the convention.

The village appoints forest protection and development groups, people's inspectional commissioners to supervise the implementation of the convention.

When there are disputes, violations of forest protection and management, if belong to the internal community as stipulated in the convention, then give a warning, resolve in reconciliation spirit in the community; in case that behavior and violation level have been stipulated by the law to administrative sanction or criminal prosecution, the village leader reports to People's Committee in commune and local forest rangers.

Resolution of the village conference, which to considers, addresses the convention-breaking cases, is only valid when at least more than half of the participants in the meetings agree and not contrary to the current regulations of the Government.

5.5. Preliminary evaluation of the result to develop and implement the mangrove forest management, protection and development convention

Does the establishment of mangrove forest management, protection and development convention have a positive impact on the following aspects or not?

Does it help people to raise awareness about the benefits of mangrove forest and the harmful effects of mangrove forest loss or not?

Does it make chances for the community to maintain and promote the cultural character in natural resource management of the community or not?

Does the awareness of the people in forest protection is improved, and deforestation has decreased compared to the past or not?

Since the convention established by the village community themselves, does it correspond to their conditions and benefits? Also is implemented by themselves so does it easily to get into the heart or not?

Does the convention establishment and implementation of people themselves is a method of self-management in the area of rural community, with effect of preventing law-breaking behaviours on the forest protection and development from the beginning or not?

Does it contributing to encourage people to participate in implementation of new planting, tending and regenerating, enrichment planting, improving the implementation of grassroots democracy regulation or not?

VI. Method to develop mangrove forest management content community-based

6.1. Survey resources and develop forest management plan with participation of community

On the viewpoint, since the management planning related to forest resource statistics is very hard works which take a lot of effort and cost, for the community, the method must simple, easy to implement, inexpensive so the people can participate with the support of forestry staff.

The basis for planning is based on actual forest resources and guiding actual forest in an ideal forest model.

The planning of mangrove forest management was conducted in order: lot dividing, lot description, field measurement, data collection and analysis, assessment of changes in forests over time, objective, issue and opportunity identification, 5-year forest management planning, annual plan dividing. These can be grouped into the following 3

major steps:

6.1.1. Evaluate natural resources with participation of community (step 1).

Content of step 1 including lot identification, lot description, and field measurement as follow:

a) Identify each lot of mangrove forest in the field

- Objective:

In order to divide the community forest into separate lots with relatively homogeneous site conditions and forest conditions, so that having the same management goal and impacted measures

As basis for statistical survey of forest resources and planning.

Facilitate people to recognize in the process of plan management, implementation.

- Methodology:

Because the people have lived closely to forests for a long time, they easily recognize boundaries of the forests in the field, with the help of technical staff using digital map to identify each lot of mangrove forest on the map compared to the field, to re-identify the boundaries and correct if there is major deviation.

Identify forest lots area.

(The contents above can be implemented in the process of mangrove forest allocation in the field between forest owner and the community)

- Forest lot description:

Object: Preliminary find out the status of forest lots.

Content: The people participate in forest description about forest type (plantation forest, natural forest, plant species, density, average of some criteria: diameter at 1.3m, height, canopy diameter), forest types (Young forests, poor forests, average forests, rich forests...), capability of forestry and fishery combination and some other characteristics (grazing situation, pests, previous forest history...).

6.1.2. Data summarization and analysis (step 2)

Summarize field data in the plots and convert according to regulation. Lots area, make statistic into summary forms for each lot.

Set up diagram of actual lot structure.

To be able to analyze the data in each region, develop the structural trees number according to the ideal diameter for each forest type.

Data analysis: Carry out comparison between the ideal structure with the current structure (represented by graphs and tables). If the actual survey of trees number in some forest status smaller than standard trees number, should implement new planting, supplementary planting or tending and regeneration. Otherwise, if it equal or greater than the standard trees number then carries out conservation, because this is coastal protection forests, logging inclusive of thinning is forbidden. That means to compare with the standard model, and make decision of which lots need new planting, supplementary planting, nurturing and protection. The data analysis is mainly carried out by technical staff, and then explains to the people for understanding so that they can implement.

6.1.3. Develop 5-year plan and annual plan (step 3).

Identify general objective of entire community-based forest management.

Identify specific objective for each forest lot and impacted measures. This work is conducted with the participation of the community for discussion.

Base on analysis result in previous part, make 5-year plan and annual plan, then record into forms showing activities for each lot such as protection, regeneration, regeneration with supplementary planting, forest maintenance, forest planting.

Planning for silvicultural work should be based on the ability of the community and the supporting of other investment (from the Government, foreign projects, funds...).

6.1.4. Plan management

The plan is set up by village community and submitted to People's Committee at commune.

People's Committee at commune summarize according to the 5-year plan and submit to People's Committee at district for consideration, approval then report to provincial People's Committee.

After being approved by the People's Committee at district, the community organizes implementation, the commune responsible for management, inspection of the annual plan implementation. The other relevant agencies inspect and supervise the implementation according to their assigned functions and the law regulation.

6.2. Expectation tasks

6.2.1. Nurture mangrove forest

a) Forest object need nurture

Plantation forests or natural forests, the average minimum density more than 1,000 trees/ha for average trees and large trees, over 2,000 trees/ha for smaller trees, distributed evenly in forest stand.

Restored forests after aquaculture, in the fallow aquacultural marsh with mixed-plantation structure of grass-plot, shrub and uneven age, in high canopy layer, the number of trees suitable for protection with good quality reach a density of over 1000 trees/ha or regeneration layer has number of promising trees reach over 1000 trees/ha (from the regeneration with height greater than 2m).

b) Technical content

Nourish relatively even-aged plantation forests and natural forests

Adjust and create a reasonable component for mixed forest, create a reasonable density to achieve high protective function after nurturing stage.

Eliminate pestilient trees.

Trash, fern picking and shipworm removing when forests are still young.

Protect damaging from livestock, boats as well as human to the forests.

Nourish uneven-aged natural forests.

Adjust, create a reasonable component and evenly distributed density

for mixed uneven-aged natural forest to achieve high protective function after nurturing stage.

Eliminate pestilient trees.

Trash, fern picking and shipworm removing when forests are still young.

Protect damaging from livestock, boats as well as human to the forests.

6.2.2. Forest regeneration

a) Regeneration object

Mangrove land without forest (land lost forest due to aquaculture, new alluvia ground) that the process of natural regeneration combined with the support of human (regeneration supplementary planting) can create the forest in specific time, meet the protection requirements. Also, must have at least one of the following conditions:

Purposed regenerating seedling must have height of over 50cm and minium density of 1.000 trees/ha, relatively even distributed.

Stump of mother trees has regenerative ability from shoot.

Seeding mother tree at the spot has at least 25 trees/ha relatively even distributed, with satisfactory source of seeding and seed scattering distance from the neighboring forests.

b) Regeneration technical method

b1. Regenerate for low-level impact

Work contents mainly are protecting (resist destruction, grazing in the early stage) for forest regeneration and development.

Method:

Identify boundaries, set up protection signs.

Patrol and guard against illegal logging and cattle grazing.

Develop forest protection and management convention.

Raise awareness of the community about forest protection and management.

b2. Regenerate for high-level impact

In addition to low-level impact measures mentioned in b1, depend on the object, purpose of regeneration, socio-economical conditions and the ability of the community that can apply one, two or more of the following measures:

Trash, fern picking and shipworm removing... create favorable condition for purposed regeneration trees to develop out of impedient.

Thining purposed trees from dense places to sparse places.

Supplementary planting of purposed trees at blank spaces with the area over 500 m² or mixed planting in forest canopies.

Tending purposed trees cây mục đích and supplementary trees at least twice per year in the first 3 years.

Eliminate pestilient trees.

6.2.3. New forest planting

a) Object of forest land

Planting object including mangrove land without forest (excluding land was put into regeneration), fallow mangrove land after aquaculture, which is applied technical reforestation solutions (nurturing, regeneration or restoration by regeneration) but did not success.

b) Selection criteria for species in mangrove protection forest plantation

Corresponding to the ecological conditions in the local and easy to form protection forests.

Woody trunk, perennial, has deep roots and dense canopy, evergreen.

Suitable with mixed-plantation and can form multi-layer forest.

Can withstand the cold, storm and hazard site conditions such as sandy rate of 50-70%, deep tidal regime.

Multi-effects, capable of providing non-timber products without affecting the protection capacity.

Popular in the community.

Has found out the planting technique.

Has enough good seed.

Has good natural regeneration ability.

c) Some technical issues should be noted

Prioritize multi-canopy mixed plantation.

Using seed from approved seed supply.

Technical measures (clearing vegetation, tillage, seedling standard, planting density, planting season, tendance, and protection) are applied according to process or technical guidance for specific species.

6.2.4. Protecting forest against damage from people and cattle

Construct control towers at the junctions of routes into the forests.

Establish a sign system against deforestation; panels, posters for propaganda and education.

Develop convention of forest protection and popularize to all community member.

Establish protection, patrol, guard forces.

Organize propaganda and education in the community.



DỰ ÁN PHỤC HỒI VÀ PHÁT TRIỂN BỀN VỮNG HỆ SINH THÁI RỪNG NGẬP MẶN Ở TỈNH THÁI BÌNH

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