

**GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION (GMS)
BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION CORRIDORS**

**Ngoc Linh – Xe Xap –Huong Hoa Biodiversity Corridor
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM**

Commune Profile and Investment Plan

Lang commune, Tay Giang district, Quang Nam Province.

June 2010

PART A: COMMUNE PROFILE

1. LOCATION

- In the East: bordered by Dang commune, Tay Giang district
 - In the West: bordered by Lao People's Democratic Republic and Tr'hy commune, Tây Giang district.
 - In the South: bordered by Zuôih, Lae commune, Nam Giang district.
 - In the North: bordered by Atieng, Tay Giang district.
 - * The total land area: 22.339,29 ha.
 - * Population distribution in the whole commune including 07 villages: Aró, Jøda, Bhalùra, Nal, Aróh, Por'ning and Tàri.
 - *Population 1,775 persons
- UTM coordinates are X: 754,870 – 773,760, Y: 1,740,950 – 1,758,930
- Altitude : 610m MASL.

2. SOCIO-CULTURAL PROFILE

Table 1. Summary of socioeconomic profile in the commune

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Parameter	Số liệu
Population	
Total population	1,775 người
Population density	8 persons per square km
Household population	361
Household size	5 persons
Male population	895
% Male population	50.42%
Labor force	1,205 người
Education level	Mostly primary
Livelihood and Poverty	
Average income	VND 5.5 million p.a/ working adult (2.5 working adult/HH)
Source of income	farming
Poor households	175
Poor Population	387
% poor population	45.22%
Poor households with male householders	
Poor households with female householders	
Ethnic Minority	
Total EM population	Co Tu, Muong, Tay, Thai 1,740

2.1 Population and Labor force

Lang Commune has a total population of 1,775 distributed in 361 households. The population density is quite low (8 persons per km²) with 5 persons per household. Active labor force is 1,200 persons

Children in the commune can enter kindergarten and higher- level education. However, they generally quit school after finishing 7th or 8th grade. Hence, majority of total population completed only primary level. Priority is often given to boys to go to school rather than girls

2.2 Ethnic Composition and main characteristics

There are two main groups of ethnic: Co Tu (96.3%) and Kinh (2.67%). The rest are other groups of ethnics through marriage of Co Tu people and Kinh such as Tay, Muong, Thai, etc.

These groups are distinct in terms of language, in worshipping rites and architecture styles in constructing houses and other building. The C'Tu celebrate lunar New year and they often butcher buffalos to worship besides enjoying Tet festival in the community and "lua moi" festival.

In the past, the C'Tu used to practice shifting cultivation to produce upland rice. However, they have controlled deforestation for farming for recent years. At present, they engage in both wet rice and upland rice production.

2.3 Gender Analysis

About 50.42% of the population is males and mostly the C'Tu. The Co Tu live in patrilineal families where the men are the heads of households and also the inheritors. In terms of social interaction, there is equity between male and female especially thanks to the influence

of Women association. Nowadays, women have more chances to participate in social and community activities. In fact, women take part in village meetings more actively than men.

In terms of production activities (labor division within households), women have more tasks than men such as child care, cleaning and laundry work, fuel wood gathering, fetching water, and collecting animal feed. Men are in charge of house repairing, gathering of forest products. Women are also involved in the tasks that are supposed for men but fewer. However, in terms of agriculture, women do more tasks than men such as burning, trimming, weeding and harvesting.

Resources management is handled by men, for instance, forest product usage, land use rights, investment decision, approaching information and technology, services of production assistance, emblems and other decisions in production, etc. All other managing positions in the commune belong to men apart from posts in women association.

2.4 Dimensions of Poverty

The major sources of income are from farming, gold cradling, small business and working for the government. People started afforestation but no income yet. Average income for a labor is VND 5.5 millions (for a household doing farming, not including government employees). Major expenses are for foods. In common sense, people are considered wealthy within the commune when they have houses, buffalos, motorbikes, afforestation, average income of VND 10 million and children going to school. Those that have high position are government employees.

Based on the MOLISA poverty line criteria (average income of less than 200,000 VND per person per month) in defining poverty, there are poor 175 households (48.48%). Most of the heads of these households are males

The rate of unemployment is quite high. The main reason is that chances for jobs in the commune are rare, especially for young people and women; when there is no crop, they often go cradling stream gold to earn more money.

3. NATURAL CONDITIONS

3.1 Climate

The climate in Lang commune is tropical monsoon in valley with two seasons. The dry season starts from March to August with SouthEastern monsoon and high temperature ((temperature amplitude from 24.8 o C to 38 o C). Hot season lasts long in a year, which strongly affects on agricultural production activities. Rainy season starts from September to February with North East Monsoon, rain and low temperature in a long time under influence of Truong Son mountain range. Average annual rainfall is 2,800 mm, mostly in October and November, which results in floods and soil erosion. Average humidity is 86%.

There are two main types of winds. The South west wind has average frequency of 22 – 48 % in July. It lasts in a long time along with high temperature, which affects much on agricultural productiveness, especially for rice and corn. The North east wind often starts from September to February, bringing great rainfall and low temperature, which also causes negative impacts on agricultural production and domestic animal.

3.2 Topography and physical features

The commune a mountainous frontier commune with several rivers, streams and valleys. Riverside residential areas are relatively flat, mostly the mountains having high slope and are strongly partitioned, especially Viet- Lao border. Therefore, area for agricultural production is limited, especially for wet rice production. Fields gather mainly near river systems such as A Vuong river, A Chia Stream, Ta Ri stream, Xal stream and nal stream and other small streams.

Soil geology: reddish yellow soil on Macma axide is good for afforestation, farming and breeding; alluvial in streams is good for growing wet rice.

3.3 Rivers and water bodies

Lang commune is located in A Vuong river system originating from Viet Lao border line in the west, along with other riverhead stream systems such as Tari stream, Xal stream, Nal stream, A Chia stream and othe small streams intermixed by mountains. These are plentiful water source for daily activities and farming. They supply necessities for agricultural areas, households in the commune use water from streams for bathing, washing and drinking. In addition, there is 3.5 ha of ponds and lakes digged for aquaculture. Water from these ponds and lakes also supply water for people's gardens.

4. LAND AND FOREST RESOURCE USE

4.1 Land Cover and Present Land Use

Total commune land area is 22,339.29 ha, including approximately 270.41 ha of agricultural land area, 20,624.90 ha of forestry land area and 268.41 ha of non agricultural land area.

Table 2. Land uses status

Land use types	Coverage area (ha)	Percentage (%)
Total natural area	22,339.29	100
Agriculture Land	270.41	1.21
Forestry land	20,624.90	92.33
Residential land	9.56	0.04
Unutilized land	1,131.46	5.06
Other land	302.96	1.36

4.2 Forest Resource

The total area of forestry land is 20,624.90 ha, including 13,766.40 ha of area of protection forests, 6,858.50 ha of production forests. Area of rich forest is 731.10; medium forest area is 4,362.8 ha, the rest is restored forest and bamboo forest. NTFPs are mainly rattan, dot, codonopsis, edible vegetables and honey.

There is approximately 5,456.0 ha of forest given to the community to protect. However, the efficiency was not high due to low financial support and low awareness of forest protection, forest resources are still harmed every year.

4.3 Biodiversity assets

Natural forests in Lang have been recognized to be rich in biodiversity with many kinds of fauna and flora. Some animals are Mang, Bear, langur, ape, monkey, etc. some plants are parasohea, Gioi, etc. NTFPs are rattan, dot, bamboo, honey, etc. Especially, codonopsis is valuable medicine, however, it is over-exploied because it is easy to exploit and best-selling. The risk of extinction of this medicine are placed on full alert.

5. ECONOMIC SITUATION

5.1 Farming system

With the density of 8 persons per km², almost households have upland areas to grow rice, corn, cassava and other farm products. Besides milpa farming, they also maintain gardens to grow fruits, vegetables and breeding cattle, poultry such as buffalo, cow, pig, chicken, etc. Freshwater fish breeding has developed for recent years

However, area of agricultural soil per capita is decreasing due to population growth. Land for wet rice is so little that it cannot meet the people's demand.

People also implemented afforestation; some of the households use their own capital along with assistance from project 661. However, the techniques are not high and caring capacity is still limited so the rate of forest is low. Some households use their own capital to grow codonopsis catch-crop with cassava.

In addition, some households become join-venture with Nam Giang rubber company to grow rubber tree in up land area with low slope.

Area for freshwater fish breeding is 3.5 ha

Threats to agricultural production are:

- Upland rice cannot be produced in dry season with hot weather and little rainfall. In rainy season, soil is erodes and the surface soil becomes bad. Hence, production can be risky.
- There is a lack of irrigation canal systems, concurrently; irrigation canal is often damaged in stormy season because it can be swept away by floods. Blowing off mountains can make the ditch filled or make the pipes broken.
- There is a lack of such agricultural materials: such as crop, fertilizer, pesticide. On the other hand, people here are not used to using fertilizer, pesticide.
- Epidemic diseases strongly affect on cattle and poultry breeding.

5.2 Markets, enterprises, and industry

Agricultural products are mostly used for daily needs. The products that people bring to exchange are mainly NTFPs such as: codonopsis, rattan, etc but in small quantity. These products are exchanged with traders from the lowland. One kind of NTFPs that is exchanged the most is codonopsis ginseng with current price: about 200,000vnd per kg, dot with VND 2,500 per kg.

There are also small and medium business households mainly trading utilities for daily needs. They are mostly Kinh people.

In 2010, Nam Giang rubber company did a survey and will plan to deploy afforestation in coming time. It will be a chance for people to have jobs and income

5.3 Financial services and access to credit

Credit is available to all households in Lang Commune; The Bank of Social Policy offers simple procedures and requirements at interest rates.

The total number of households who borrowed money from The Bank of Social Policy in the commune is 450 and the total account outstanding is VND 9,480,000,000

Credit fund in Women association in Lang commune contributed to economic development. By the end of 2009, there have been 191 loans from the fund; average loan is over VND 8,000,000.

In addition, there is also AgriBank but collateral assets are necessary. The maximum loan of VND 30,000,000 must be paid back in 60 months

6. PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

6.1 Physical infrastructure

There are 25 km of Asphalted road, inter-commune route from A tieng through Lang and bounded by Tr'hy, 5km is inter-village route. People mostly live in this route.

People have paid more attention to farming systems: canals have been gradually in concrete, water pipes to production area. However, they are often damaged in rainy seasons. Gravity water-supply systems are available in villages, contributed to village innovation. However, since rainy season in 2009, they were all damaged and have not been repaired, being trouble in supplying water for local people.

Lang is the commune having high density of households using electricity: 275, 76.18 % of the whole commune. The number of households using grid electricity is 259, 71.75 %. Only in Ta Ri village, grid electricity is not available.

6.2 Social Infrastructure

Table 3. School facilities in Lang Commune

School	No. of Schools	No. of Rooms	No. of teachers
Nursery Schools			
Primary Schools	1	10	17
Secondary Schools			
High schools			

Table 4: Social infrastructure in Lang Commune

Commune infrastructures	Response / Entry
Community Meeting Hall	1
Number of Village meeting houses	6
Number of commune health clinics	1
Number of solid houses	2.22%
Number of semi-solid houses	92.24%
Number of temporary houses	5.54%

7. OTHER ONGOING/PLANNED PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

Several projects and programs of government and NGOs have and continue to support Lang Commune as follows:

(I) Program 134 - government program to allocate land and houses to ethnic minorities as well as develop agricultural production and water supply (2005-2010),

(ii) Program 167 – continuing assistance in removing temporary settlement for poor households

(iii) 30a program of the government about fast and sustainable poverty reduction, assistance program on areas of production and construction of infrastructure.

(iv) Program 135 - government program on socioeconomic development for most vulnerable communes of ethnic minorities located in mountainous areas (first period 1997 - 2006, second period 2006-2010,

(v) Project of cooperation in growing rubber tree between people having mountain fields and Nam Giang Rubber company are being implemented

(vi) Afforestation project 661 is carried out to assist growing forest for production and protection

(vii) project sponsored by NGOs is FIDR from Japan on improve community awareness about public health, education, assisting 50 WCs to poor households

As a result of involvement in programs, projects, local capacity and skill are being improved

PART B: COMMUNE INVESTMENT PLAN UNDER BCI PHASE II

1. COMMUNE PRIORITIES AND RANKING

Small scale infrastructure	Priority	Quantity
Growing codonopsis	1	50 ha
Breeder: cow, carp, etc	2	300 cows, 2,000 carp
assisting building inter-village route (Ta Ri village)	3	5km
assisting upgrading commune health clinics	4	1,000m ²
Reclamation for farming	5	100 ha

2. LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS

ITEMS	Area (ha)	Household benefiting
Planting rubber trees	1,000 ha	Invested by Nam Giang rubber company
Breeding cattle, poultry	300	25,000 USD
Farming	100 ha	75,000 USD
Developing forest of codonopsis	50 ha	200,000 USD

3. Forest restoration

ITEMS	Area (ha)	Household benefiting
Forest restoration	5,600	
Afforestation	500	
Promote forest regeneration	3,500	

4. Others

ITEMS	Unit	US\$
assisting upgrading commune health clinics	1	50,000
assisting building inter-village route (Ta Ri village)	5 km	120,000

5. Expenditure estimation

ITEMS	US\$
a) Small scale infrastructure	170,000
b) Livelihood	300,000
c) Forest restoration	
TOTAL	