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

Huc Nghi commune, Đakrong district, Quang Tri Province.

13th July, 2010

PART A: COMMUNE PROFILE

1. LOCATION

The center of Huc Nghi commune lies 41 km south of Dakrong district center on the biodiversity corridor connecting Dakrong Nature Reserve and the legendary Ho Chi Minh Road Nature Reserve.
In the North: bordered by Ta Long commune.
In the South: bordered by Ta Rut
In the East: bordered by Phong Dien reserve.
In the west: bordered by Ba Nang.

2. SOCIO-CULTURAL PROFILE

Table 1 presents the summary of socioeconomic profile

Table 1. Summary of socioeconomic profile in Huc Nghi Commune

PARAMETER	RESPONSE/ ENTRY
Population	
Total population	1,425
Population density	10.6 persons per km^2
Household population	282
Household size	5.0 persons
Male population	710 persons
% Male population	49.8 %
Labor force	631 persons
Education	Mostly primary, some completed secondary schools
Poverty and livelihood	
Average income	VND 2,159,000/year./working adult
Source of income	Breeding, plantation and forestry product exploitation, small business
No. of Poor Households	143
Poor Population	Unknown
% poor population	Unknown
No. of poor households with paterfamilias	143
No. of poor households with matresfamilias	0
Ethnic Minority	Van Kieu, Pa Co
Total EM population	1,339

Source: Huc Nghi commune people's committee 2010

2.1 Population and labor force

Total population is 1,425 persons in 282 households, the population density is on average 10.6 persons per square km, the majority of the population is Van Kieu people. Active labor force is 631 persons, of which 308 persons is women with 2.2 persons per household.
Source: Huc Nghi people's committee 2010

2.2 Ethnic Composition and cultural characteristics

There are two ethnic groups in the commune (Van Kieu 99%, Kinh 1%)
Van Kieu's cultural features: clothes, offering to their God, funeral, matrimony, etc have been still maintained.
Farming habits and producing haven't changed; still depending on forest, production

activities still are felling trees, burning and not using fertilizers, etc.
Source: Huc Nghi people's committee 2010

2.3 Gender Analysis
Van Kieu people live in patrilineal families where the males are considered heads of households and that inheritance is through the male line of descent. There is little equality between males and females; women have main tasks in productive labor but not be able to attend community training or meetings or make decision in plantation and breeding. The rate of commune officials is low.
Source: Huc Nghi people's committee 2010

2.4 Dimensions of Poverty
The major sources of income are from farming, cattle breeding, and NTFPs exploitation. Average income for a labor approximates VND 2,159,000.
Based on the MOLISA poverty line criteria in defining poverty, there are 143 poor households (50.7 %) in the commune.
Source: Huc Nghi people's committee 2010

3. NATURAL CONDITIONS
3.1 Climate
The climate is tropical monsoon where the annual average humidity is 82%, the average annual precipitation is 2,375mm, strongly affected by dry and hot winds from the West.
Source: Khe Sanh weather station

3.2 Topography and physical features
The areas are mostly mountains with average altitude of 600-800m, having high slope and are strongly partitioned. There are few flat valleys but dangerous areas that are difficult to transport.
3.3 Rivers and water bodies
Dakrong river and system of small streams (Ba Le) flows through the commune. In general, river system and water source meet the demand of running water and irrigation for commune agriculture.
Source: Huc Nghi people's committee 2010

4. LAND AND FOREST RESOURCE USE
4.1 Land Cover and Present Land Use
The total commune land area is 13,393.08 ha, including 56.74 ha of agricultural lands (0.42 %) (not including uncultured upland fields).
Residential land is mostly for housing, not including land for garden.
Forestry land with large forest has high coverage, accounting for 71.5 % of natural land area; 3,742 ha is area of forest-not covered yet land, accounting for 27.9 %. This is land for livelihood forest plantation, increasing coverage area.

Table 2. Land uses in Huc Nghi Commune

Land types	Coverage area (ha)	Percentage (%)
Total natural area	**13,393.08**	**100**
A. Agriculture Land	**56.74**	0.4
1. Wet rice land	3.5	0.0
2. Paddy rice fields	30.26	0.2
3. Corn fields	10.78	0.1
4. Sweet potato fields	0	0.0
4. Cassava land	12.2	0.1
5. Vegetable land	0	0.0

6. Fruit tree land	0	0.0
B. Forestry land	**13,325.9**	99.5
1. Special Use forest	10,401.3	77.7
2. . Protection forest	1,154.5	8.6
3. Production forest	1,770.1	13.2
C. Residential land	**10.44**	0.1
D. Unutilized land	**0**	0.0

(Source: FPD and Huc Nghi CPC, 2010)

4.2 Forest resource:

Big forest area is 9583.9 ha, rich forest area is 6043.7 ha, accounting for 63.0 % of the total area; medium forest area is 2602.3 ha (27.1 %) restored forest area is 801.6 ha (8.3 %). In general, the commune has big forest resource with big forest reserve and some kinds of high-economic value NTFPs.

(Source: FPD, 2010)

4.3 Biodiversity assets

Special- use forest area is 10,401.3 ha, being recognized to have high biodiversity index. according to scientific research report there are several kinds of valuable and rare flora and fauna such as: tiger, black ape with white face, Cha Va with brown leg, sao la, etc.

(Source: FPD, 2010)

5. ECONOMIC SITUATION

5.1 Farming system

Upland farming is scattered, production has not been for trading. There is lack of farming system in a scale of farm and sustainable farming model (VAC, VACR).

Sylviculture is mainly plantation for production with acacia, which is scattered.

Scientific-technological progress has not been applied much and there is no mechanization in production.

Source: Huc Nghi people's committee 2010

5.2 Markets, enterprises, and industry

There is no factory, industrial production center, small scale industry and no civil wood, hammering center, etc.

There is no market in the commune, no supplying store to collect forestry and farming products. There are 8 households do small business (groceries). Market here is generally under-developed.

Source: Huc Nghi people's committee 2010

5.3 Financial services and access to credit

The Bank of Social Policy offers loans through associations and unions in the commune at a low interest rates of 0.65% per month.

Vietnam Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development also offers financing with collaterals with the credit limit of maximum VND 30 million, in which interests can be changed in each period.

VDF has the total capital of VND 100 million; and CDF has USD 5000

Source: Huc Nghi people's committee 2010

6. PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

6.1 Physical infrastructure

There is national highway 14 through the commune (11 km), inter-village route (12 km). 3 of 4 villages have favorable transportation. 1 of 4 villages has troubles in transportation in rainy season.

There are 2 irrigation systems and water pipes of 2.24 km, supplying enough water for 3.5 ha.

Gravity water-supply system satisfy 95.7% of the households. 74.47 % of the households has national grid electricity. 2 of 4 villages have cellular network.
Source: Huc Nghi people's committee 2010

7. OTHER ONGOING/PLANNED PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

Several projects and programs of government and NGOs have and continue to support Huc Nghi 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 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,

(iii) plan- investment on social-economic development (infrastructure, livelihood)

(iv) project of IDE

(v) project of CRES

PART B: COMMUNE INVESTMENT PLAN UNDER BCI PHASE II

1. COMMUNE PRIORITIES AND RANKING

Small scale infrastructure	Priority	Quantity
Electricity in Cup village (15 km of wire and 1 step-down station)	1	1 system
Running water (annually repaired)	2	4 systems
Repairing irrigation dam for 12 ha	3	1 system
Repairing canals 1.7 km	4	1 system
Schools (1 in Cup village, 1 in Huc Nghi Village)	5	2 systems
Resettlement area in Cup village (surface leveling)	6	1 system
Inter-village route in Cup village (small drains and bridges)	7	9 small drains
Community Meeting Hall	8	1 system
Removing temporary houses for poor households	9	20 poor HH
Domestic Lavatories	10	50 poor HH

2. LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS

ITEMS	Unit	Benefited households
Cattle, poultry breeding in 4 villages	60 units	60 HH
Wet rice (assisting reclamation)	15 ha	45 HH
Breeding wild animals	1 model	10 persons = 1 group of HH
Labor exportation	60 persons	60 HH
Forest plantation for economy with acacia (Ta Lo village)	50 ha	50 HH
Forest product processing , village 37	1 model	10 HH= 1 group HH
Producing and exploiting building materials	1 model	10 HH = 1 group HH
Small business and services (cup village)	1	5 = 1 group HH
Other jobs training (repairing, garment, etc)	1 class	25 persons per HH

3. Reforestation

ITEMS	Area (ha)	Benefited households
Allocating natural forests in village 37,	200	102

ITEMS	Area (ha)	Benefited households
La To		
Planting NTFPs in Cup Village, La to, 37	60	60
Planting production forest with local trees	150	282
Allocating forest to protect in 7 years in Cu and La to village	400	282
Paying labor force		

4. Others

ITEMS	Invested cost (USD)	Jobs
Credit fund	20,000	