

**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

Huong Phong Commune, A Luoi District, Thua Thien Hue Province

June 2010

PART A: COMMUNE PROFILE

1. LOCATION

Huong Phong is a mountainous commune 15 km South from the central part of A Luoi District in Thua Thien Hue Province, Vietnam. Ho Chi Minh highway cross the commune with the length of 6 km. Huong Phong is bordered on the East by Hong Ha Commune, Lao PDR in the West, Hong Thuong Commune in the North, and Huong Lam Commune in the South.

The total land area of Huong Phong Commune is 8,471.4 ha with two villages: Huong Thinh and Huong Phu.

GPS coordinates are 747073 - 1789904 with elevation of 580m masl.



2. SOCIO-CULTURAL PROFILE

Table 1 presents the summary of socioeconomic profile.

Table 1. Summary of socioeconomic profile in Huong Phong Commune

PARAMETER	RESPONSE/ ENTRY
Population	
Total population	366
Population density	0.04 persons per ha
Household population	109
Household size	4
Male population	185
% Male population	50.5%
Labor force	211
Education	Mostly primary
Poverty and livelihood	
Average income	12 million VND/ annum/working adult (average working adult per HH = 3)
Source of income	Animal husbandry and forest plantation
No of Poor Households	2
Poor Population	4
% poor population	1.09%
Ethnic Minority Kinh	
Total EM population	366

(source: Huong Phong CPC, 2010)

2.1 Population and labor

Huong Phong has a total population (2010) of 366 and 109 total number of households. Population density is low at 0.04 persons per hectare though average household size is medium at four persons per household. Active labor force is 211 persons.

Children of school age generally enter kindergarten. However, they quit school early after

finishing 7th or 8th grade. Hence, most completed only up to the primary level. More males usually reach high school than women.

2.2 Ethnic Composition and main characteristics

Only Kinh people stay in this commune (100%). Kinh is the majority ethnic group of Vietnam, and are officially known as Kinh to distinguish them from other ethnic groups in Vietnam. Kinh people speak Vietnamese and have some festivals as Lunar New year holiday.

In the Kinh family, the husband is head of family. Children take their fathers' surnames. The first son worships his ancestor. People follow monogamous system. Virgin and ethics of women are very important in their wedding.

2.3 Gender Analysis

Approximately 50.5% of the population is males. In this commune, all residents are Kinh people, families are largely patrilineal where the males are considered heads of households and that inheritance is through the male line of descent. The men play important role in decision making and implementing difficult activities. Number of school boys going to school is higher girls'.

In terms of social interaction, there is equity between males and females. However, base on household labor allocation, women have more tasks on hand which include child rearing / child care, cleaning and laundry work, fuel wood gathering, fetching water, and collecting animal feed.

2.4 Dimensions of Poverty

The major sources of income are forest plantation development (Acacia) and animal husbandry (pig, chicken, cattle). Average income according to the leadership of the commune, is 12 million VND/annum/working adult (average working adult per HH = 3). In Huong Phong commune, average income is higher than other communes.

Based on the MOLISA poverty line criteria (average income of less than 200,000 VND per person per month) in defining poverty, there are only 2 poor households (1.09%) within the commune. In two households, people are disability, so they are unemployment.

3. BIO-PHYSICAL CONDITIONS

3.1 Climate

Huong Phong commune has tropical monsoon climate with two seasons. Dry season is from January to July, with South - West monsoon and high temperature (average temperature is 24.8 oC, maximum 38oC).

Rainy season is from August to December. Wet weather with strong rain and very cold. Time of floods is from October to November. Floods damage infrastructures, irrigation system and forest plantation.

3.2 Topography and physical features

Topography is dominated by hills. Soil is not good for agriculture activities. There are rich natural forests in the mountains of Bo watershed and in the border areas between Lao PDR and Vietnam.

3.3 Rivers and water bodies

A Sap river flows along Huong Phong commune. There are big streams namely the Can Te, Con Sam, Ta Re, C8, C6 streams. These streams supply the necessary water requirements for agriculture lands. Households within the commune use water from Con Sam, C8 streams for bathing, washing, and drinking. There are other several minor streams.

Lakes and ponds are also found within the commune and the total area for these bodies of water is about 3.5 ha.

4. LAND AND FOREST RESOURCE USE

4.1 Land Cover and Present Land Use

With a total commune land area of 8,174.4, approximately 7,080.1 are agricultural lands (including forest), 101.1ha are non-agricultural lands, and 672.34 ha are bare lands. Total forestlands amount to 6,902 ha (Table 2).

Table 2. Land uses in Huong Phong Commune

Land use types	Coverage area (ha)	Percentage (%)
Total natural area	8,174.4	100
A. Agriculture Land	7,080.1	86.6
1. Forestry land	6,902	84.4
B. Non agriculture land	101.1	1.2
C. Unutilized land	672.34	8.2

(Source: A Luoi FPD and Huong Phong CPC, 2010)

4.2 Forest Resource

Total forestry land: 6,902.0 ha

Special Use forest: 0 ha

Protection forest: 2,733.1 ha

Production forest: 4,168.9 ha

4.3 Biodiversity assets

The natural forest in Huong Phong is recognized as rich in terms of biodiversity with many wild species of flora and fauna. Sightings of big mammal species that have just been discovered such as the Saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*), Mang Lon (*Megamuntiacus vuquangensis*), Gibbon species (*Hylobates gabriellae*, *Pygathrix nemaeus*), Bear, Cobra, wild pig, Monkey, pheasant, sambar deer, etc. Flora is characterized by many kinds of wild orchid, Gioi, Chua, Sen, Truong, Mo, etc.

5. ECONOMIC SITUATION

5.1 Farming system

In Huong Phong commune, people take care their gardens, develop animal husbandry and forest plantation. There are not any areas for wet rice.

In their gardens, they cultivate vegetables, fruit trees and annual trees as subsistence farming. Some households develop forest plantation in hill gardens with *Acacia hybrid*, *Acacia auriculiformic* or *Aquilaria crasna*.

Difficulties to agricultural production are: (i) lacking funding for production investment, (ii) output of forest plantation is unstable; (iii) There are not any areas for wet rice, (iv) unemployment.

5.2 Markets, enterprises, and industry

There is not any market in this commune, so it is difficult to purchase and sell their products. People must buy commodities and foods from vendors and some people do subsistence farming. Some small shops and coffe shops are situated in this commune.

Vinasin is the limited companie have contributed to the employment of three local people.

5.3 Financial services and access to credit

Almost households in Huong Phong Commune take loans from the Social Policy Bank and Agri Bank. The Social Policy Bank offers simple processes and requirements at low interest rates, to wit: (i) 0.65% for poor households to be utilized for employment, and reforestation WB3; (ii) 0.9% for difficult areas and clean water; (iii) 0.5% for students; (iv) 0.25% for housing; and (v) 0% for impoverished households, mostly ethnic minorities.

There is also the Agri Bank but collaterals are needed.

The loanable amount is from 5 to 30 million VND and they must refund at right time.

6. PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

6.1 Physical infrastructure

The Ho Chi Minh Highway is the main road to Huong Phong commune and is good condition for cars, motorbikes and bicycles. Inter-Village roads (2 km) are similarly stable as all weather. Farm to market roads are lacked.

There is clean water supply system.

6.2 Social Infrastructure

Table 3 provides data on availability of school facilities and Table 4 other social infrastructure found within the commune.

Table 3. School facilities in Huong Phong Commune

School	No. of Schools	No. of Rooms	No. of teachers
Nursery Schools	1	3	3
Primary Schools	1	5	8

Table 4. Social infrastructure in Huong Phong Commune

Commune infrastructures	Response / Entry
Community Meeting Hall	0
Number of Village meeting houses	2
Number of commune health clinics	1
Number of solid houses	16
Number of semi-solid houses	83
Number of temporary houses	0

(Source: Huong Phong CPC, 2010)

7. OTHER ONGOING/PLANNED PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

Several projects and programs of government and NGOs have and continue to support Huong Phong 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) ADB - support for poverty alleviation,
- (iv) WB, NAV
- (v) Youth Village for employment program

As a result of participation to such programs/projects, local capacities and skills have been enhanced.

PART B: VILLAGE INVESTMENT PLAN UNDER BCI PHASE II

1. Village PRIORITIES AND RANKING

Small scale infrastructure	Priority	Quantity
Electricity line to new settlement (In Huong Thinh Village)	1	6 km
Playing ground for Nursery school (Huong Thinh Village)	2	1 playing ground
Farm to market road (Huong Thinh and Huong Phu village)	3	20 km
Inter- Commune road (3m) (links Huong Phu and Dong Son)	4	6 km

2. LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS

ITEMS	AREA (ha)	Households benefiting
Raising pigs (200 pigs)		50
Raising cows (50 cows)		50
Raising chickens (300 chickens)		30
Raising fishes	1.5 ha	30
Upgrading mixed gardens	18 ha	90

3. REFORESTATION

ITEMS	AREA (ha)	Households benefiting
Planting Acacia forest plantation	250	50
Take care natural forest (Huong Phu, Huong Thinh)	300	20

4. OTHERS

ITEMS	SIZE OF INVESTMENT	NO. OF JOBS

5. Cost estimates

ITEMS	US\$
a) Small scale infrastructure	150,000
b) Livelihood options	50,000
c) Forest restoration	60,000
TOTAL	260,000

Source: ADB R-PPTA 2010