

## **Dialogues on REDD+ and PFES Benefit Sharing Mechanisms**

### **Field Tour Briefing**

#### **Background of REDD+ and PFES implementation in Lam Dong Province**

Located in the Central Highland of Vietnam, Lam Dong, a mountainous province, has the total natural land area of 977,219 ha. With 591,476 ha of forest land, the forests of Lam Dong province carry many forest formations and high biodiversity, play a very important role in socio-economic development while ensuring the watershed protection, landscape and environment conservation, climate regulation, soil protection and erosion control for the central coast region and the East of the Southern Vietnam.

In the recent years, the forestry sector has been shifting toward reduced logging, re-enforced forest resource protection and management, enhanced facilitation of natural regeneration, commercial plantation establishment and increased value of environmental services provided by forest. With greater attention given to forest protection, management and development, forest sector becomes providing better contribution to job creation and living condition improvement and forest awareness raising, especially for ethnic minorities.

In responding to the climate change, along with other provinces, Lam Dong has been taking a series of actions. The general socio-economic development as well as forestry sector development with the forest land covering over 60 % of total land area has been taking serious considerations to ensure the harmony with environmental benefits through the application of proper benefit sharing mechanisms, including that of REDD+ and PFES schemes.

PFES mechanism has been successfully piloted in Lam Dong and Son La in 2009-2010. Under this mechanism, the financial effectiveness and efficiency of payments delivered to people has been improved and their awareness of environmental protection is enhanced. The experiences and lessons learnt in these two provinces have been used for formulation and issuance of the Government Decree on PFES at the national level. At present, the area of forest that have been allocated to people under PFES amount to 322,000 ha corresponding to over 86 % of the total contracted/allocated forest area. This practice has helped to reduce the state spending for forest protection and management. The total revenue from payment for environment services provided by forest totals at 106 billion VND.

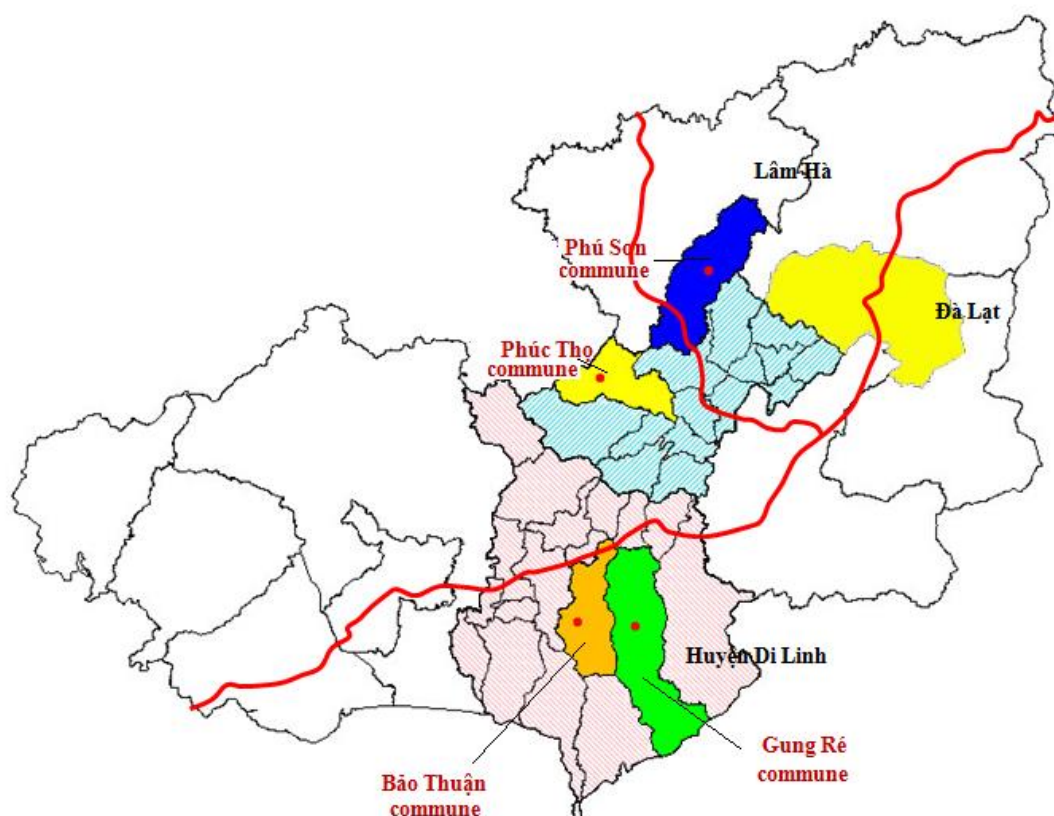
Along with PFES, REDD+, as an innovative initiative which aims at preventing deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of valuable biodiversity in developing countries, was introduced to Lam Dong in 2009. So far, lot of technical assistance has been delivered to Lam Dong Province to promote REDD+ implementation. Although the REDD+ governance represents a complex of issues and challenges, the implementing capacity of local actors and their awareness of REDD+ has been upgraded, in terms of setting up forest emission reference level, community consultation, forest vegetation assessment, carbon potential analysis and so on. Of great importance is the integration of REDD+ activities into the forest protection and development plan for 2011-2020 and the preparation of Provincial REDD+ Action Plan (PRAP).

## The intended sites for the field visit

During the field visit, the Dialogue participants will visit four sites in two districts of Lam Ha and Di Linh of Lam Dong province. The names of the sites follow:

- In Lam Ha district (day 1 – 24 September 2013), participants will visit Phu Son and Phuc Tho communes. Due to the heavy rain for the weeks before the event, participants may not be able to enter the villages and walk in the forest in Lam Ha district. Instead, meetings will be held in the commune centers for WS participants to interact with villagers (from Lam Bo village).
- In Di Linh district (day 2 – 25 September 2013), participants will visit Gung Re and Bao Thuan communes. Thanks to perfect road conditions in Di Linh, participants will be able to visit the forest and interact with villagers in Hang Lang and Lang Ku of Gung Re commune and meet with villagers of Kala Tong gu of Bao Thuan commune.

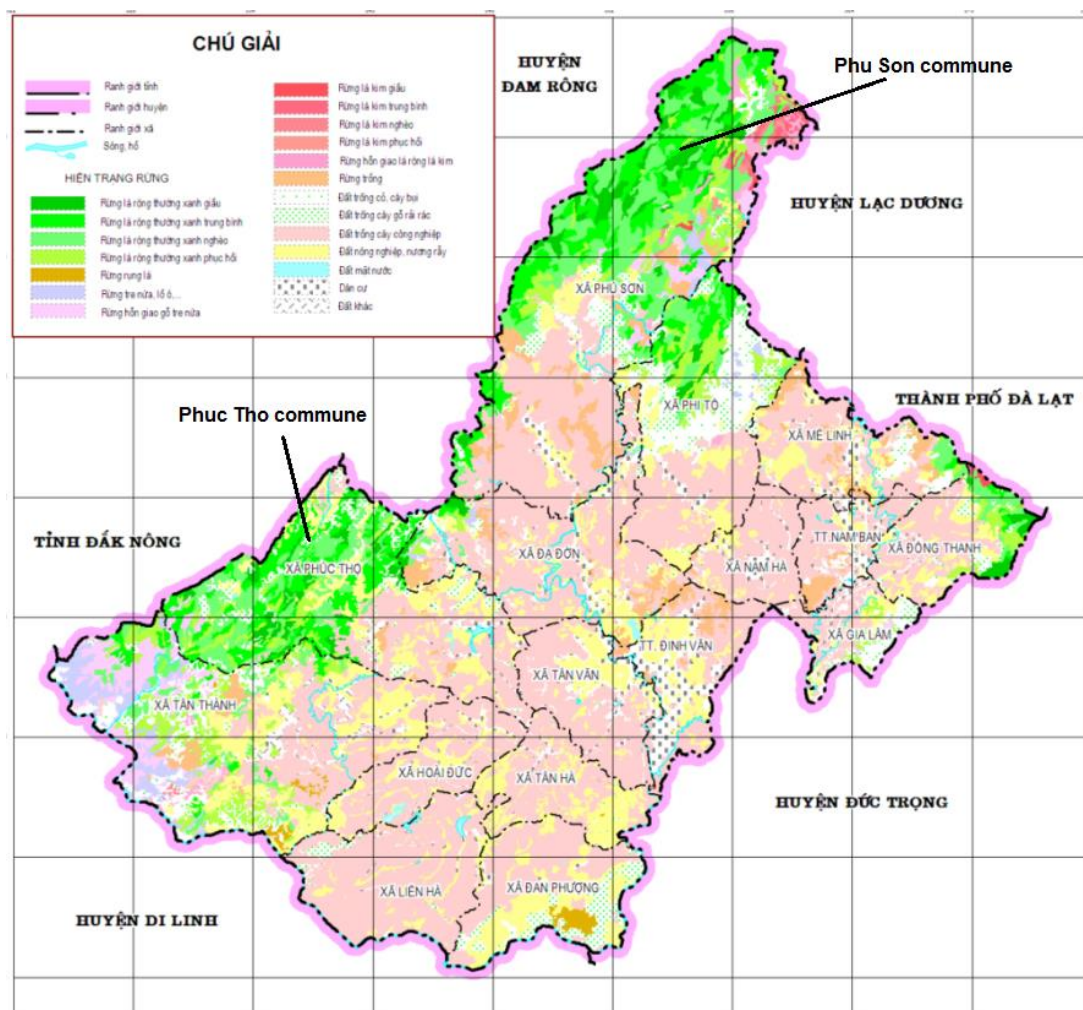
See the map of visit sites and their basic information below.



Location of the visit sites

### 1 . LAM HA DISTRICT

In Lam Ha district, WS participants will visit two most forested communes – see forest cover map of Lam Ha district below and trip route at the end of the section.



### Forest cover map of Lam Ha district

### 1.1 . Phu Son Commune

- Phu Son commune is located 27 km to the west of Dalat city, the capital of Lam dong province. Total land area 17,552 ha, including 11,012 ha of forest, accounting for 62.7 % of the total natural area of the commune. In Lam ha District, Phu Son commune possesses the largest forest area.
- Population: 8,295 people, households: 1,968.
- Ethnic groups: K'ho , Chil , Ma, Tay, Nung, Mong, Kinh.
- The area of forest which has been allocated/contracted to households: 5,300 ha to 244 ethnic minority households. On average, 22 ha/household.
- R'Teng village of Phu Son commune is a forest village. Forest area 4,511 ha, number of households 334, population 1.376. Currently, forest resources in this commune have been contracted by Nam Bang Protection Forest Management Board to local people under PFES scheme. In total, 4,434 ha have been contracted to 246 households.
- Phu Son Commune has been engaged in reforestation programs using the following funding sources:

- The National Funding Scheme 30A on Faster and Sustainable Poverty Reduction: 40 ha by 14 households;
- Self-funded plantation establishment: 600 ha by 32 households;
- State-funded: 75 ha;

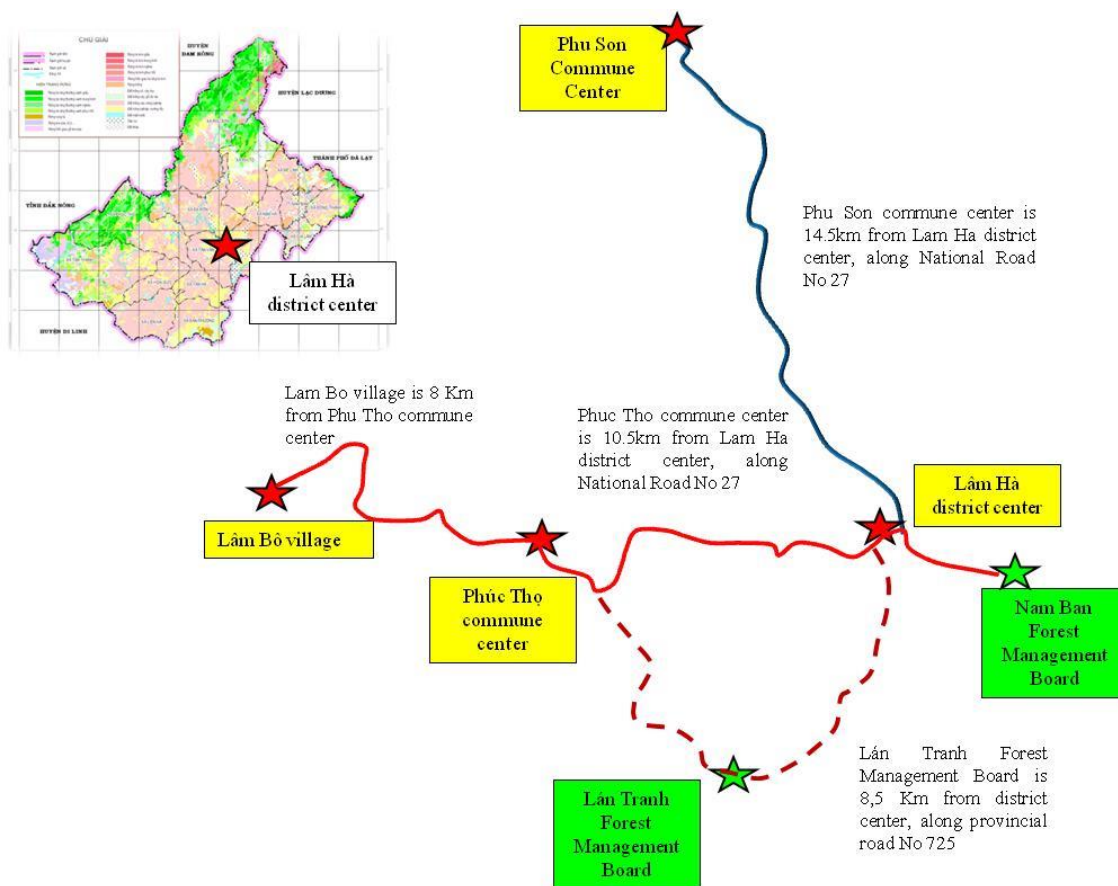
## **1.2 . Phuc Tho Commune**

- Phuc Tho commune is located 38 km from Dalat, in the south-west. Total natural land area of 11,089 ha, including 3,794 ha of forest, accounting for 35 % of total land area. The forest coverage of Phuc Tho Commune ranks second in the district following Phu Son commune.
- Number of households 1,995 with 8,300 people..
- Lam Bo village of Phuc Tho commune possesses the largest forest area (857.3 ha). The forests in this village have been allocated by Lan Tranh Protection Forest Management Board to 31 households. In this village, a model of community forestry covering an area of 173.81 ha is about to be established.

In recent years, the following REDD+ related activities have been being implemented in Phu Son and Phuc Tho communes of Lam Dong Province:

- Training of REDD+ communicators/facilitators: Phuc Son is one of the two communes which have piloted training courses for village/commune communicators/facilitators.
- Participatory forest carbon measurement training.
- Free, Prior, informed Consent (FPIC) for UNREDD.
- Assessment of forest cover and analysis of deforestation drivers

## **Travel Route:**



## 2 . DI LINH DISTRICT

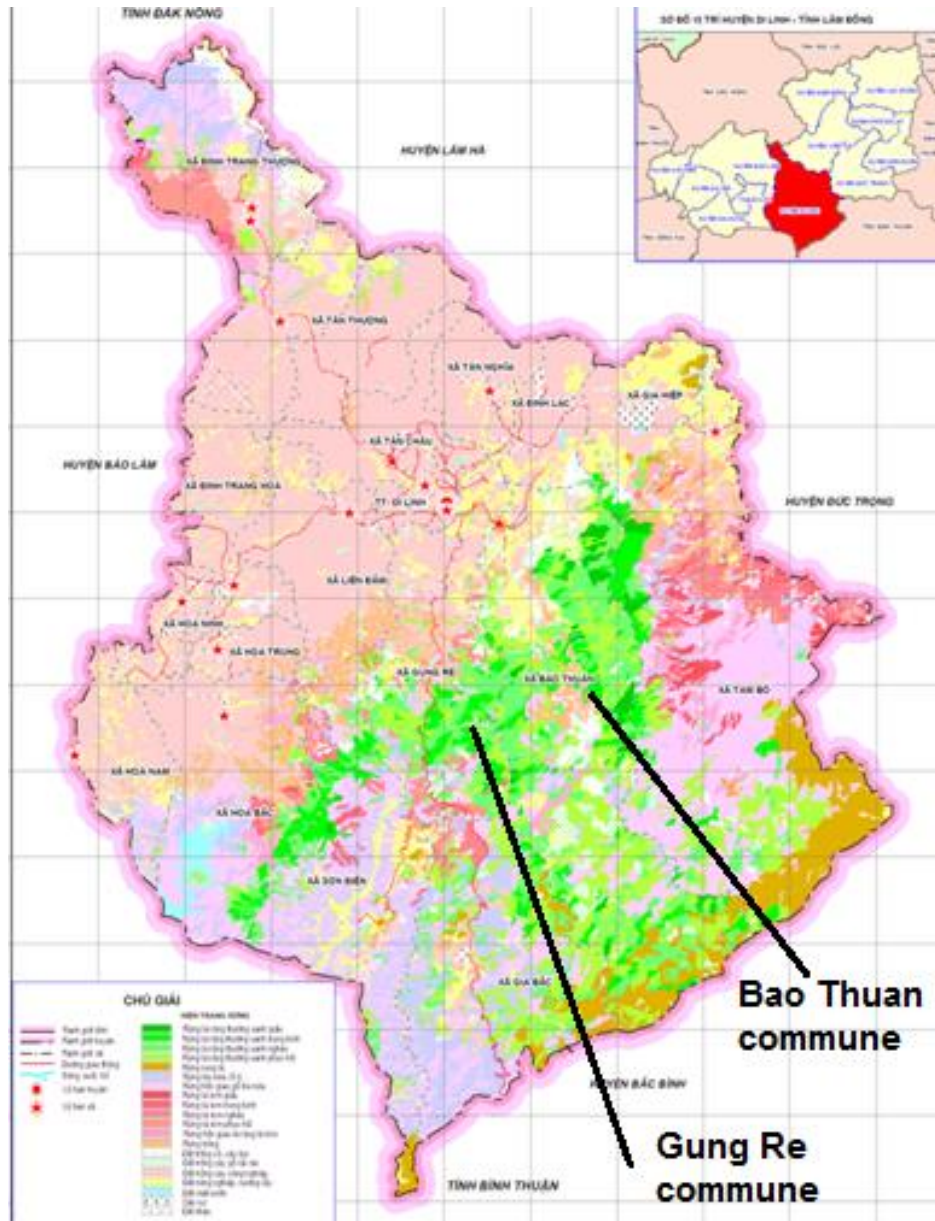
In Di Linh district, WS participants will visit Gung Re and Bao Thuan communes

### 2.1 Gung Re Commune

- Gung Re commune is 63 km Southwest of Da lat city. Total natural land area 12,100 ha, including 7,148 ha of forest (59% of total natural land area). Forested land of Gung Re Commune is ranked fourth in the district.
- Population 9,927 people with 2,230 households. Labor force consists of 5,990 people.
- Forest protection contracts/forest land allocation: Forest has been contracted/allocated by Di Linh Forest Company under PFES scheme (4,481 ha to 150 households) and province budget (441.79 ha to 16 households).
- REDD+ activities that have been implemented include FPIC, assessment of forest vegetation cover and deforestation drivers.

Hang Lang and Lang Ku are the two villages in Gung Re commune which have the largest forest coverage.

- Hang Lang Village: 265 households (1,421 people). In total, 2,082 ha have been allocated to 73 households using provincial budget (380.99 ha for 14 households) and PFES (1,701.14 ha for 59 households);
- Lang Ku Village: 152 households, 623 people. Allocation of forest for proper management and protection has been conducted with 1247.55 ha for 45 households using provincial budget (31.7 ha for one household) and PFES (1,215.85 ha for 44 households)

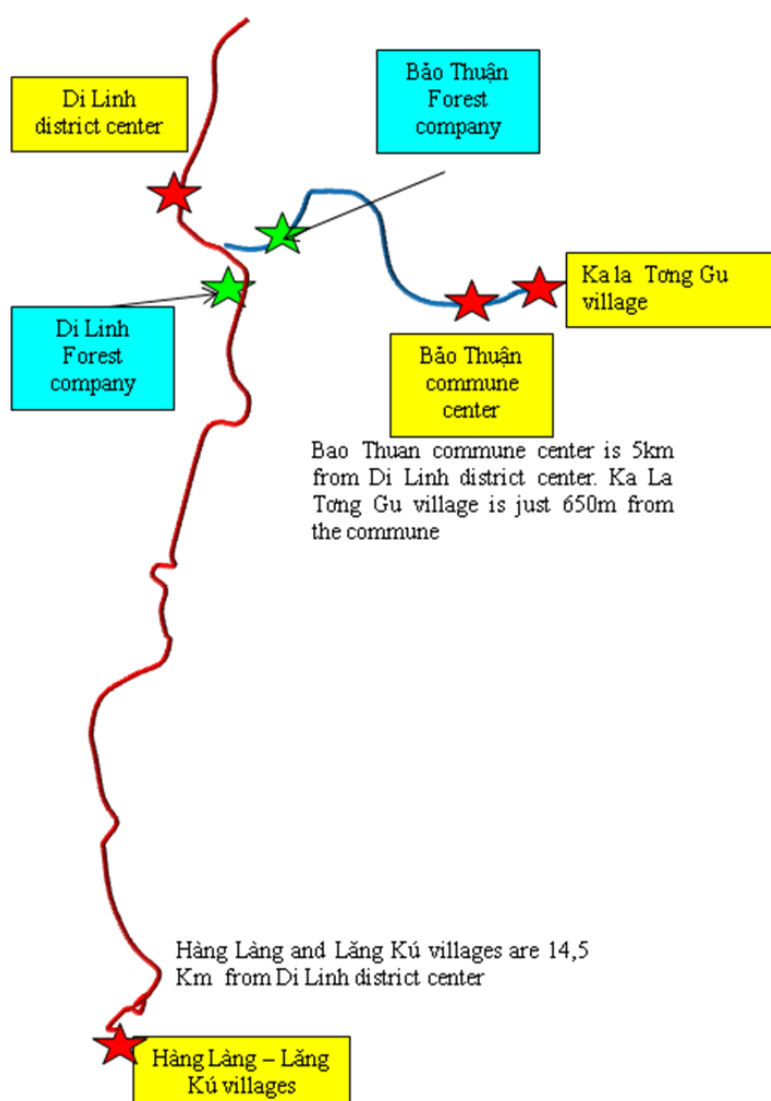


## 2.2 Bao Thuan Commune

- Bao Thuan commune is 60 km from Dalat, in the south-west. Total natural land area 23,141 ha including 19,642 ha of forest (85 % of total natural land area of the commune). Bao Thuan is ranked second in forest coverage following Tam Bo Commune.
- Population 5,815 people (1,186 households).
- Forest protection contracts/land allocation: The villagers are engaged in forest protection and management services with Bao Thuan Forest Company LTD. Funding for these services are available from the following sources:
  - PFES from Dong Nai and Ham Thuan river basins cover 3111,85 ha for 125 households;
  - Provincial Budgets: 4,310.47 ha for 132 households and 4 collectives;
  - FLITCH fund covers 830.79 ha for 34 households;

- REDD+ related activities: Bao Thuan commune is amongst the two communes which have piloted training of local REDD+ communicators/facilitators. In addition, FPIC and forest vegetation and deforestation drivers assessment has been conducted.
- In Kala Tong Gu Village of Bao Thuan commune: 500 ha of forest has been allocated to local community using PFES scheme (this community has 205 households with 912 households, including 4 poor households).

### Travel route



### Local contacts:

- Chairman of Phu Son Commune, Lam Ha District: Mr. Nguyen Minh Trang, 0988078979
- Chairman of Phuc Tho Commune, Lam Ha District: Mr. Danh, 01234756856 ;
- Vice Chairman of Phuc Tho Commune, Lam Ha Districts: Mr. Hai, 0985716714 ;
- The head of lam Bo Village: Mr. Lang Van Thanh, 097786820