

No.: 67/QĐ-UBND

Muong Cha, 18 November 2014

DECISION

**on the approval of Commune REDD+ Action Plan for Muong Muon Commune
for the period 2013-2020**

PEOPLE’S COMMITTEE OF MUONG MUON COMMUNE

Pursuant to Law on Organizing People’s Council and People’s Committee dated 10 December 2003;

Pursuant to Law on Forest Protection and Development issued in 2004;

Pursuant to Law on Environmental Protection dated 29 November 2005;

Pursuant to Decree No. 23/2006/ND-CP dated 3 March 2006 by the Government on the implementation of Law on Forest Protection and Development;

Pursuant to Decision 186/2006/QĐ-TTg dated 14 August 2006 by Prime Minister on the promulgation of Regulations on Forest Management;

Pursuant to Decision No. 799/QĐ-TTg dated 27 June 2012 by Prime Minister on the approval of National Action Program on “Reduction of Green-house Gas Emissions through Efforts to Reduce Deforestation and Forest Degradation, Sustainable Forest Management, and Conservation and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks” for the period 2011 - 2020;

Decree No. 99/2010/ND-CP, dated on September 24th, 2010, of the Government on the Policy of Payment for Forest Environmental Services;

Decision No. 2284/2010/QĐ-TTg, dated on December 13th, 2010 on implementation of Decree No. 99/2010/ND-CP, dated on September 24th, 2010 of the Government on the Policy of Payment for Forest Environmental Services;

Decision 1764/QĐ-BNN-HTQT, dated on July 26th, 2012 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to approve the Technical Cooperation Project to Pilot REDD+ in Dien Bien;

Decision 1050/QĐ-UBND dated 19th November 2012 by Dien Bien PPC on the approval of Forest Protection and Development Plan (FPDP) for Muong Cha district in Period 2012-2020;

Circular 05/2008/TT-BNN, dated on January 14th, 2008 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on guidance on how to make master plans on forest protection and development;

Decision No. 147/2007/QĐ-TTg dated on September 10th, 2007 of the Prime Minister on several policies on the development of production forest in the period of 2007 – 2015; Decision No. 66/2011/QĐ-TTg dated on December 09th, 2011 on supplementing, modifying several articles of Decision No. 147/2007/QĐ-TTg dated on September 10th, 2007 of the Prime Minister on several policies on the development of production forest in the period of 2007 – 2015;

Decision No. 106/2006/QĐ-BNN, dated on November 27th, 2006 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on promulgation of guidance on management of village community's forest;

Considering the recommendation by the CPC Office and based on verification report No. 88/BC-TĐNN dated 17 November 2014 by Muong Cha District's Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on "the approval of Commune REDD+ Action Plan for Muong Muon Commune for the period 2013-2020",

DECIDES:

Article 1: Approval of Commune REDD+ Action Plan for Muong Muon Commune with the following details:

A. Background

Both area and quality of forest in the commune are undergone degradation. As stated in document of Muong Cha FPDP Project for Period 2012 -2020, deforestation, clearing forestland for shifting cultivation and illegal logging is going unabated.

B. Goals and objectives

1. Goals

Overall goal of C-RAP is to contribute to the sustainable commune development, increasing and maintaining forest cover, enhancing forest carbon stock, conserving bio-diversity and improving livelihoods of the local people through REDD+ implementation.

2. Specific objectives

To develop sustainable forest management to enhance the ecosystem services including watershed protection, disaster prevention, landscape preservation, carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, and forests product production by the increase of forest cover from 4,906.3 ha to 5,237 ha for 2015 and to 6,756.7 ha for 2020 as targeted value as described in the planning of New Rural Development for Muong Muon Commune in the period of 2011 - 2020.

To develop sustainable livelihoods of local populations through supporting forest management to contribute to poverty reduction. This contributes to support that average income of the

villagers will increase to VND 11,442,000 per year by 2015 and the rate of poor households will be reduced as much as possible by 2020 as described in the planning of New Rural Development for Muong Muon Commune in the period of 2011 - 2020.

3. Key Tasks

3.1 Key Task for forest protection, regeneration, and afforestation

Forest management activities such as forest protection, regeneration, and afforestation are formulated and implemented based on Forest Protection and Development Plan (FPDP). Promoting forest protection, regeneration, and afforestation through FPDP and PFES is a main task in C-RAP implementation. A Key Task for each forest management activity is summarized in the following table.

Table 3.1 Key Task of forest protection and development in Muong Muon in the period of 2013-2020

Unit (ha)

No	Village	Activity and target			Total
		Forest protection	Forest regeneration	Afforestation and tending	
1	Muong Muon 1+2	618.7	381.3	158.0	1,158.0
2	Pu Cha + Huoi Nha	2,405.2	631.8	48.0	3,085.0
3	Huoi Vang	249.9	71.8	88.0	409.7
4	Pung Giat 1+2 & Huoi Ho	681.4	809.9	190.0	1,681.3
5	Pu Mua	384.3	271.7	64.0	720.0
6	Ket Tinh	249.1	139.4	21.0	409.5
7	Huoi Meo	1,204.9	182.9	83.0	1,470.8
	Total	5,793.5	2,488.8	652.0	8,934.3

Note: Each area is figured based on the planning map of FPDP for Muong Cha District in the period 2012-2020.

3.2 Key Task for forest change monitoring system

Provincial REDD+ Action Plan (PRAP) stipulates that the operation of the improved Provincial Forest Monitoring System (PFMS) needs to be piloted based on the existing system.

In order to implement the above-mentioned PFMS concretely, the clarification of the roles and responsibilities of each relevant stakeholder is indispensable. Especially the refinement of current forest-ranger-based monitoring system and the involvement of villages in forest change monitoring are crucial for implementation.

As the pilot implementation of the improved PFMS in Muong Muon Commune are intended to produce lessons learned for the design of the system for the entire province, a review should be conducted by middle of 2015 for the future replication in the entire province from 2016 to 2020. To ensure the success of the improved PFMS operations for the entire province, the results of the pilot implementation should be reviewed in terms of technical and financial feasibilities and comparative cost-effectiveness as compared to other possible PFMS options.

According to PFMS in the PRAP, it is indispensable for the following organizations to participate in the forest monitoring below the commune level. There is a need to clarify the implementation responsibilities by each organization.

[1] - Villages (Villagers, Forest Owners, VMBFMLD, Patrolling teams)

[2] - Forest Owners (MCPFMB)

[3] - Forest Rangers

Three resources including funds, technology, and equipment are needed for the preparation in order to implement PFMS. State funds will be utilized to implement PFMS because forest monitoring is a routine work in the services. On the other hand, there is a lack of skills for satellite images and GPS on a technical aspect. Equipment such as digital cameras and GPS will be also needed in order to implement PFMS. The details are illustrated in the solution.

3.3 Key Task for livelihoods development of the villagers

As mentioned in Section 2.2 of Chapter II, most of villagers in the commune are living under poverty. Shifting cultivation on forestland is not only for food security but also for creating cash income to cover daily expenditures of the households. However, conducting shifting cultivation often gives forests negative impact. Therefore, in order to encourage the villagers to reduce shifting cultivation on the areas planned for forestry, and to participate actively in the implementation of forest management activities, there is a need to support villagers to improve their alternative livelihoods activities to support forest management. In addition, there is also a need to build a system that livelihoods development activities lead to sustainable forest management.

Moreover, since Muong Muon Commune is a pilot commune for the implementation of REDD+, it is necessary to build workable models to implement C-RAP to enhance livelihoods development, which will be replicated for other communes in the province in the future. These workable models should be developed by the middle of 2015.

3.4 Key Task for institutional framework for forest management and livelihoods development

Muong Muon Commune People's Committee (CPC) is the leading agency for responsibility of C-RAP implementation. One of the tasks in the implementation of C-RAP is to establish an appropriate and functional institutional framework for implementation of the activities on forest management, livelihoods development and additional components; especially, it is significant to strengthen the institutional framework to facilitate positive participation of villagers in the forest management and livelihoods development activities.

The institutional framework includes organization structure for the implementation, fund management, and setting rules for forest management and livelihoods development activities. The preparation of the institutional framework is important to implement C-RAP.

Moreover, since Muong Muon Commune is a pilot commune for the implementation of REDD+, it is necessary to build workable models of the institutional framework for the implementation of forest management and livelihoods development, which will be replicated for other communes in the province.

3.5 Key Task for capacity development for CPC staffs and villagers

Key Task to enhance knowledge and skills for staffs of CPC and villagers, Muong Cha Protection Forest Management Board (MCPFMB), and commune rangers as well as villagers directly involved in forest management and livelihoods development will be needed to implement C-RAP and the details are given in the solution.

4. Solutions

4.1 Solution for promoting forest protection, regeneration, and afforestation

Villages and households will be main actors directly involved in forest protection, regeneration, and afforestation. CPC is responsible to cooperate with relevant organizations such as the Muong Cha Protection Forest Management Board (MCPFMB) and Muong Cha District FPD to assist villages in developing village-based Forest Management Plans (FMPs) including activities on forest protection, regeneration, and afforestation; preparing village forest management rules; providing technical guidance; and implementing and monitoring plans and regulations.

According to the current in-force programs/policies in Dien Bien province, protection of forested area will be supported by PFES while the development of forests such as regeneration and afforestation are subject to be supported by FPDP. When recognized as the forests, the forest areas formed by regeneration and afforestation will be supported by PFES (for the areas under PFES scheme) instead of FPDP, and vice-versa.

4.1.1 Forest protection under PFES and forestland allocation

According to the “Muong Cha FPDP Project for Period 2012–2020” (Decision No. 1050/QD-UBND issued 14th December, 2012 by Dien Bien PPC), The targeted area for the activities of forest protection based on the FPDP in the period 2012-2020 are 5,793 ha. Contracts for forest protection shall be made with villages, households, and individuals to carry out forest protection activity. The villagers will be the people who will undertake regular patrolling for the areas allocated for forest protection and regeneration.

As Muong Muon Commune is covered under the PFES scheme, forest owners are entitled to receive PFES payment through forest protection activities.

In order to execute the PFES payment to the right targets with the right purposes, forest allocation is among the important pre-conditions. The Plan No. 388/KH-UBND specified that forested area will be allocated before the end of 2014; however, the sooner the forest and forestland allocation are implemented, the sooner PFES payment will be disbursed.

To avoid conflicts and disputes that may arise during and after the allocation of forestlands and forest protection contract, the participatory of the villagers should be encouraged to be fully involved in every step of forestland allocation process, such as reviewing the areas allocated in accordance with Decree No. 163/ND-CP and field works involving placing marks. Forest allocation will make the forest with the owners, so that villagers as the owners will be more responsible in forest protection and development when they get benefits from the forest in accordance with PFES and other existing policies.

For the areas allocated and entitled for PFES payment, the forest owners have to commit to implement the forest protection measures such as forest fire management and regularly patrolling to prevent illegal logging. At the end of the years, the FPDP will review all forested areas and will make payment for the undamaged areas. If deforestation occurred, the forest owners will have to explain the cause of deforestation (if they deforested by themselves, they will be dealt with in accordance with current law).

In order to get better performance of the forest protection and to be associated with benefits of the villagers, it is required to develop the mechanism on management and utilization of the funds received from PFES payment. A part of the funds is for forest patrolling, awarding to the villagers those who detect and report the forest violation. The other portion is for public use purpose as assistance funds like village road construction, building the community house, and supporting extensive education. The remaining portion is to pay to the forest owners. It is crucial

to draw up the village regulations and rules in the consideration of using the PFES payment, as well as in handling the issue which may arise, so that the forest protection will be implemented better.

4.1.2 Forest regeneration in the allocated forestland under FPDP

According to the data showed in the Muong Cha FPDP 2012 – 2020, total area of non-forested land planned for forestry in Muong Muon commune is 2,488.9 ha, of which 721 ha is currently under Ic status, which can be formed as the regrowth forests (IIa) after 5 years if properly natural regenerated. The allocation of this area will be absolutely completed to the landowners with forestland use right certificates before the end of 2015 as specified in the Plan No. 388/KH-UBND.

For the landowners who are individuals, households or villages, they shall sign contracts with Muong Muon CPC to re-lease the allocated Ic area for natural regeneration. By doing this, the contractee (Muong Muon CPC) will have to make advance payment for the whole period of 2016 - 2020 (5 years) to the contractor (landowners) with same amount of unit price for natural regeneration (VND 200,000/ha/year maximum, as specified in the Muong Cha FPDP 2012 - 2020). In turn, shifting cultivation by the contractors (landowners) on the contracted area will be surely prevented. After 5 years regenerating, the forests will be formed and to be entitled to get PFES payment and the contracts will be terminated. Potential funding source for this solution can be the bank loans with very low interest rate, which Muong Muon CPC is a debtor, provincial FPDP is a warrantor and the contracted land-to-become-forests area is the deposited assets, or from international/domestic donors/investors. The advanced payment from contracting will be used in the Village Fund for the purpose of livelihood development if the owner is the village. For the Ic-bareland areas which to be allocated to the Muong Cha PFMB, this management board can do the same way if they cannot control the shifting cultivation activity on the allocated area. It is crucial to build the consensus between contractors and contractees.

Regeneration activity will be conducted under FPDP. The area regenerated will be measured in order to make sure of the height and density of timbers for the potential forests. The procedure of natural regeneration is specified in the Decision No. 175/QD/BNN/KHC. There is also a need to regularly check and evaluate the quality of the zoned for regeneration areas, as well as assessing the possibility of the forest formulating and damaging to the forests.

DARD will establish a team for evaluating and recognizing the forest regenerated. In the case of several areas, which were not the forest, DARD will consult the PPC for arranging other funds for continuing regeneration to become the forest.

4.1.3 Afforestation under FPDP and other policies

The Ib, Ia bareland areas in the production forest area are suitable for development of afforestation. The expected output for afforestation in production forest area based on the FPDP in the period 2012-2020 is 202.3 ha. According to the Muong Cha FPDP 2012-2020, afforestation in production forest area will be supported in accordance with Decision No. 147/2007/QD-TTg and Decision No. 66/2011/QD-TTg on production forest development.

Awareness of the villagers on the technical matter for afforestation is crucial to promote afforestation. However, most of the villagers and households have a shortage of any fund for afforestation. In fact, they have been keeping with long-term traditional cultivation practice. Therefore, the right technical guidance is very difficult to apply to them. There is one of the solutions to solve these difficulties if the investors from home and abroad and villagers cooperate to develop afforestation in the production forest to secure the forest products of the planted forests and to secure the materials and equipment to manage the forests under technical management of the consultants and the relevant administrative agencies. Also, workable models on afforestation in the production forest should be developed to promote afforestation for replication in other areas in the commune.

In addition, a paper factory currently exists in Muong Lay town and this is the potential market for the production forests in this commune due to the short distance to the factory. This is one of the motivations to encourage the villagers who are allocated to the forestland in production forest areas because there is the potential they can afforest to harvest products for sales to get additional income.

Activities and schedule of implementation in relation to forest protection, forest regeneration, and afforestation are in the Appendix 1- Table 1.

5. Funding for the implementation

Total funding needed to implement the “Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest

Degradation in Muong Muon Commune in the period 2013-2020” is VND 24,926,494,000 (in which VND 12,113,494,000 is for forest protection and development and VND 12,813,000,000 is for livelihoods development).

6. Implementation

Organizations to be involved in the Implementation of C-RAP and their responsibility:

(1) District People's Committee

- To support the implementation of C-RAP;
- To assign extensionists, veterinary staff and other staff members of District DARD and FPD to support the implementation of activities;

(2) District Commanding Unit for Emergency Matters on Forest Protection and Forest Fire Fighting (DCU)

- To supervise C-RAP implementation in the commune level within the district; and
- To provide CCU with the advice and instruction on the implementation.

(3) Muong Cha Protection Forest Management Board (MCPFMB)

- To assist CCU and villagers for implementation of C-RAP, building the system in which MCPFMB can send the staff for instructing implementation method of activities on forest management; and
- To contract with villages, households, and individuals to carry out forest protection, regeneration, and afforestation in the forest and land allocated to MCPFMB.

(4) Commune People's Committee (CPC)

- To have responsibility to manage implementation of C-RAP
- To assign appropriate personnel as member of CCU below

(5) Commune Commanding Unit for Emergency Matters on Forest Protection and Forest Fire Fighting (CCU)

The responsibilities of CCU are mentioned in the chapter of "4.4.1 Establishing and strengthening institutional framework in commune level" of "III. Commune REDD+ Action Plan"

(6) Village Management Board for Forest Management and Livelihoods Development (VMBFMLD)

Forest ranger should support VMBFMLD to implement forest management activities as an adviser and a supporter. The households should cooperate on each activity in both plans. Each village involved in C-RAP should support each activity to achieve the success of the outcome of the activities.

The responsibilities of VMBFMLD are mentioned in the chapter of “4.4.2 Establishing and strengthening institutional framework in village level” of “III. Commune REDD+ Action Plan”

Article 2. Relevant offices coordinate in the implementation of C-RAP for Muong Muon Commune in the period 2013-2020 in accordance with current Vietnamese laws and regulations on funding, investment and construction management;

Article 3. The Decision comes into effect since the date of signature; CPC Office, Agriculture and Rural Development Division, Land Management Division, Finance and Planning Division and other divisions under Muong Muon CPC take the responsibility to implement this Decision./.

<p>Recipients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- As in Article 3;- DPC;- District departments: DARD, DoF, FPD, MC PFMB, Extension Station;- Permanent Commune’s Party Committee;- Permanent Commune’s People’s Council;- CPC leaders;- SUSFORM-NOW;- Divisions under CPC;- File.	<p>ON BEHALF OF MUONG MUON CPC CHAIRMAN</p> <p>Lo Van Lun (signed and stamped)</p>
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