



# REDD+ Capacity Building Services Assessment

May 2012



UN-REDD  
PROGRAMME



# List of Acronyms

BDS	Benefit Distribution System
CCWG	Climate Change Working Group
CERDA	Center of Research and Development in Upland Area
CFM	Community Forest Management
CSDM	Center for Sustainable Development of the Mountainous Areas
DoSTIC	Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation (of VNFOREST)
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FFI	Fauna & Flora International
FPIC	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
FIS	Forest Information System
HUAF	Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MRV	Measuring, Reporting, and Verification
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
Pan Nature	People and Nature Reconciliation
PCM	Participatory Carbon Monitoring
RECOFTC	Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (also known as The Center for People and Forests)
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
REDD+ STWG	REDD+ Sub-Technical Working Group
TDUAF	Thu Duc University of Agriculture and Forestry
TNU	Tay Nguyen University
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UN-REDD	United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries.
VFU	Viet Nam Forestry University
VNFOREST	Viet Nam Administration of Forestry
VNGO-CC	Vietnamese NGO and Climate Change network

# Authors

Lead author: Jim Stephenson

Research coordinator and contributing author: Nguyen Quang Tan

Contributing authors: Thomas Enters, Wahida Patwa-Shah, Yurdi Yasmi, Chandra Silori

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## Key messages

- In the space of three years, capacity building and training efforts have transformed REDD+ from a little-known concept to one which is widely recognized, discussed, and on the agenda of the Government of Viet Nam (GoV).
- Alongside general awareness raising at a national level, substantial progress has been made in capacity building for policy development and benefit sharing, but key gaps remain.
- The following gaps need to be filled; otherwise Viet Nam may not be able to meet the objectives of its Draft National REDD+ Programme. Gaps include:
  - » Low capacity among local NGOs to influence the formulation of social safeguards at national and sub-national policy levels. Local NGOs are often concerned about how REDD+ may affect communities living in or near forests, but do not have the capacity to engage effectively in REDD+ policy development in their province.
  - » Weak capacity among domestic and local capacity building service providers to assist REDD+ pilot projects in ensuring their “Actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, conservation of natural forests ecosystem to enhance social and environmental benefits,” as stated in the Draft National REDD+ Programme (p.4).
  - » Lack of REDD+ readiness capacity building support for natural resource industries provided among seven of the nine short-listed service providers consulted. Greater capacity building will be needed here if Viet Nam is to successfully ‘create mechanisms to link the private sector closely in designing and implementing REDD+ in Viet Nam’ as stated in the draft ‘National REDD Programme’ document.
  - » Insufficient engagement on the part of university-based service providers, which should expand capacity building provision to project developers on socio-economic analysis, mapping, and remote sensing data analysis, particularly at the provincial level, to build the capacity of domestic NGOs in these efforts.
- Recommendations for addressing these gaps are provided in Section 9 of this report.

## 1. Why is this assessment needed?

Building capacity for implementing REDD+ is a key component of REDD+ readiness processes that have been underway for over three years. Backed by substantive funding from a large number of organizations, government agencies, communities and individuals, a multitude of organizations are conducting awareness raising and training activities in all REDD+ nations. The massive increase in capacity building activities during a rather short period begs the question of whether the organizations providing such services have the competencies to provide REDD+ capacity building, and whether they are meeting country needs in getting ready for REDD+.

Surprisingly, little is known about the competencies of these 'service providers' which include government agencies, NGOs, community groups, academic institutions, think-tanks, consultancies, legal firms and media companies. To fill this knowledge gap, RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests, with financial and advisory support from the Global UN-REDD Programme through the United Nations Environment Programme, assessed the strengths and weaknesses and identified the gaps in the capacity building services being provided against Viet Nam's REDD+ readiness needs. This report provides results of the assessment and recommendations to inform the REDD+ capacity building process in Viet Nam.

## 2. What are the objectives of this assessment?

The objectives of the assessment were to:

1. Identify and map the service providers involved in REDD+ capacity building in Viet Nam (a total of 47 long-listed service providers were identified, see also Annex 2).
2. Identify the main objectives, competencies and type of services being offered by a shortlist of leading service providers, their target audiences and key achievements.<sup>1</sup> These are divided between the following nine main capacity building themes:
  - » Awareness raising and REDD+ knowledge dissemination
  - » REDD+ policies
  - » Benefit sharing
  - » Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV)/ Information Systems (IS)
  - » Social safeguards
  - » Environmental safeguards
  - » Calculating the potential costs and benefits of REDD+
  - » REDD+ fund management
  - » Developing the national REDD+ baseline
3. Identify the gaps in capacity building service provision between what is needed most in Viet Nam and what is actually being delivered.
4. On the basis of these gaps provide recommendations for strengthening the actions of:
  - » Capacity building service providers and programs in Viet Nam
  - » National government agencies
  - » Donor agencies and the international community including UN-REDD

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<sup>1</sup> The quality of actual training delivered was not assessed as part of this study.



### 3. Background of REDD+ readiness activities in Viet Nam

Viet Nam was one of the first countries to join the UN-REDD Programme and among the first countries to receive approval for their Readiness Project Identification Note (R-PIN) and Readiness Preparation Proposal under the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF).

August 2009 marked the official start of UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme both at the national level and with pilot activities in Lam Dong province in the Central Highlands of Viet Nam. Phase 1 of the National UN-REDD Programme was scheduled to last until December 2011, but was extended in late 2011 to the end of June 2012.

In September 2009, the national REDD+ Network was established by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) along with the REDD+ Technical Working Group (TWG) to create awareness of the REDD+ mechanism, to build capacity at national and sub-national levels, and to coordinate REDD+ activities by different government and donor agencies.

Since the end of 2010, activities under the REDD+ TWG have been expanded under REDD+ Sub-Technical Working Groups (STWG) toward the development of the 'National REDD+ Program' document. This document sets out objectives and guiding principles for the local implementation of REDD+; measuring, reporting and verification (MRV); REDD+ financing and benefit distribution; private sector engagement; and REDD+ governance. At the same time, a number of REDD+ readiness and pilot projects and analytical work have been undertaken.

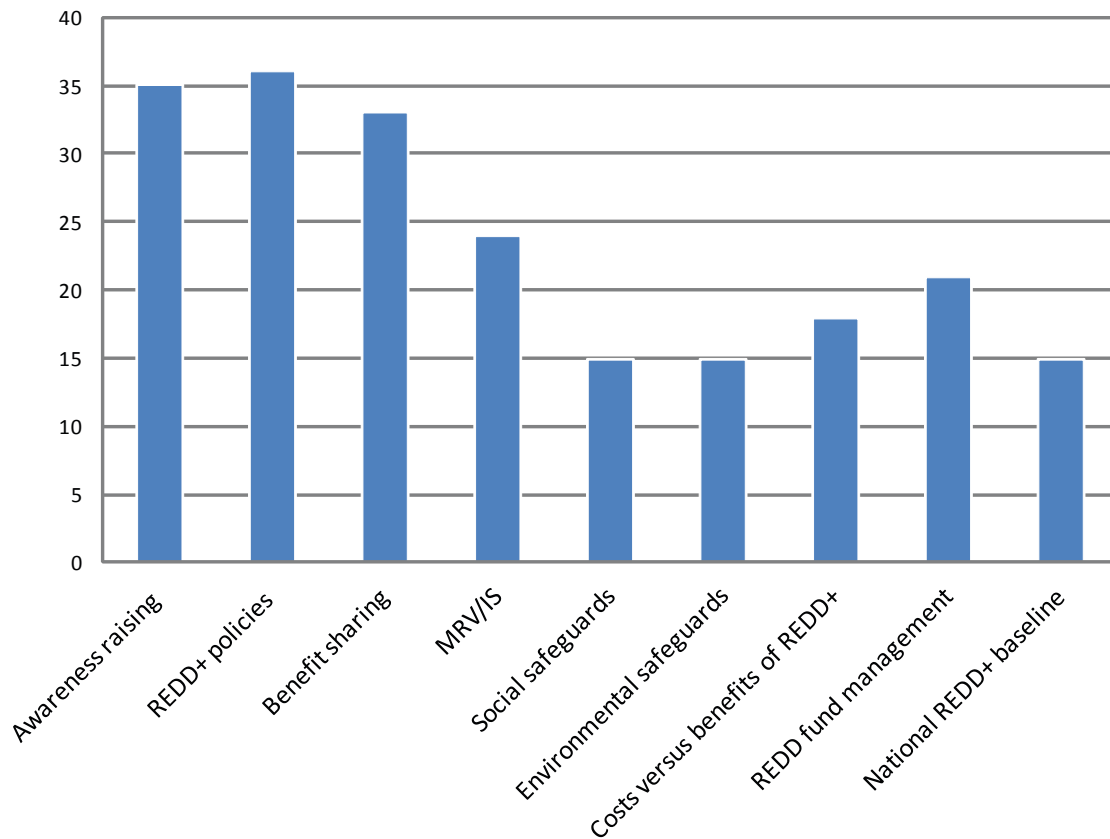
Officially, the administrative structure for REDD+ in Viet Nam was only established in early January 2011, with the issuance of Decision 39/QD-BNN-TCCB to establish the National REDD+ Steering Committee, chaired by the MARD Minister. MARD is officially in charge of policy formulation, coordination, and implementation of REDD+ activities. The National REDD+ Office was also set up in January 2011 under the Viet Nam Administration of Forestry (VNFOREST) of MARD to assist the National REDD+ Steering Committee.

Pilot and private REDD+ projects have also played an important role in moving Viet Nam toward 'REDD+ readiness' though the total number of REDD+ projects is comparatively low relative to the country's size. Examples of these projects include the 'Developing Community Carbon Pool Program for Asia' by Fauna & Flora International (FFI), and 'Pilot model on capacity building for ethnic minority communities readiness for REDD+ Program' (Center of Research & Development in Upland Area).

## 4. An overview of capacity building service providers in Viet Nam

Figure 1 provides an overview of the number of service providers active under the main capacity building themes.

Figure 1: Total number of service providers addressing each main capacity building theme in Viet Nam



Viet Nam is unique among the countries reviewed in this study (Cambodia, Indonesia, and the Philippines) as it is the only country where general awareness raising does not receive the greatest attention. Instead, there are marginally more service providers engaged in capacity building for REDD+ policy development. Benefit sharing also receives a similar level of attention from service providers, which can be partly attributed to the early progress Viet Nam has made in designing a benefit-sharing mechanism for REDD+.

A smaller number of organizations reported engagement in MRV/FIS, REDD+ fund management and calculating the costs and benefits of REDD+. Notably, Viet Nam has more than double the organizations engaged in capacity building for REDD+ fund management than any other country in this review.

Another unique feature of REDD+ capacity building in Viet Nam is that environmental and social safeguards are tied for lowest number of service providers, whereas in other countries environmental safeguards receive higher attention. This may be explained by the relatively low level of REDD+ pilot and private project activity, which limits the degree to which environmental safeguards are brought into the discussion and are implemented at a local level. This low level of project activity may also explain why there are fewer organizations engaged in capacity building for social safeguards.



## 5. The leading service providers

Participants in the Viet Nam country workshop agreed upon a shortlist of seven organizations that were most active in providing REDD+ capacity building services. Individual consultations were carried out with these organizations to gather more information on their activities. These consultations covered the length of time they have been operating in the country, number of staff, staff skills and experience, principal donors and the key audience for capacity building.

**Years of operation in Viet Nam** – the strong representation of universities in the shortlist of capacity building service providers in Viet Nam (four out of seven) means that most organizations engaged in capacity building have had a presence in the country since 1960s and 1970s, whereas the NGOs included in the study typically have been active in Viet Nam from the early 2000s.

**Organization size** – the average size of the leading organizations engaged in capacity building in Viet Nam is 152 staff, ranging from NGOs with 11 staff members up to the Viet Nam Forestry University (VFU) with 750 staff (including administrative teams). It is worth pointing out that the size of VFU is an anomaly among the organizations, and that the average size of service providers with the VFU excluded is much smaller, at 53 staff per organization.

**Staff skills and experience** – Table 1 summarizes the strengths and weaknesses of the leading service providers' skills and experience against the nine REDD+ capacity building themes. Please note that this summary is based on the skills and experience of the service provider group as a whole, and there may be some providers who have particular 'strengths' in areas identified as 'weaknesses' in the summary.

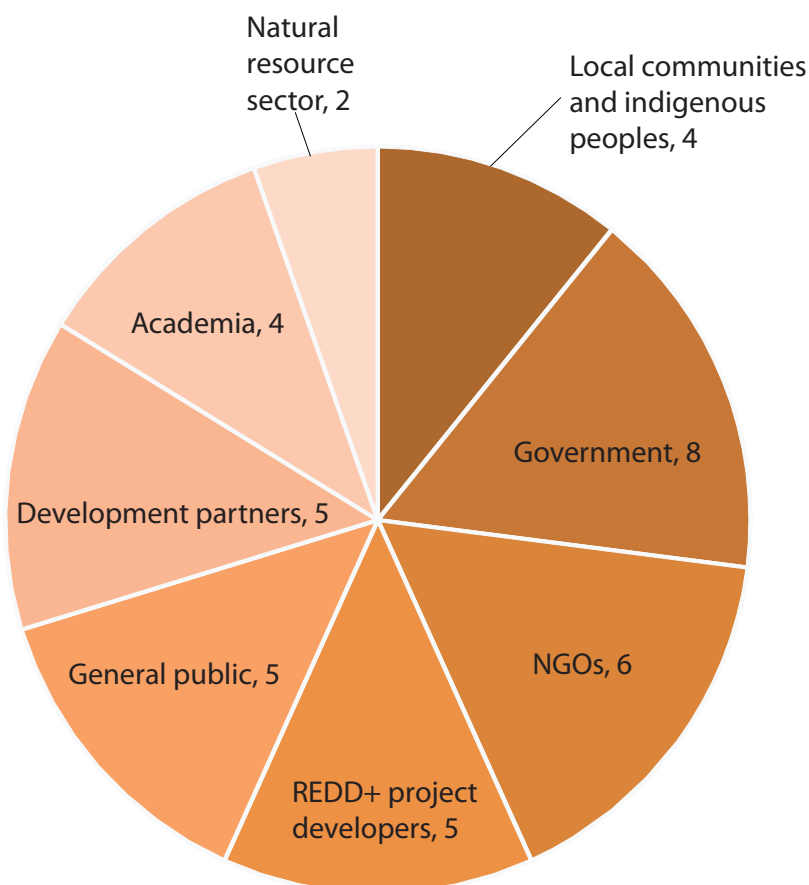


Table 1: Adequacy of skills and experience against the main capacity building themes

Capacity Building Theme	Strengths and weaknesses of service provider skills and experience	
	Strengths	Weaknesses
<b>Awareness raising and REDD+ knowledge dissemination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Excellent networking skills</li> <li>▪ Experience in communicating complex subjects in a simple manner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Weak facilitation skills, particularly for participatory-based training</li> <li>▪ Limited ability to produce media-based information materials, e.g., radio programming</li> </ul>
<b>REDD+ policies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Understanding of international REDD+ negotiations</li> <li>▪ Up to date understanding of national REDD+ policies and institutional structures</li> <li>▪ Ability to communicate national and international policy developments effectively at the local level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lack of familiarity with the link between REDD+ policies and private project development</li> </ul>
<b>Benefit sharing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Knowledge of existing provincial and district level forest benefit sharing mechanisms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Limited knowledge of participatory benefit sharing design processes</li> </ul>
<b>Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV)/ Information systems (IS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Experience conducting national forest data analysis</li> <li>▪ Technical forest management and inventory skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Weak capacity in GIS and spatial data analysis</li> </ul>
<b>Social safeguards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Knowledge of the concept of FPIC</li> <li>▪ Awareness of rights-based approaches to natural resource management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Limited awareness of the relationship between gender and REDD+</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental safeguards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strong technical understanding of biodiversity and ecosystem service conservation strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Limited 'Training of Trainer' skills for environmental safeguards</li> </ul>
<b>Calculating the potential costs versus benefits of REDD+</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Experience in financial cost/benefit analysis at a province level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Low capacity in natural resource/environmental economic analysis</li> <li>▪ Weak ability to analyze carbon markets and pricing</li> </ul>
<b>REDD+ Fund Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Experience in analyzing government fund distribution and rural development programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Limited experience in managing donor or private funds</li> <li>▪ Limited capacity in fund management design</li> </ul>

**Target audiences for capacity building** – Figure 2 shows the key target audiences of the seven leading REDD+ service providers. Roughly equal attention is paid to capacity building for government agencies and NGOs, with a marginal drop in the number of organizations providing capacity building services for REDD+ pilot project developers, the general public and development partners. The natural resource industry receives considerably less attention than the other stakeholder groups.

**Figure 2: Target audiences for the shortlisted service providers**



**REDD+ readiness events and publications provided since 2008** – The leading capacity building organizations reported hosting approximately 50 REDD+ readiness events (or event series) since 2008. Activities have ranged from national level government and NGO focused training to local-level community training. For example, at the national level in November 2011, Pan Nature organized a training workshop for civil society organizations in Hanoi, with over 20 participants. A good example of local-level capacity building has been between 2010-2011, with the Center for Sustainable Development of the Mountainous Areas conducting around 22 REDD+ training and awareness-raising courses in Hoa Binh, Son La, Lang Son, Nghe An and Thanh Hoa for local communities (6 courses), officials from village, commune, district and provincial levels, and a local training center, benefiting over 1,000 participants altogether.

These events have been complemented by the production of a high number of supporting capacity building documents with at least 25 publications since 2008. Sample topics include the following:

- Design of benefit-sharing mechanisms – VNFOREST, Design of a REDD Compliant Benefit Distribution System for Viet Nam 2010.
- Social safeguards – VNFOREST, Applying the Principle of FPIC in the UN-REDD Programme in Viet Nam 2010.

- REDD+ baselines – Forestry Faculty, HUAF Report on Socio-economic assessment and analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation for pro-poor REDD Pilot Projects in Nghe An province, on behalf of SNV (unpublished, 2011).
- MRV – Tay Nguyen University, Methodology for quantification of carbon in natural forest in Viet Nam, 2010.

## 6. Coordination of REDD+ capacity building

Coordination between REDD+ organizations in Viet Nam is relatively high, with a number of government and non-government-led coordination groups in operation. These groups are not specifically targeted at capacity building, and instead aim to support the broader development of REDD+ and climate change initiatives in the country. They act as an important convener and communication platform between capacity building service providers, but as reflected in Section 5 of this report, this has not entirely avoided duplication of efforts for some REDD+ themes and gaps in others.

Since the outset of REDD+ in Viet Nam, MARD has played an official coordination role and VNFOREST has functioned as the REDD+ focal agency. Since January 2011, the National REDD+ Office (VNREDD) has been responsible for the coordination of REDD+ activity. Substantial coordination support is also provided by the UN-REDD Viet Nam Program.

The coordination of organizations working in REDD+ is also achieved through the National REDD+ Network, Climate Change Working Group and Vietnamese Non-Governmental Organizations and Climate Change (VNGO-CC).

- **The National REDD+ network**

The national REDD+ network was officially established by MARD in September 2009 to coordinate REDD+ activities by government and non-government (both national and international) agencies in Viet Nam and to support the development of REDD+ readiness. Network members have met twice a year. As of March 2012, five meetings have been organized, with the most recent being on 15 December 2011. Network members are connected through a mailing list administered by VNREDD+. The REDD+ network's webpage is hosted on the website of Viet Nam REDD+ ([www.vietnam-REDD.org](http://www.vietnam-REDD.org)).

The National REDD+ Network has six Sub-technical Working Groups (STWG), listed below according to start date.

### **1. STWG on Local Implementation of REDD+ (STWG-LI)**

Co-chaired by VNFOREST and SNV Vietnam. STWG-LI started in 2010 with a focus on exchanging experience in implementing REDD+ related activities/ projects at the community level.

### **2. STWG on MRV (STWG-MRV)**

Co-chaired by VNFOREST and FAO. The group started in 2010 to share experiences related to MRV and to develop an MRV system for the Viet Nam National REDD+ Program.

### **3. STWG on Financing and Benefit Distribution (STWG-BDS)**

Co-chaired by VNFOREST and CERDA (a Vietnamese NGO). The group started in April 2011 and has been actively engaged in the development of a benefit distribution system (BDS) for the Viet Nam National REDD+ Program.



#### **4. STWG on Private Sector Engagement (STWG-PSE)**

Co-chaired by VNFOREST and Forest Trends. The group aims to increase private sector involvement in the National REDD+ Program and was established in September 2011. Its second meeting was in December 2011.

#### **5. STWG on REDD Governance (STWG-Governance)**

This group is co-chaired by VNFOREST and FFI and focuses on issues related to the governance of REDD+ in Viet Nam. The group had its first meeting in November 2011 and second meeting in March 2012.

#### **6. STWG on Safeguards (STWG-SG)**

Co-chaired by VNFOREST and SNV, this group focuses on the development of environmental and social safeguards in the National REDD+ Program. The first meeting was in February 2012.

- **Climate Change Working Group (CCWG)**

The CCWG is an informal network of NGOs (both national and international), established in February 2008 to facilitate information sharing, capacity building and coordination among NGOs in Viet Nam and between non-governmental organizations and government in relation to climate change responses. The group is currently chaired by Care International in Viet Nam and membership is open to all interested NGOs working on climate change issues in Viet Nam. CCWG has four thematic sub-groups: 1) Awareness and Behavior Change, 2) Adaptation, 3) Mitigation, and 4) Policy. CCWG has regular monthly meetings, which are open to any organizations wishing to participate. Members of thematic sub-groups meet every two months or on quarterly basis. CCWG has a mailing list for all members, which provides a space for sharing and coordination. CCWG's webpage is hosted by NGO Resource center website at [www.ngocentre.org.vn/ccwg](http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/ccwg).

- **Vietnamese Non-Government Organizations and Climate Change (VNGO-CC)**

VNGO-CC was founded on 11 September 2008 with the aim to coordinate activities of Vietnamese NGOs working on climate change issues and between the NGO sector and the government. One of the objectives of VNGO-CC is to initiate and promote successful models, solutions on community based mitigation and adaptation, and to promote information sharing. VNGO-CC also has a mailing list for information sharing and a separate website at <http://www.vngo-cc.vn>.



## 7. Key strengths

Consultation with leading service providers revealed the following capacity building themes where service provision is highest and speeding up progress in getting ready for REDD+.

### 1. REDD+ policies

The highest number of service providers in Viet Nam are engaged in capacity building for REDD+ policy making. This may be partly explained by the early engagement and progress Viet Nam has made with formulating national REDD+ policies, and the focus on government-led REDD+ activity, rather than private REDD+ projects.

The Viet Nam Administration of Forestry (VNFOREST) has been particularly active in capacity building for REDD+ policy making. Its members have been heavily involved in international REDD+ discussions and negotiations and have provided awareness raising to national stakeholders on developments in international policy through workshops and meetings. VNFOREST is in charge of coordinating national REDD+ policy making with relevant civil society, government, academic, private sector and community members. The agency has also played an essential role in developing the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility R-PIN and R-PP as well as developing and implementing the UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme.

### 2. Awareness raising and knowledge dissemination

More than 30 organizations are involved in general awareness raising in Viet Nam, which to date has focused on government officials, NGOs, local communities, indigenous peoples and the general public.

At the government level, VNFOREST with support from UN-REDD has organized three 3-day training workshops on REDD+ and on writing skills for climate change and REDD+ for its provincial staff members (one event in December 2010 and events in June 2011 and Dec 2011). 125 forestry officials from Northern, Central, and Southern provinces participated in these three courses. VNFOREST has also organized various awareness-raising training courses on the role of forests in climate change.

The Forestry Faculty of Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry (HUAF) has provided three sessions of short courses for forest officials on climate change and the role of forests in 2009-2010. RECOFTC, alongside UN-REDD has provided training for forest officials on the role of forests, deforestation and forest degradation in climate change in Lam Dong in 2010. Staff from the Agriculture and Forestry Faculty of Tay Nguyen University (TNU) facilitated training for officials from six coastal provinces on the basics of REDD+ alongside RECOFTC in March 2009 and government officials in Dak Nong alongside GIZ in 2008.

Examples of capacity building events at civil society and community level include REDD+ training for civil society organized by Pan Nature in Hanoi in November 2011 (20 participants) and local community training in REDD+ provided by RECOFTC alongside SNV in Lam Dong (three courses) and with GIZ in Dak Nong (one course). Between 2010-2011, the Center for Sustainable Development of the Mountainous Areas (CSDM) conducted 22 training and awareness raising courses in Hoa Binh, Son La, Lang Son, Nghe An and Thanh Hoa. These courses were attended by local communities, officials from village, commune, district and provincial levels and a local training center. The trainings covered the following topics:

- » Climate change
- » The role of forests, including sustainable forest management
- » REDD+ international processes, implementation mechanisms, potential impacts on local communities and the forest carbon market

#### Box 1: Case study service provider – Pan Nature, Viet Nam

The Hanoi-based organization People and Nature Reconciliation (Pan Nature) was established in 2004. Pan Nature's areas of work include analysis and assessment of natural resource and development policies, policy advocacy, media investigation, and environmental education. It currently has 23 staff members, with experience in environmental education, policy analysis and advocacy, communication, community development and institutional development. Pan Nature has produced a number of online articles related to REDD+ which can be viewed on the Vietnamese language website [www.thiennhien.net](http://www.thiennhien.net). They have also produced a Vietnamese version of CIFOR's publication 'Moving Ahead with REDD: Issues, Options and Implications'. Pan Nature has engaged in the following REDD+ capacity building activities:

- Between 2007 and 2009, Pan Nature coordinated an awareness raising workshop for around 50 journalists, in which the journalists visited field sites in the Mekong Delta and wrote articles on forests and climate change. The outcome of this workshop was a publication on environmental refugees in Mekong Delta.
- In November 2011, Pan Nature organized a REDD+ training workshop for civil society organizations in Hanoi, with over 20 participants.
- Since late 2011, Pan Nature has co-implemented the policy component of ASEAN-REDD+ community carbon in Kon Tum, together with Fauna & Flora International (FFI).
- Pan Nature participates in Viet Nam's Sub-Technical Working Group on Local Implementation, Benefit Distribution Systems (BDS), and the private sector.
- Pan Nature is working with FFI in Kon Tum in capacity building to facilitate local participation in REDD+ planning, decision making, and project implementation.

### 3. Benefit sharing

Capacity building on benefit-sharing arrangements receives much more attention from service providers in Viet Nam than in the other countries reviewed. This may be explained by the fact that the process of developing a benefit distribution system started as early as September 2009. This was initiated through a study lead by VNFOREST (at that time known as Department of Forestry) which analyzed different payment systems in Viet Nam and came up with recommendations for designing a REDD+ compliant benefit distribution system (BDS) for Viet Nam. VNFOREST is now coordinating a sub-technical working group (STWG) on BDS, which involves the participation and capacity building of various national and international agencies in developing an appropriate BDS connecting the national and provincial levels.

Most of the capacity building work for benefit sharing has been targeted at provincial and district officials (particularly in Lam Dong) and has focused on raising understanding of REDD+ BDS. The widespread provision of capacity building for communities and forest managers on benefit sharing is apparently yet to begin.



## 8. Key gaps

The assessment reveals numerous capacity-building themes where service provision is lowest and potentially holding back REDD+ readiness progress.

### 1. Social safeguards

Viet Nam has the joint lowest number of organizations engaged in capacity building for the development of social safeguards, out of the four countries reviewed. This may be because there has not yet been a high demand for capacity building services for social safeguards with individual REDD+ pilot projects. Due to the limited number of such projects in development, much of the capacity building for social safeguards has happened at national and sub-national levels, where fewer events and service providers are needed. There is indeed strong evidence to suggest that Viet Nam is active in capacity building for social safeguards, e.g., FPIC workshops held by UN-REDD together with AIPP (Asia Indigenous Peoples' Pact).

However, these capacity building activities appear to have been largely focused at the national level and there is now further scope for work at a sub-national level. This will be required for Viet Nam to comply fully with the 'Legal Basis' section of its 'Draft National REDD+ Program,' which states that REDD activities will be implemented with consideration to "safeguards," including "taking into account national legislation and sovereignty; respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities (p.5)."

Consultations highlighted the gap in local NGOs' capacity to develop and design REDD+ capacity building programs that facilitate participation and interaction from participants. Apparently many training programs are delivered using a 'lecture style,' which leaves little scope for participant interaction and the expression of ideas from the audience. Training groups are often too large and the training delivered in time periods too short to allow for effective participation by the audience. Without this issue being resolved it may be difficult to achieve the levels of participation needed from local communities and indigenous peoples to ensure their views and reactions are fully aired and taken into account.

There is also a training need for local NGOs to improve their ability to influence national and sub-national policy formulation. It was reported that often local NGOs are concerned about how REDD+ may affect communities living in or near forests but do not have the capacity to engage effectively in REDD+ policy development in their province.

### 2. Environmental safeguards

The smaller number of organizations engaged in developing environmental safeguards may also be due to the low number of REDD+ pilot projects. In reality 15 organizations engaged in environmental safeguards could be considered adequate given Viet Nam's approach to REDD+ to date. As more and more REDD+ pilot projects are developed it will be important that domestic and local capacity building service providers can assist and support them so that REDD+ "Actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, conservation of natural forests ecosystem to enhance social and environmental benefits" as stated in the Draft National REDD+ Program (p.4).







### **3. National REDD+ baseline**

There appears to have been good progress made by university staff in providing training to project developers on socio-economic analysis, mapping and analyzing remote sensing data at a local and sub-departmental level. It will be important that these service providers build on this capacity building experience and apply it at the provincial level, possibly building the capacity of domestic NGOs to support them in these efforts. This is needed in order for Viet Nam to develop “Forest reference emission levels/forest reference levels at national level or lower levels where possible” as stated in p.5 of the Draft National REDD+ Program.

### **4. Lack of capacity building services to natural resource industries**

Out of a total of nine short-listed service providers consulted, only two have any form of REDD+ readiness capacity building support for natural resource industries. Greater capacity building will be needed here if Viet Nam is to successfully “create mechanisms to link the private sector closely in designing and implementing REDD+ in Viet Nam,” as stated in the draft National REDD Programme.



## 9. Recommendations to address these gaps

The following actions for capacity building service providers, donors and governments are recommended to strengthen capacity building:

Capacity building gap	Recommended actions
<p><b>Not enough organizations engaged in establishing national or sub-national REDD+ baselines</b></p>	<p><b>For capacity building service providers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Train national governments and NGOs in how to access and analyze remote sensing data for establishing historical deforestation rates.</li> </ul> <p><b>For donors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the training of government, national/local NGOs and community trainers in:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 'ground-truthing' of remote sensing data.</li> <li>Socio-economic analysis to provide reliable business as usual and REDD+ scenarios.</li> <li>Cross-referencing data from forest bio-carbon inventories, with remote sensing and sample-plot data.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>For governments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Technical Working Group should develop an internal capacity building program for the relevant members of the MARD with the assistance of external service providers. This program should equip them with the necessary skills to review and analyze sub-national remote sensing, sample plot and socio-economic data and trends.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Meeting the need for social and environmental safeguard capacity building for the growing number of REDD+ project developers</b></p>	<p><b>For capacity building service providers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More awareness raising and training for REDD+ project developers, consistent with the content of national and sub-national social and environmental safeguard training events.</li> </ul> <p><b>For donors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased support for building local NGOs' capacity to facilitate wider participation and interaction during awareness raising, training and workshop events.</li> </ul> <p><b>For governments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide effective awareness raising and outreach to REDD+ project developers on the social and environmental safeguards being drafted at a national level.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Lack of capacity building services to natural resource industries</b></p>	<p><b>For capacity building service providers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Engage natural resource sector companies with a targeted REDD+ awareness campaign through industry roundtables, groups and companies that already show leadership on REDD+.</li> <li>▪ Provide technical assistance to industry to help them take REDD+ into account in land-use planning. This may be through demonstrating potential REDD+ opportunities or the financial, social and environmental risks they may face if they continue operating in a business as usual fashion.</li> </ul> <p><b>For donors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support the engagement of natural resource sector companies by capacity building service providers.</li> </ul> <p><b>For governments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Encourage natural resource sector companies to participate at a greater scale in national REDD+ planning processes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Delivery style and format of REDD+ training for communities</b></p>	<p><b>For capacity building service providers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase focus on participant interaction in REDD+ training, using smaller training groups and ensuring training sessions are delivered with adequate time left for audience opinions and debate.</li> </ul> <p><b>For donors &amp; governments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Specify the need for capacity building service providers to provide REDD+ training in a participatory manner in the Terms of Reference for donor or government funded REDD+ training.</li> </ul>



## Annex 1

### List of stakeholders consulted during the assessment

1. Agriculture and Forestry Faculty of Tay Nguyen University
2. Center for Sustainable Development of the Mountainous Areas
3. Forestry Faculty of Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry
4. Forestry Faculty of Thu Duc University of Agriculture and Forestry
5. People and Nature Reconciliation
6. Viet Nam Administration of Forestry
7. Viet Nam Forestry University



## Annex 2

# Long-list of training and capacity building service providers reviewed

1. Care International Viet Nam
2. Center for Agricultural Research and Ecological Studies
3. Center for Community Friendship
4. Center for Development of Community Initiative and Environment
5. Center for International Forestry Research
6. Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies
7. Center for Support to Informal Education and Community Development
8. Center for Sustainable Development of the Mountainous Areas
9. Center for Sustainable Rural Development
10. Center of Research and Development in Upland Area
11. Community Development Center in Quang Binh
12. Consultancy and Research Center on Natural Resource Management
13. Department of Ecology - Institute of Tropical Biology
14. Fauna and Flora International
15. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
16. Forest Trends
17. Forestry Faculty - Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry
18. Forestry Faculty - Thu Duc Agriculture and Forestry University
19. GIZ Forestry Programme
20. GRET
21. Ha Tinh Center for Community Development
22. ICRAF – The World Agroforestry Centre
23. Institute for Consultancy and Development
24. International Union for Conservation of Nature
25. Japan International Cooperation Agency, Viet Nam Office
26. Lam Dong Province Extension Center
27. MGREEN Media Company
28. Natural Resource Management Faculty - Tay Nguyen University
29. People and Nature Reconciliation
30. RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests
31. Research Centre for Environment and Climate Change
32. Research Centre for Forest Ecology and Environment
33. Social Policy Ecology Research Institute
34. Support Centre for Combating Climate Change
35. Thai Nguyen College of Sciences - Thai Nguyen University
36. The IDL Group
37. The Netherland Development Agency (SNV)
38. Towards Transparency



39. Tropenbos International Viet Nam
40. UNDP, through the UN-REDD Programme
41. UN-REDD Programme Viet Nam
42. URS Australia Pty Ltd
43. Viet Nam Administration of Forestry
44. Viet Nam Forestry University
45. VUSTA Dong Thap
46. World Bank
47. World Wildlife Fund Viet Nam



RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests  
PO Box 1111  
Kasetsart Post Office  
Bangkok 10903 Thailand  
Tel: 66(0)2 940 5700  
Fax: 66(0)2 561 4880  
info@recoftc.org  
www.recoftc.org

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