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SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme



"CONSERVATION OF FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY RESOURCES IN ASSOCIATION WITH SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT FOR ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN SAO LA NATURE RESERVE"

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PROJECT CODE NO

VNM/ICCA-GSI/2017/05

PROJECT TITLE

"Strengthening the ethnic minority community's capacity for forest and biodiversity resources conservation associated with sustainable livelihood development in Sao La Nature Reserve, Thua Thien Hue province"

EXECUTING AGENCY

A Luoi District Youth Union

TECHNICAL CONSULTANCY

Center for Rural Development in Central Vietnam (CRD)

PROJECT SITE

Huong Nguyen commune, A Luoi district, Thua Thien Hue province

PROJECT DURATION: 18 months from April 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019

FUNDING SOURCES

GEF SGP:	1,069,015,000 VND	47,000 USD
Other Sources:	415,580,000 VND	18,271 USD
Total:	1,484,595,000 VND	65,271 USD

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INTRODUCTION

Sao La Nature Reserve was established in 2013 in Thua Thien Hue province. This reserve - the only primitive forest remained in the Central Truong Son region, is endowed with a diverse genetic resource of more than 1,200 species of flora and fauna. Especially, this is one of few areas where three giant mammal species of global conservation values recently discovered in the world. They include the giant muntjac (*Megamuntiacus vuquangensis*), the Truong Son muntjac or Annamite muntjac (*Muntiacus truongsongensis*) and the Saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*). The conservation of these species needs to be given a high priority. In addition, there are many endangered species of flora and fauna in the reserve. They include ten species of flora and 48 species of fauna listed in the Vietnam Red Book and the World Red List, and the number of Saola Individuals is declining rapidly.

The Saola Nature Reserve in Thua Thien Hue province is connected with the Saola Nature Reserve in Quang Nam Province, the Bach Ma National Park and the Xe-sap Nature Reserve (Laos) to make up a large habitat

providing only chance of survival of the Saola species.

The reserve has its core zone of 15,519.93 ha covering the territory of three communes namely Thuong Quang and Thuong Long of Nam Dong district and Huong Nguyen of A Luoi district. The area of its buffer zone accounts for 16,500 ha covering five communes of Huong Nguyen and A Roang in A Luoi district, Thuong Quang and Thuong Long in Nam Dong district, and Duong Hoa in Huong Thuy town. The Huong Nguyen commune of A Luoi district is located within both the core and buffer zones, thus is likely to cause more impacts to the reserve.

A Luoi is a poor mountainous district of Thua Thien Hue province. It has a total land area of 122,463.6 ha and is administratively divided into 20 communes and a township. The district has a population of about 50,000 (of 12,000 households) and of which 78% are ethnic minorities including the Pa Ko, Ta Oi, Co Tu, Pa Hy, Van Kieu and Kinh ethnic groups. Local people almost heavily rely on forest resources for their livelihoods and are poor. The average poverty rate of the district has now reached 25%, and thus has been putting great pressure on the Sao La Nature Reserve.



Huong Nguyen commune is located within the biodiversity corridor spreading over the core and buffer zones of the Nature Reserve. It has a total land area of 32,397.6 ha, of which its area of agriculture-forestry-fishery land accounts for 29,263.71 ha including 354.05 ha of farming land and 27,625.3 ha of forested land. The total forested land area includes 8,391 ha of special-use forest (managed by the Sao La Nature Reserve), 7,736.1 ha of protection forest and 11,251.5 ha of production forest. Since 2012, Huong Nguyen commune has allocated forests to, and signed the contract of forest protection with local community and household groups. So far 1,133.8 ha of natural forest have been allocated to a local community and 22 groups of households with the 50-year forestry land use certificates (red books) granted in the commune. Local people have been allocated forests and given greater autonomy in forest protection and management.

The commune has a population of 1,192 (334 households), of which the Co Tu ethnic group accounts for 95.7%. Almost every family in Huong Nguyen commune consists of 4-5 members including 2-3 main laborers and owns a farming land areas of 4-5 hectares (0.15 ha of wet rice, 2-3 ha of rubber tree, 1-2 ha of acacia, and 0.1 ha of garden). While rubber and garden lands had been granted the Red Book by the government, others haven't. In 2007, their average earnings per capita were VND 15,330,000 of which forestry accounted for 60-70% mainly from production forests (acacia,



rubber) and the harvest of non-timber forest products – NTFPs (rattan, honey, mushrooms, medicinal herbs) and 30-40% from the cultivation of crops (wet rice, cassava and banana) and animal husbandry (cattles, goats, pigs and chickens). Their incomes earned from non-agricultural sectors was negligible.

The life of local people in the commune, however, is still facing many difficulties. Most of them rely heavily on forest resources for livelihood and the household poverty rate accounts for 39%. The commune has enormous potentials for agro-forestry development to improve people's livelihoods such as abundant labor, large productive land area and its proximity to Hue city (35 km). Unfortunately its agro-forestry production is still undeveloped and fragmented and thus yields low animal and crop husbandry productivities, produces low valued agricultural products that are not consumable, and poses high risk to its economy. This can be attributed to lack of technical capacity and limited access to market. Therefore its undeveloped production has put enormous pressures on forest resources and resulted in casual and illegal exploitation of forest products in the SaoLa Nature Reserve.

Furthermore, lack of awareness of forest protection and biodiversity conservation among local people and lack of technical knowledge in forest management and protection, especially sustainable forest management, can be major obstacles to managing and protecting forests and conserving biodiversity in the locality.

In Huong Nguyen commune, the Co Tu people's spiritual culture is of high significance. In their religion, forests and mountains are sacred and they believe in forest and mountain gods to offer spiritual support to people in struggling against difficulties facing their life with

potential risks and threats. Therefore, it can be useful to take advantage of their religious taboos and values for raising local people's awareness of forest management and protection.

In fact, there is an urgent need to develop sustainable livelihoods for ethnic minority people who rely on forests in the commune and raise their awareness and knowledge of sustainable forest management and protection and biodiversity conservation, contributing to minimize the pressure on the reserve

With the financial assistance provided by UNDP-GEF SGP, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union in A Luoi district has in collaboration with the Center for Rural Development in Central Vietnam (CRD), implemented the project "Strengthening the ethnic minority community's capacity for forest and biodiversity resources conservation associated with sustainable livelihood development in Sao La Nature Reserve, Thua Thien Hue province". The project aimed to achieve specific objectives, as follows:

1 —————
Raise awareness of forest protection and management, ecological environment protection and biodiversity conservation among local people and communities in Huong Nguyen commune

2 —————
Improve local people's and community's technical knowledge and skills in sustainable forest protection and management and biodiversity conservation

3 —————
Improve livelihoods and increase incomes for local people and communities who rely on forests

The project has been implemented in Huong Nguyen commune - one of four communes in the Sao La Nature Reserve. Its duration was 18 months and its total funding was VND 1,484,595,000



MAIN ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS



2.1. Celebration of Spiritual Cultural Festivals

The project has collected, restored and organized successfully two spiritual cultural festivals – the A Za festival and the Giang Xu thanksgiving festival.

After a long period of being consigned to oblivion (60 years for the A Za festival and 44 years for the Giang Xu Thanksgiving festival). The festivals had been restored to their former glory with the participation of the local community and the council of village elders of Huong Nguyen commune. All the people have volunteered to participate in the festivals with great spirit of pride of the beauty of traditional culture in general and their forest preservation taboos in particular as they commented on the facebook. Through their traditional cultural festivals, messages of the protection of forest resources and wildlife have been included in their prayers to forest god as their promise to protect forests.

Previously, their offerings to the god were wild animals hunted and plants gathered from forests but now have been no longer used in their festivals. Instead, the offerings include domesticall produced products from local animal and crop husbandy. This is a big change in local people's awareness and behaviour towards the protection of local forest resources and demonstrates their commitment to prevent any damage to local forest resources

2.2. Communication Activities

The project has launched communication campaigns to raise awareness of forest protection and management and biodiversity conservation among local communities. Specifically

Twelve bulletins were compiled and published focusing on twelve themes, including:

- *World Environment Day – "Green Living and Respect for Nature.*
- *Network of Mountain and Forest Lovers.*
- *Growing Thien Nien Kien (Homalomena) Plants under forest canopy.*
- *Technical Seminar on Ra Du Rice farming.*
- *The lyrics and words of poem sound the spirit of high mountains and forests.*
- *Loans for semi-intensive cattle raising.*
- *A Za New Rice Festiva.*
- *The 2018 Project Performance Progress Review.*
- *Financial contributions to raising a community based fund for livelihood development of the Huong Nguyen Communal Forest Management Network.*
- *Restoring the Giang Xu Thanksgiving Festivals.*
- *Small loans - a new hope for poor farmers in Huong Nguyen commune.*
- *Review and advice of the cultivation of Thien Nien Kien plants under natural forest canopy.*

These themes had been broadcast on the commune's radio network for 5-7 days and especially the bulletins on the A Za and Giang Xu festivals were disseminated by mobile communication campaigns. The bulletins have conveyed key messages to the communal people about the importance of forests to local cultural, economic, social and environmental resources



The project has held a folk song and poetry composing contest on the themes of forest, environment and life, in which there were 21 people including 16 women, took part. There were six winners including

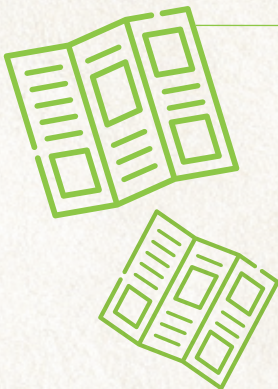


two songs (Remembering our forests, mountains and animals); and four poems (Our Huong Nguyen commune, Huong Nguyen commune overcomes the pass, Huong Nguyen commune is mine and the picture of my homeland). The songs and poems were performed at local cultural events and folk festivals, and broadcast on the communal radio network

The project has designed and put five posters in public places to disseminate messages saying:

- *RForests are not a storehouse of timber but our God who protects our lives.*
- *Conserving forests - preserving the cultural beauty of the Co Tu people.*
- *Creating livelihoods today, Greener forests tomorrow.*
- *Every creature has a right to live, Stop trading and killing wildlife.*

The posters carry messages saying the people's role and responsibility towards the forest, and these messages came up with the ideas given by local people. And this shows that local people and communities were eager for taking part in forest protection and management. This is a very important factor to better forest protection and management



200 leaflets were compiled and provided by the project for local associations/organizations and local people to spread relevant information about the project. Through communication activities local people have been provided with information and basic knowledge to enable them to better improve their awareness of forest protection and biodiversity conservation

2.3. Establishing a Sustainable Forest Management and Biodiversity Conservation Network

To connect groups of forest management households for the purpose of better forest protection and management, the project has established a sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation network (or Forest Management Network - FMN) of forest management household and community groups in Huong Nguyen commune. The establishment of the network was recognized by Huong Nguyen Communal People's Committee (CPC) in Decision 41 / QD-UBND dated September 10, 2018 and the network consists of 44 members and operates under the regulations enacted by the network.

Through the network, the project has provided five skills training courses for 124 turns of FMN members, including 38 female in five topics: the management and operation of forest management groups and network; forest integrity monitoring; communication campaigns

for FMN members; forest management and protection planning; and Sustainable NTFP harvesting techniques.

The network has well performed a function of connecting local forest management villages/households in the patrol of forest protection, sharing of relevant information and improvement of local people's awareness. The network has organized and maintained regular meetings (once a month) since the last year. In the meetings, besides sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation, other issues such as livelihood development, operation of the livelihood fund, production experience and techniques were discussed. Moreover, relevant information about sustainable NTFP harvesting and Ra Du rice farming experience and techniques also was shared among approx. 300 turns of FMN members.



With the training and technical support in the building of forest planning and monitoring skills provided for FMN members, local forest management household/community groups have better developed forest protection patrol planning. They have made patrols more often than before, with 2-3 times a month. Especially, local people have proficiently used the forest management software on mobile phones to patrol forest protection. As a result, since the early 2019, there has not been an illegal exploitation of forest resources in Huong Nguyen commune where previously was one of illegal forest resource harvesting hot spots (Source: The 2019 Huong Nguyen Commune's Socio-economic Development Report).

In addition, 30 FMN members representing local forest protection household/community groups were engaged in direct dialogue with local state management agencies including the departments of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) and Natural Resources and the Environment (DONRE). In this dialogue, there were various inadequacies in community based forest management pointed out, such as the absence of local forest management conventions/regulations; lack of legal documents to allow independent monitoring of forest resources; and lack of support resources. These comments were recognized by the agencies and both sides agreed a need to develop a community based forest management regulations that is appropriate to the local realities to bridge the gaps and enable local communities to better manage forest protection.



2.4. Establishing a Community Based Livelihood Development Fund

A community based livelihood development fund (or Livelihood Fund) was established in Huong Nguyen commune and the fund operates on the basis of the autonomy of FMN and local communities. A fund management unit (FMU) consisting of representatives from several communal associations/ organizations and forest management households/ communities, was established under

Decision 1246/QĐ-UBND dated August 15, 2018, enacted by A Luoi District People's Committee (DPC). The local communities also discussed and agreed that the forest management households/communities shall make financial contributions to the livelihood fund by deducting from the Payment for Forest Environmental Services PFES fund.

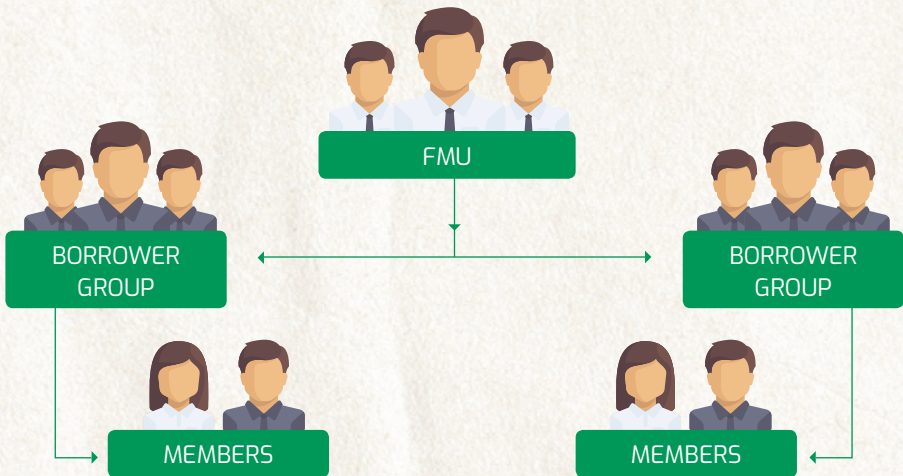


Figure 1: FMU Organizational Chart

Note:

- FMU consists of 4 members including a director; a vice director; an accountant; and a cashier.
- Borrowing group includes: a leader; a secretary; and 10-20 group members.
- Members: are households of forest management communities.



After the establishment of the fund, the project provided two training courses in fund management and operation skills for 45 turns of participants including 21 women from FMU, heads of borrower groups, and members of village level women's unions and forest management household/community groups; a study tour for FMU members and representatives of borrowing households to study a model for managing community based livelihood fund in Thuong Nhat commune, Nam Dong district; and 15 turns of consultation on the management and operation of the fund for FMU members and local communities.

With a seed capital of VND 306.2 million including 284.2 million provided by the project and 22 million conducting from the PFES fund contributed by FMN, the FMU has disbursed VND 209.9 million to 30 households for their production expansion, including 21 households implementing the semi-intensive cattle raising model and nine households implementing the Ra Du rice farming model. In particular, two households

borrowed again from the revolving fund to further their cattle raising. So far the repayment on the loans and interests made by the borrowers accounts for 64.1% (or VND 54,020 million compared to the amount of 84,262 million as planned), with the interest that is over 96.7% (VND 6,224 million / VND 6,436 million).

Through the management and operation of the Livelihood Fund, the community's capacity has been improved, they have known how to take into considerations investment in production according to the family's potential, as well as how to save up revenues to repay loan and interest. Heads of borrower groups have developed their proficiency in book-keeping. Especially, the Huong Nguyen Communal Youth Union that only knew how to launch movements among young people previously, has now enabled to well manage and operate the livelihood fund throughout all the stages of planning, disbursement, review of applications for loans and the administration of loan documents.

2.5. Establishing production technical procedures and training

The project has carried out field surveys and established three technical procedures for Ra Du rice farming; semi-intensive cattle husbandry; and Thien Nien Kien (Homalomena) plant growing that are local promising means of livelihood. As a result, the district-wide application of the Ra Du rice farming procedure was approved by A Luoi DPC in Decision 12/QĐ-UBND in April, 2019.



These technical procedures were published and distributed to beneficiary households. The procedures, as commented by local people, were designed and compiled with locally real pictures in a simple, clear and easily understandable manner. So far, local households have followed the technical procedures to develop their livelihoods in a sustainable way leading to less reliance on forest resources and better biodiversity conservation

2.6. Developing livelihoods for local people who rely on forests

The project has provided local households with technical support for the development of livelihood models. Table 1 below presents results gained from this activity:

Models	No. Households	Scale	Period (month)	Receipts/ period (VND.M)	Revenue/ period (VND. M)
Semi-intensive cow husbandry	21	22 cows	24	20 – 30	15 – 20
Ra Du rice farming in acacia growing lands	10	4,5 ha	07	30 – 36	14 – 18
Thien Nien Kien (Homalomena) plant growing	28 (2 groups of household)	1ha	36	Not harvested yet	Not harvested yet

Table 1: Livelihood/production models developed by the project
(Source: Survey of local households/groups participating in the project's models, 2019)

Ra Du rice farming model

Among the three livelihood development models, the Ra Du rice farming model has yielded 100 – 200 kg/ha or an income of 30 million VND/ha/year in monetary term. Ra Du rice is grown after harvesting acacia. In addition to the main income from Acacia, local farmers have earned an additional income 10-20 million VND per ha from Ra Du rice in the first year.

Cattle raising model

So far there have been 21 cattle raising models in the commune and five cows have reproduced calves. It is estimated that the value of a calf of 15-18 months accounts for VND 12-15 million

Thien Nien Kien (Homalomena) plant growing model

It is estimated that a pilot model for growing Thien Nien Kien plants would yield about 3-5 tons of roots per ha or an income of VND 15-20 million VND in monetary term. In addition to the economic value, the Thien Nien Kien (Homalomena) plants also bring about environmental value and enrich the biodiversity.

The livelihood development models are of great potential for replication. With the Ra Du rice farming model, the area of Ra Du rice farming was only 0.5 ha in 2018, but this figure increased to 4.5 ha in 2019. Similarly, in 2018 the semi-intensive cattle raising model involved only seven households who were brave to participate, this model now has been replicated to 14 other households. Although the model for growing Thien Nien Kien plants has not been yielded yet, it has been expanded to 0.5 ha.

In addition to financial and technical supports for the expansion of local production, the project also has helped local producers to enable the marketing of their products. As a result, the A Luoi district Women's Union has undertaken the sale of Ra Du rice products; and The Green Alliance Co. and the groups of forest management households No.1 and 3 of Mu Na Ta Ra village signed "the Agreement on the cooperation in growing Thien Nien Kien plants and selling its products" in December 18, 2019. This result has created good markets for the models' products and serves as an important basis for the replication of the models in the future.



A person is climbing a tall, green bamboo pole in a forest. The person is wearing a black and red striped shirt and a black skirt. The background is a clear blue sky with green trees. The image is overlaid with a green semi-transparent banner containing text.

1675

BENEFICIARIES

100%

ETHNIC MINORITIES

64%

FEMALE RATIO



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Preserving traditional culture

Traditional cultural festivals held within the framework of the project indicate that the cultural factor plays an important role in forest protection. Local authorities, especially the A Luoi district's Division of Culture and Information need to continue furthering the restoration and conservation of the Co Tu ethnic people's traditional culture associated with their respect for mountains and forests. The inclusion of the festivals into other local events such as the National Ethnic Solidarity Day should not be allowed because the Co Tu ethnic people want a sacred space for their celebration.

It is possible to associate communes to set in motion a chain of traditional cultural festivals in combination with community based ecotourism being well developed in the district. Besides, it is necessary to organize contests on the discovery of local traditional culture to educate young generations to respect values of local traditional culture and its role in environmental protection, forest resource management and biodiversity conservation. Local traditional cultural topics should be included into the school extra-curriculum for students in the district.



Managing forest resources and conserving biodiversity

The empowerment of local people and communities shall help them become conscious of their ownership of forest resources and thereby motivate them to actively get involved in the management and protection of forest resources. According to the laws, local forest management household/ community groups in the commune as well as those in other communes who were allocated forests are forest owners. However, absence and/or lack of forest management regulations and/ or rules to specify the roles and the rights of forest owners has resulted in a situation that they have not fully realized their legal entitlements.

In the coming time, the local authorities and A Luoi district Forest Inspectorate should enable local forest management household/ community groups to

formulate their conventions on forest management and protection in accordance with Decision 62/2019/QĐ-UBND on "Regulations on community based forest management in Thua Thien Hue Province".

Furthermore, the project has implemented several activities to improve the capacity and awareness of local people and communities of forest resource management and biodiversity conservation, and initially achieved certain results. However, given a lack of knowledge and capacity facing local ethnic minorities, due attention should be paid by local authorities and the Inspectorate to mobilize other resources to further their capacity for the management and protection of forest resources in order to enable them to bring into full play the forest owners.



Managing and developing the community based livelihood development fund

The community based livelihood development fund established within the framework of this project has been operational for less than a year. This model is quite new to local authorities and people in the commune. Although the project has provided training to build capacity for FMU members, their capacity for the administration of the fund is still limited. Therefore, priority should be given to the improvement of capacity for the management of the fund by local authorities, especially the communal Youth Union as the unit that was assigned to manage the fund when the project is completed and the fund is handed over to the locality. The fund has mobilized financial resource of VND 22 million contributed by forest management household/community groups from PFES fund. The household/ community groups have also pledged to their financial contributions to the fund in the coming years. It can be said that this is the first pilot model for mobilizing, managing and using PFES for livelihood development in Thua Thien Hue province.



The Government Decree 147/2006/ND-CP on the policy on PFES states that one of the purposes of the PFES fund is to develop livelihoods. The Thua Thien Hue Provincial Regulation on community based forest management issued in 2019 also specifies to allow the use 10% of PFES fund for livelihood development. However, CPC needs to issue a guidance on how to manage and use revenues contributed by the PFES beneficiary household/community groups to the community based livelihood development fund in order to ensure the legality of the enforcement of the regulations and encourage local forest management households/communities to contribute to the community based livelihood development fund.

Developing household livelihoods

The cattle raising model developed by the project has contributed to promoting the implementation of the project on "the development of a herd of cows for the

period of 2016-2025" in A Luoi district. However, there remain inadequacies of its implementation process that need to be adjusted. For instance, the project stipulates that only households who raise at least 3 or more cattle are entitled to support from the project. But in reality in Huong Nguyen commune and others, the proportion of poor households is still high and there are few households who are capable of raising three cattle. Thus the project needs to revise the provision in order to help people, especially the poor be entitled to support from the project to raise cattle. It is proposed that the provision may stipulate all local households who are involved in cattle raising are entitled to support from the project and the level of support is proportional to the scale of household level cattle raising, i.e. the larger the number of cattle is, the higher the support is.

The project's Ra Du rice farming model on acacia land areas has brought significant income for local people participating in the model and improved the efficiency of local land use. In A Luoi district, local people harvest the timber from 2,000 hectares of acacia plantations every year (source: A Luoi district socio-economic report, 2019), and this is a great potential for scaling up the model. Within the framework of the project, only some households have engaged in the farming of Ra Du rice on scattered acacia land areas that are as small as less than 1 ha after harvesting acacia timber. This may cause risks of destroying rice by buffaloes, cows and birds. This issue can only be addressed if a specific planning of concentrated Ra Du rice farming and cattle grazing areas, is developed by local authorities and official sanctions are imposed against any household that let cattles damage crops.

The model for growing Thien Nien Kien plants under forest canopy has shown the potential for income generation for local people in the next few years. However, local people are not really interested in this livelihood model because they haven't received any income from the model so far. In order to promote the replication of the model, local authorities and mass organizations need to raise awareness and understanding of conservation and economic benefits of the model among local people. At the same time, it is necessary to plan the development of Thien Nien Kien plant growing scale in line with the market demand; foster the established cooperation between local people and the Green Alliance Co., and develop new cooperation with other businesses for the sale of the products.

In addition, A Luoi DPC and Huong Nguyen commune need to assign specific tasks to the staff of the Division of Agriculture and Rural Development, a communal agriculture officer who have participated in the project as local experts to continue promoting and providing technical support to local people in the process of scaling up and developing the livelihood models

CONCLUSIONS

After 18 months of implementation, it can be said that the project has achieved its designed objectives contributing to improving the effectiveness of forest protection management and biodiversity conservation in the Sao La Nature Reserve by adopting new approaches to the promotion of awareness of local communities and the enhancement of their capacity for the management of forest resources and the development of sustainable livelihood models.

Local people have become well aware of sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation, thereby changing their behavior towards the minimization of negative impacts on local forest and biodiversity resources.

Local people have acquired and applied sustainable forest resources management, protection and utilization techniques and local communities have had an adequate capacity for arranging the implementation of sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation activities. Initially the models for sustainable livelihood development have taken effect, and will certainly contribute to reducing local people's reliance on forest resources. The sale of products produced by the livelihood models has been up through better marketing campaigns integrated with the district's economic development programs, ensuring the output of the products produced from the household scaled models, providing major sources of income and improving living standards for local people.

The project's technical procedures and successful experiences have been widely shared at workshops and documented. And through all the stages of its implementation, the project has also contributed to improving the project administration and executive skills of local government officials and the staff of local associations and organizations

The Small Grants Programme (SGP) is a corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since 1992. SGP grantmaking in over 125 countries promotes community-based innovation, capacity development, and empowerment through sustainable development projects of local civil society organizations with special consideration for indigenous peoples, women, and youth. SGP has supported over 20,000 community-based projects in biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, prevention of land degradation, protection of international waters, and reduction of the impact of chemicals, while generating sustainable livelihoods. SGP has been implemented in Vietnam since 1999 with more 150 projects in 40 provinces.

A LUỚI DISTRICT YOUTH UNION

Add: No.8 A Vau, A Luoi commune, A Luoi district, Thua Thien Hue
Tel: 0234 387 8291

CENTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL VIETNAM (CRD)

Add: No.102 Phung Hung, Hue city, Thua Thien Hue Province
Tel: 0234 352 9749
Email: office@crdvietsiam.org
Website: www.crdvietsiam.org
Facebook: CRD VietNam

THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

Add: 304 Kim Ma, Ba Dinh, Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel: (+84) 24 385 00 150 | Email: gef-sgp-vietnam@undp.org
Website: www.vn.undp.org | www.sgp.undp.org

