

Protection of and benefit from the forest based on Indigenous knowledge and customary law of IPs communities



Ethnic Minorities in Vietnam

- * There are 54 ethnic groups in Vietnam with the population totaling 90 million people.
- * Each ethnic group has its own voice and identity, some groups have writing system.
- * Living in harmony with nature, the cultural and spiritual dimensions of ethnic communities are attached to the forest.

Overview of community forest management in Vietnam

- * Community forests have existed for a long association with the life, spirituality and belief of the community.
- * Community Forest Management is a longstanding practice in Vietnam, forest and community forest management can be classified into three main types
 - * Forests and forest land by the community itself recognized and managed according to traditional law from many generations now.
 - * Forests and forest land managed by the clan
 - * Forests and forest land has been allocated to local government community.



Communities have traditional knowledge
to protect and benefit from the forest.

The story of the Dao people in Van Chan district, Yen Bai province

The Dao People

- The traditional tree of Dao people is Cinamon, it is closely with the spiritual life, customs, habits, daily activities of the the Dao people
- Cinnamon has a high economic value, help farmers to keep their land, forests, protect the ecological environment, poverty reduction bring a prosperous life, happiness





- * Cinnamon is the "green gold" precious, is intended for the next generation
- * Each children from birth, their parent spend several dozen cinamon as dowry. And they grow up with cinamon together.
- * They know the season to havest cinamon when can get the best quality (Feb to Apr) and (Aug to Sep)

The story of the Thai people



Forest feed people when they alive,
When people die, Forest is the burial
place

- * Keep the forest resource is to ensure water enough to use everyday, ensure for survival of human
- * Every one in the community share the water resource by the trench system. Each household control the water level enough into the field, also enough for other household

The story of the Ede people in central highland

- * The Sung tree : if one old tree on the headwater, it is mean the God of water, every year people do the water ritual
- * Ede people has knowledge with Bor tree: one kind provide fruit with high economy, after 30 year they cut the tree to use wood.





Customary law of the
communities can ensure
sustainable forest protection

- Only cut down the old trees
- Who is the first person can tick to the tree, it is mean that tree has owner, the other one is not accepted to cut that tree
- Make the symbol on the boundary to warning the place has owner
- Have to ask and get permission of village leader before cut the tree



Ta Leo



Gơng k' tiết hla

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- * No bring dirty to the forests
 - * No cut the tree on the watershed
 - * Never bring the magic medicine to plan on the garden
 - * Cut the tree enough to build a house

Summary

- * Knowledge of Indigenous people with their traditional tree help to enrich the forest resources, and get sustainable livelihood for next generation
- * Customary law help community easy to protect the forest



Thank you