

# 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