



CENDI NARRATIVE REPORT TO MISEREOR

(From 1st November 2019 to 31st January 2020)

1.1. Project No.: 339-004-1014 ZG.

Title: Securing community forestland rights and local knowledge for upland livelihoods for villages in Dak Nen and Mang Canh communes, Kon Tum province, Vietnam (2019-2021).

1.2. Project location/ region: Dak Nen and Mang Canh communes, Kon Plong district, Kon Tum province, Central Highlands region of Vietnam.

1.3. Reporting period: From 1st November 2019 to 31st January 2020.

1.4. Legal Holder of the project (organization):

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d) **Email:** cendi@cendiglobal.org

e) **Bank details:** *Name of bank:* Vietnam Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development - Operation Centre

Account holder: Community Entrepreneur Development Institute

Account number/IBAN: 1200208030762

SWIFT: VBAA - VNVX 405.

1.4.1. Official representative of Legal Holder

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Signature of person responsible for the report: _____

1. Report preparation

This report is largely composed on the basis of information collected from the CENDI staff's field work and research in Dak Nen and Mang Canh commune in early January 2020. Other essential source of information is resulted from a process of cooperation, observation and interaction between CENDI and local villagers, communal and district officials and related actors, such as CIRUM's umbrella organization (Southeast Asian Research Association of Vietnam, SEARAV), Kon Tum provincial Union of Scientific and Technological Associations (KUSTA) and the Cadastral technical consulting firm named DHF Consultant company.

2. Changes in the project context

2.1. Changes in specific project setting

Being convinced and trusted by CENDI's successful implementation of the previous project No. 339-004-1013 ZG, the Kon Tum Provincial People's Committee has sent official letter No. 913/UBND-NNTN dated 10th May 2019 to foster collaboration and implementation of forest and land allocation, reforestation in combination with community livelihoods. On the basis of the provincial endorsement, the district official letter No. 694/ UBND-VP dated 5th June 2019 regarding cooperation for implementation of forest land allocation for communities in Mang Canh commune, and the request from CENDI, the Kon Plong District People's Committee (DPC) sent an invitation letter requesting a meeting to relevant agencies, such as Kon Tum Provincial Forest Protection Department (FPD), KUSTA, District FPD, District Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DONRE), District Department of Agriculture and Rural Department (DARD), CENDI/ CODE, leaders of Mang Canh and Dak Nen communes and DHF (Cadastral) Consultant company. Accordingly, the DPC chaired the meeting held on 11th December 2019 to set up cooperation plan for forest land allocation for village communities in Mang Canh commune and continuation of the second phase of support program in Dak Nen commune, focusing on stabilization of livelihoods of the hydropower-affected people.

At the central level, CENDI has obtained Decision No. 128-2019/QD-TWH dated 30th December 2019 by SEARAV Central Committee endorsing the project No. 339-004-1014 ZG co-funded by MISEREOR and SCCF.

The mentioned activities and results indicate a firmly legal status of CENDI to conduct project activities with the target group in the locality.

The recent CENDI research has pointed out that there is an increasing competition for land use and land management in the targeted areas. In this context, outside actors are more advantageous in term of political and economic power to gain access to land. Therefore, 6,566 ha or a half of natural land area of Mang Canh commune has been already granted to the Mang Canh state forest enterprise, and around 800ha is controlled by Vingroup¹. The actual grabbing area by VinGroup could be larger, but access to actual data is not possible at this stage.

Another effort for land allocation to village communities has been being conducted by KfW10 project in Mang Canh commune. That project has been supporting procedure to revoke 1,264 ha of land which had been allocated to group of household according to the previous 30A program in order to grant land certificates to communities of Tu Ma and Kon Kum villages.

¹ Vingroup is one of the biggest private conglomerate in Asia, which focuses on three main areas: Technology, Industrials and Property-services. See more detail via its official website: <https://vingroup.net/en>

2.2. Changes of the target groups

According to the initial field survey and data shown in the project proposal, the expected land available for allocation to communities in the four villages of Mang Canh commune is 800ha. The results of the recent CENDI research in January shows [a higher figure, 1,212ha \(an increase of 412 ha\) in the five villages of Tu Răng, Kon Chênh, Tu Ma, Kon Kum and Kon Năng.](#)

Via various meeting and informal discussion, CENDI found a high sense of agreement among the villagers, village leaders and the communal officials to support revoking land from groups of households who received land certificates according to the state 30A program in order to reallocate to village communities. In addition, DHF Consultancy Company agreed with CENDI and local people regarding the adjustment of the extended land allocated area in the cooperation plan.

The Dak Rinh hydropower-induced resettled communities in Dak Nen commune have experienced many changes and difficulties so far. The project affected 100% households of three villages and part of the four other villages in Dak Nen commune. 190 households out of 491 households in Dak Nen commune have been removed from their original land to resettle in other places. Especially, households of Xô Luông and Làng Vương villages have been moved 10 km away, to relocate aside the area of Tu Rét village. Because the resettlement areas belong to sacred forest, no one had dared to settle there in the past. Incidentally, 20 young people died within 4 years after resettlement in the hydropower project-planned resettled area, so villagers became fearful and tried their way to find other places for another free, unplanned resettlement.

The remaining households of Xô Luông village in the new resettled area beside Tu Rét village are now facing shortage of slope farming land. In addition, households of the new resettled Xô Luông and Làng Vương villages have asked Tu Rét villagers to borrow wet rice field for their cultivation. Since 2018, with an irrigation system, a half of the mentioned households could get access to cultivate a crop of wet rice per year.

Because of late and poor quality construction of fresh water, irrigation system and roads in the resettled areas, the affected people are disappointed due to their difficult condition for production. They are unable to continue practicing traditional ritual ceremonies because of a shortage of sacred forest, rice field areas and rice for ritual offerings and simply ensuring livelihood needs.

2.3. Changes of the implementing organization

There is no significant change in terms of personnel and administrative structure of CENDI during this reporting phase.

2.4. Implications of all the changes for the project

The project can be run in a safe legal environment because CENDI has completed legal procedure and obtained endorsement from local people and authorities of different levels.

However, it is found that local communities in Dak Nen and Mang Canh communes are facing various difficulties. The resettled people in Dak Nen commune need to be aware of and claim their rights to fair compensation and to improve their capacity and skills in negotiation with other stakeholders, especially the Dak Rinh hydropower resettlement management board. Local communities in Mang Canh commune need relevant authorities to recognize their traditional village boundaries and customary forest land rights and a timely land allocation process in order to cope proactively with the threat of land grab by private companies.

3. Implementation and achievements

3.1. Extent of achievement

The overall goal of the project is to contribute towards sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

The following is the logical frame of the indicators of outputs and outcomes at the objective level.

Indicator at the end of the project	Baseline value (Nov 2019)	Interim value (Jan 2020)	Current value (Jan 2020)
Project objective 1: The inhabitants of four villages in Mang Canh commune have obtained land titles			
<p>Indicator 1a): The inhabitants of four villages in Mang Canh commune have obtained land titles covering large part of their 800 ha of land</p>	<p>The four village communities have been suffering from incorrect land allocation areas and land title holders (groups of households). Problem of land overlapping between different villages have been existing since the land titles were granted to groups of households according to the previous state 30A program.</p>	<p>60 villagers (including 20 women) involved in CENDI research and discussed with the working team.</p> <p>The team consisted of three CENDI staff, three district officers, two communal officials (Mr. Xinh – vice chairman and Mr. Tuấn – communal officer in charge of cadastral management), five Tu Ma village leaders, three Kon Kum village leaders, and two Kon Chên village leaders.</p>	<p>Leaders of Mang Canh commune suggested to conduct land allocation procedure soon in order to avoid land grabbing threat by private companies.</p> <p>Direct beneficiaries of land allocation should be 353 households of the five target villages of Tu Răng, Kon Chên, Kon Kum, Tu Ma and Kon Nặng.</p> <p>Indirect beneficiaries of other project activities are count for 680 households with 2,307 people, including 1,128 women in Mang Canh commune.</p>
Project objective 2: The inhabitants of two submerged villages in Dak Nen commune are better informed about possibility of compensation			
<p>Indicator 2a): 90 families from two submerged villages in Dak Nen commune are aware of possibilities of compensation available to them</p>	<p>90 families from the two submerged villages have not yet accessed to for awareness of the chances of fair compensation.</p>	<p>The research and discussion with a total of 46 involved villagers (22 women) have been carried out in the two submerged, resettled villages of Làng Vương and Xô Luông in Dak Nen commune.</p> <p>Three district officers and two communal leaders involved in the research and work together with three CENDI staff to discuss with the affected people.</p>	<p>Mr. Tran Thanh Minh – Chairperson of Dak Nen commune suggested to cooperate with CENDI to support improvement of livelihoods and cultural life of the resettled households.</p> <p>Direct beneficiaries of coming training activities are counted for 190 resettled households. Indirect beneficiaries of other related activities can be all 531 households with 2,224 people, including 1,120 women in Dak Nen commune.</p>

3.2

3.2. Current status of implementation of the activities and the generation of outputs

CENDI current field work and research has brought about more detailed basic and updated data of the project area and community situation, as well as people's needs and aspiration.

Report and presentation from field research are useful for CENDI staff to analyze and share with local villagers and authorities. With clearer overview and understanding of their situation, local people show stronger demand for land allocation to communities in order to prevent from outside companies which intend to grab local land.

3.3. Unintended effects

During discussion with CENDI staff, some of Mang Canh communal leaders have shown their worrisome about land grabbing threatened by private companies. They endorsed the project activities, which support the local communities to gain forest land right certificates.

Despite the top-down administrative pressure, some officials of Dak Nen commune have tried and are willing to work side by side with villagers and CENDI staff to claim the rights of the resettled people for fair compensation and ask the Dak Rinh hydropower resettlement management board to fulfill their accountability.

3.4. Risks and/or unexpected opportunities

The recent research conducted by CENDI found out that 324 preexisted local households in Dak Nen commune, who transferred their land to the Dak Rinh hydro resettlement project have not yet received a total amount of compensation payment of more than 33 billion Vietnamese Dong. That is why the preexisted households (especially those in Tu Ret village) refuse to transfer land to the new resettled households from Xo Luong village and prevent them from accessing and using land. Because of hydro-resettlement compensation problem, internal conflicts among the Ca Dong people happened while local villagers had never seen similar problem in the past.

While all households of Xo Thac village had to displace from their original submerged village in 2013, approximately a half of them resettled on the upstream side of the original village, and the other half relocated in the adjacent commune of Dak Rinh. However, resettled people are not satisfied with the current resettlement situation, because they are excluded from getting social support while their residence is registered in Dak Nen commune while physically they live in Dak Rinh commune.

The resettled people in Tu Thon village face shortage of drinking water and water for production due to incomplete irrigation system.

Because of shortage of production land, many youths could not find sufficient job, and they have to sell labor for short-term, seasonal work, such as construction or harvesting with very low wage (VND 70,000 to 100,000, or USD 3 to 4.5 per day).

Without villagers' consultation, the planning and design of new resettled sites and houses has caused discrepancies and anxiety among the resettled people. 190 houses built by the Dak Rinh hydropower resettlement management board are in form of house-on-pillar with kitchen built direct on earth, that is different from the Ca Dong ethnic traditional house style. It is noteworthy that kitchen is a very importance space of the Ca Dong people, because it is served for not only cooking, but also worshipping for Yang or supernatural Lord, celebrating new crop ceremonies, and for enjoying Ghe wine. Kitchen is the space for villagers to store native seeds, to store and get kitchen smoke to consolidate handicraft (baskets, brackets) and traditional production tools (e.g. fishing trap and net, hoe and soil leveler). People spend a lot of time and conduct daily activities in the kitchen area. So, unsuitable kitchen style is one of the reasons of the abandonment of the houses offered by the resettlement project.

In the case of Mang Canh commune, although communal authorities should be the direct manager

dealing with land issues in the locality, they have not obtained full cadastral profile and mapping system. Because the district authority have not updated and shared cadastral data timely, so the communal officials can not identify exactly where is the land areas allocated to community, households or new outside users (private companies and other organizations). This situation can add more confusion or potential land conflict and overlapping, that should be solved during our support to land allocation to communities in the coming time.

The state 30A program had granted land certificates to groups of households without thorough consideration of the existence of village customary land right and traditional boundaries. Therefore, traditional land of Kon Kum and Kon Chênh villages become a part of current Tu Rãng managed areas. So, the coming support should take this circumstances into consideration in order to solve conflict and protect traditional village land rights.

3.5. Evaluation

There is no formal evaluation carried out during this reporting period. However, a research result could be seen as an interesting finding of the potential interrelated linkage between forest, upland field, valley of wet rice terraces. This finding helps to update new changes of the target group, to provide a suggestion of an addition of expected land allocation area and beneficiaries and a promotion of community agroecology after completion of land allocation program.

4. Recommendations and conclusion

There are some significant changes that affect the project implementation, i.e. the possible allocated land areas in Mang Canh commune should be 412 ha larger than the number proposed in this project. That makes an expected total allocable land area being 1,212 ha and beneficiaries increasing up to five villages with 353 households. In reality, because of the threat of land grab by private companies, we should foster land allocation in Mang Canh commune as soon as possible. If land grab happens, upland field for traditional cultivation will be converted to high-tech agriculture.

Therefore, CENDI would like to request an supplement budget for extended activities in order to cover enough support to the additional allocated land area (412 ha) and beneficiaries (one more village). In addition, it is significant for us to propose an additional plan for allocation of upland fields to local households in order to promote agroecology farming after completion of land allocation program in Mang Canh commune.

It is necessary to conduct deep, insightful study on customary law in forest land management, especially traditional borderlines of each village of Mang Canh commune in order to identify suitable approach to forest land allocation to communities. This study will help to clarify real situation of the use of forest, upland fields and rice terraces on the valleys in the villages of Mang Canh commune, which are adjacent to the official master land use planning of the Mang Den ecological tourist site. Outputs from this study should be social critiques and recommendations sent to local authorities and the companies which want to take land from the localities.

The research on the impacts of Dak Rinh hydropower resettlement in Dak Nen commune should be extended to cover larger issues and deeper analysis in terms of upland use and ownership, seeds and associated local knowledge and wisdom in upland cultivation and footprint in the area. This research can bring out the case of Dak Rinh hydropower resettlement as a representative for the impacts of hundred of similar hydropower plants in Vietnam today. For advocacy purposes, it is important to involve external experts and researchers in this research, who come from such think tanks and policy making agencies, such as the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Central Economics Committee of Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), and the Nationality Council of National Assembly.

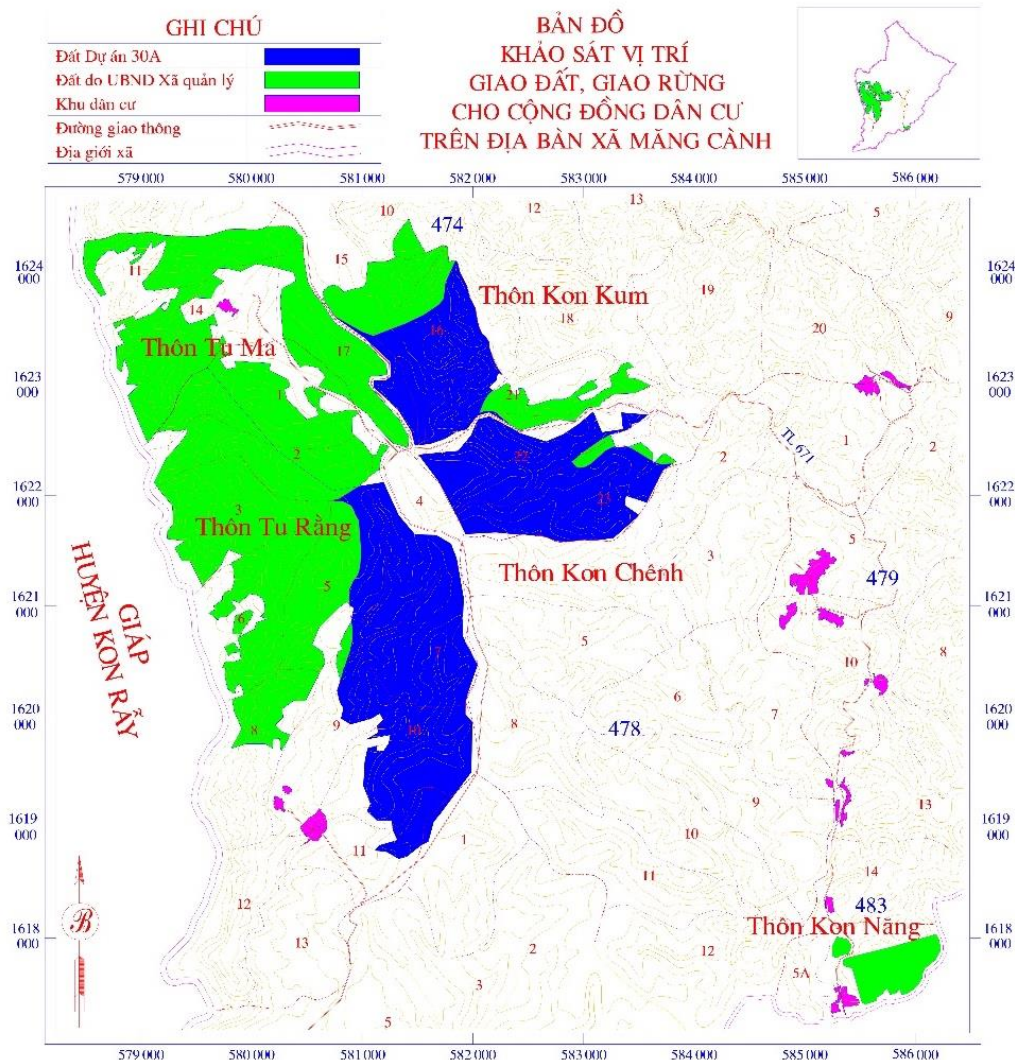
To solve shortage of cadastral data at communal level, CENDI will work with district land allocation team and the concerned stakeholders in order to get sufficient, correct data of the forest land areas, especially those allocated to outside companies in order to solve land conflicts or overlapping.

It is reported that KfW10 project is now supporting communities in Mang Canh commune to set up their regulations in forest land management and forest protection. So, it is reasonable to discuss with local authorities and villagers to initiate and organize meeting between the locals and KfW10 staff in order to set up a synchronized and agreeable regulation in a specific village and avoid unexpected doubled work as well as possible confusion of different sets of village regulations in a single village.

The first research on resettlement communities was not completely cover all sites, so in the coming time, CENDI will conduct further research in the villages of Đắk Tiêu, Đắk Puk, Xô Thác, Đắk Lai, Đắk Lup of Dak Nen commune and a group of resettled people in Dak Rin commune, who were displaced from Xo Thac village.

5. Additional information

Map of the forest land areas, which are expected to allocate to local village communities in Mang Canh commune. The green color is indicating land areas under the communal People’s Committee management. The blue color is the areas allocated to groups of households according to the previous 30A program.



The followings are additional images of the project activities:



Figure 1 Discussion at Lang Vuong resettled village



Figure 2 Shortage of water for rice field at Xo Luong village



Figure 3 Tu Rang villagers agreeing to revoke land titles from group of households for land allocation to community



Figure 4 Tu Rang villagers join survey of their village forest land



Figure 2 Kon Kun village leaders are sharing on their forest land situation



Figure 6 Tu Ma villagers are involving in forest land survey

Project No. N°: 339-004-1014 ZG: Dak Nen-Mang Canh Action Plan from Nov 2019 to Jan/May 2020

No	Activity	Who respond to	Participants	How to work	Output	Outcome	Time
1	Coordinate a meeting between involved stakeholders for previous project overviewing and coming project clarification	Mr Nha on behalf of CODE/CENDI and Mr Qui on behalf of Kon Plong Authority	9 members from Justice, Agriculture, Forestry, Eco-Tourism, Re-settlement, Culture Departments, New Rural Economic Program, KonPlong President and Administrative Officer of KonPlong DPC; 3 presidents of CPC of Dak Nen, Mang Canh and Po E ² commune; 6 YIELDS-AGREE from 3 targeted communes; 1 from KUSTA province; 3 from CENDI-CODE	<p>a. Administrative Officer of Kon Plong district will initiate proceeding and issue invitations for a meeting;</p> <p>b. YIELDS-AGREE will raise updated challenges and contradictions due to: 1) the problematic for upland farming of the re-settlement program; 2) pressure on land for Mang Canh because of the opening up of land for economic development in Mang Canh, 3) Increase of Industrial Cassava Planting associated with herbicide use in forestland.</p>	A legal co-responsible agreement paper signed between involved official parties for further implementation 2020-2021	<p>a. All stakeholders have a clear understanding via overviewing the previous project and coming actions towards the second phase of Dak Nen in combination with the first Land Right-based phase of Mang Canh for further monitoring and evaluation;</p> <p>b. A legal committee on behalf of Dak Nen and Mang Canh project will be formalized</p>	By Nov 2019
2	Based on the legal permission paper from the first meeting, undertake Participatory Learning and Action Survey in in Dak Nen Commune	Resettlement officer and senior of CODE/CENDI	Traditional elders, key farmers and Yields-AGREE from two fully flooded re-settlement villages (Lang vuong and Xo luong) with 90 households; Agriculture officers; New Rural Economic officer; Dak Nen CPC officer; and Land Use Officer will be involved in participatory dialogue and field visits	<p>a. Visiting the upland farming areas flooded by Hydropower Dam;</p> <p>b. Direct observation, recording of stories from people, filming the real situation, meeting all villagers, make checklist of problems and come together to find a common solution for further dialogue and negotiation.</p>	An up-dated Situation Document including pictures and slide show for the up-land farming situation and difficulties of villagers of the two fully flooded villages,	Resettlement Officer and villagers have a better understanding for together raising the issue to upper official level for further action	By Dec 2019 to January 2020
3	Based on the legal permission paper from the first meeting, undertake Participatory Learning	Natural Resource Management Department Officer and	Village Leaders, Key Farmers and selected YIELDS-AGREE (identified by young YIELDS-AGREE in Po E and Dak Nen), Forestry officer, CPC officer, and Mapping Experts	<p>a. Overview DPC of Kon Plong's master planning for land use in Mang canh and neighboring territories;</p>	An in detail up-date of the forest and land use situation in Mang Canh for further approaches and negotiation of Land Rights in Mang Canh	Different stakeholders have a better understanding of the real forest and land use situation in Mang Canh where land has officially been	By Dec 2019 – January 2020

² POE commune's president also invited for overviewing the previous project and common challenges of AGRI-BUSINESS to all Indigenous People in three communes (POE, Dak Nen and Mang Canh)

No	Activity	Who respond to	Participants	How to work	Output	Outcome	Time
	and Action Survey in Mang Canh Commune for further Land Right' steps.	senior from CODE/CENDI		b. Learning how much land in Mang Canh has given to agri-business and corporations.		opened up for corporations for economic section	
4	Deepened Participatory Action Research associated with strengthening advocacy capacity for key farmers and YIELDS-AGREE in Dak Nen	Senior from CODE/CENDI	Expert from Ethnic Minority Council of National Assembly and CEMA (Committee of Ethnic Minority Affair), CODE/CENDI and KPC officers, and Traditional Elders, Key Farmers, and YIELDS-AGREE	Integrate multi-actors (high-ranking officers, key farmers, YIELDS-AGREE, DPC of Kon Plong, CPC of Dak Nen associated with POE ³) in participatory action field research for raising awareness of high-ranking officers to recognize the grass-root challenges and suffering.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness raising opportunity for involved multi-actors via co-research and field observations; Up-dated evidence documented for two resettled villages 	Reliable indicators for EIA ⁴ and SIA ⁵ of problems caused by hydropower and resettlement for further analysis of the resettlement policy in Dak Nen, as well as another 8 different hydropower dams, including Po E newest project	January to May 2020
5	Deepened action research on local wisdom, custom and knowledge in forest and land management in Mang Canh	Senior from CODE/CENDI	Expert from Central Economic Committee ⁶ ; New Rural Economic Officer of DPC of Kon Plong, Traditional Elders, Key Farmers, senior YIELDS-AGREE of Kon Plong region	Involve high ranking officer, DPC of Kon Plong with farmers in participatory learning and action research which directly shows the real suffering of the indigenous farmer in Mang Canh who lose their ancestral forest and land because of the New Economic Section policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness raising opportunity for involved multi-actors via witnessing cooperative action research and field landscape transect cutting; Up-dated evidence on forest and land usage problems in Mang Canh will be documented. 	Reliable mapping evidence which shows the percentage of: 1) forest and land occupied by corporations; 2) forest and land occupied by individual businessmen, 3) forest and land occupied by state forest enterprise; and 4) forest and land left behind for M'Nam indigenous people in Mang Canh commune!	January to May 2020
6	Final Revised Action Plan, project activities, approach and expected outcome for two communes	Senior from CODE/CENDI	DPC of Kon Plong, CPC of Dak Nen and Mang Canh, KUSTA, Resettlement Officer and PPC of Kon Tum.	Clarification to finalize what has actually been happening in both Dak Nen and Mang Canh for detailing implementation process	Final agreement and regulation for Co-Working and Co-Problem Solving between CODE/CENDI and Authority	Better understanding for on-going actions during two years of project action	April- May ⁷ 2020

³ POE is suffering with NEW hydropower company from Quang Ngai

⁴ EIA=Environmental Impact Assessment

⁵ SIA = Social Impact Assessment

⁶ Who direct responsibility to policy makers in Kon Plong hostest territory

⁷ Working with Land Right Based and resettled compensation issue, always challenges and changeable, therefore, action plan need to be enough flexible and dynamic understanding according to authority attitude and their up-dated understandable.