Risks and Opportunities: Partnering with Local Government Agencies to Conduct a Socioeconomic Baseline Survey on their Turf
Background - LEAF Program

• Funded by USAID
• Implemented by WI, SNV, CF and RECOFTC
• Goal: Strengthen capacities of Asian countries to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the forestry-land use sector
Background – LEAF Countries

- Countries:
  - Core
  - Replication
- Regional Approach
- Innovations at sub-national level:
  - Informs policy
  - Replication
Background – LEAF in Laos and Vietnam

- **Activities**
  - Participatory Land Use Planning
  - Improved Forest Management
  - Livelihoods and Climate Change

- **Operating Environment**
  - Close collaboration with Government: a unique opportunity
Socioeconomic Baseline Survey Team

Laos: Houaphanh and Attapeu Provinces

– Department of Forestry
– Agriculture and Forestry Office
– Office of Natural Resource and Environment
– Lao Women’s Union
Vietnam

- Nghe An Province
  - Local Women’s Union
  - Vinh University
- Lam Dong Province
  - Forest Protection Units
  - Forestry Company
  - District Statistic Office
  - Local Administrative units
Baseline Methodology

• Sampling
• Questionnaire
• Focus Group Discussion
Training Survey Teams

Current capacity
- Basic social research skills
- Very basic computer skills
- Good understanding of local context

Training
- Purpose of baseline
- Data collection
- Data entry
- Practice runs
- On-the-job coaching
Key Findings

• Capacity enhanced:
  – Technical
  – Awareness
  – Evidence based decision-making

• Utilizing existing capacity:
  – Asking the question in local context
  – Interpreting the answers
Lessons Learned

- Capacity
- Ownership
- Time
- Access
- Fieldwork
- Bias
Recommendations

- Time and resource
- Triangulation
- Interview techniques
- Research ethics
- Mobile technology
- Continuity
- Institutional capacity
Thank you

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