# Ethnic Minority Development Plan

January 2014

Socialist Republic of Viet Nam: Greater Mekong Subregion Tourism Infrastructure for Inclusive Growth Project

Prepared by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, for the Asian Development Bank.

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### **CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS**

(as of 17 January 2014)

Currency Unit – Viet Nam Dong (D)

D1.00 = \$0.00004 \$1.00 = D21,074

#### **ABBREVIATIONS**

ADB - Asian Development Bank

AH – affected household AP – affected persons

CTG – community tourism group

DCST - Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism

DBST – double bituminous surface treatment
 DMO – destination management organization
 EMDP – Ethnic Minority Development Plan

GAP – gender action plan

GMS - Greater Mekong Subregion

HH – Household

MCST – Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism

PCU – project coordination unit PIU – project implementation unit

PPTA – project preparatory technical assistance

RP – resettlement plan SES – socioeconomic survey

WU – Women's Union

#### **WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

km - kilometer

km<sup>2</sup> – square kilometer

m – meter

m<sup>2</sup> – square meter

#### **DEFINITION OF TERMS**

Affected person (AP)

- Means any person, household, firm or private institution who, on account of changes resulting from the project, or any of its phases or subprojects, will have its (i) standard of living adversely affected; (ii) right, title or interest in any house, land (including residential, commercial, agricultural, forest, salt mining and/or grazing land), water resources or any other moveable or fixed assets acquired, possessed, restricted or otherwise adversely affected, in full or in part, permanently or temporarily; and/or (iii) business, occupation, place of work or residence or habitat adversely affected, with or without displacement.

Entitlement

 Refers to a range of measures comprising compensation, income restoration support, transfer assistance, income substitution, relocation support, etc. which are due to the APs, depending on the type and severity of their losses, to restore their economic and social base.

Ethnic minority

- According to ADB's definition (SPS, 2009), the term Indigenous Peoples (hereinafter referred to as "ethnic minority") is used in a generic sense to refer to a distinct, vulnerable, social and cultural group possessing the following characteristics in varying degrees: (i) self-identification as members of a distinct indigenous cultural group and recognition of this identity by others; (ii) collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats or ancestral territories in the project area and to the natural resources in these habitats and territories; (iii) customary cultural, economic, social, or political institutions that are separate from those of the dominant society and culture; and (iv) a distinct language, often different from the official language of the country or region.

Income restoration

- This is the re-establishment of sources of income and livelihood of the affected households.

Income restoration program

A program designed with various activities that aim to support severely affected and vulnerable persons to recover their income / livelihood to pre-project levels. The program is designed to address the specific needs of the affected persons based on the socio-economic survey and consultations and subject to opportunities and resources available to the AHs where they are located.

Land acquisition

Refers to the process whereby an individual, household, firm
or private institution is compelled by a public agency to
alienate all or part of the land it owns or possesses to the
ownership and possession of that agency for public purposes
in return for compensation at replacement costs.

Meaningful consultation

- A process that (i) begins early in the project preparation stage and is carried out on an ongoing basis throughout the project cycle; (ii) provides timely disclosure of relevant and adequate information that is understandable and readily accessible to affected people; (iii) is undertaken in an atmosphere free of intimidation or coercion; (iv) is gender inclusive and responsive, and tailored to the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups; and (v) enables the incorporation of all relevant views of affected people and other stakeholders into decision making, such as project design, mitigation measures, the sharing of development benefits and opportunities, and implementation issues. Rehabilitation

 This refers to additional support provided to APs losing productive assets, incomes, employment or sources of living, to supplement payment of compensation for acquired assets, in order to achieve, at a minimum, full restoration of living standards and quality of life

Resettlement

- This includes all measures taken to mitigate any and all adverse impacts of a project on AP property and/or livelihoods, including compensation, relocation (where relevant), and rehabilitation as needed.

Resettlement Plan

- This is a time-bound action plan with budget setting out compensation and resettlement strategies, objectives, entitlement, actions, responsibilities, monitoring and evaluation.

Severely affected households

 This refers to affected households who will (i) lose 10% or more of their total productive land and/or assets, (ii) have to relocate; and/or (iii) lose 10% or more of their total income sources due to the Project.

Vulnerable groups

These are distinct groups of people who might suffer disproportionately or face the risk of being further marginalized by the effects of resettlement and specifically include: (i) female headed households with dependents, (ii) disabled household heads, (iii) households falling under the generally accepted indicator for poverty, (iv) children and elderly-headed households with no other means of support, (v) landless households, and (vi) indigenous people or ethnic minorities.

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Project Description**

The Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Tourism Infrastructure for Inclusive Growth Project (the project) will be implemented in the provinces of Dien Bien, Ha Tinh, Kien Giang, Lao Cai, and Tay Ninh provinces of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. The expected outcome of the project is that increased international tourism receipts benefit men and women living in targeted segments of the GMS corridors. Project outputs are: (i) improved last-mile tourism access infrastructure; (ii) improved environmental services in cross-border tourism centers; (iii) strengthened institutional capacity to promote inclusive tourism growth; and, (iv) effective project implementation and knowledge management.

The subprojects (i) Muang Phang Access Road Improvement in Dien Bien; (ii) Ta Phin-Ban Khoang Access Road Improvement in Lao Cai, (iii) Da Dung Cave Access Improvements in Kien Giang; and (iv) Phu Tu Environmental Improvements in Kien Giang will directly benefit ethnic minority communities living near the tourism sites and ethnic minority communities living along access roads to be upgraded. Feasibility studies prepared by the project preparatory technical assistance (PPTA) team together with government agencies assess the subprojects as category B for indigenous peoples according to ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement 2009. The categorization was confirmed during the loan fact finding mission of January 2014.

In accordance with ADB's Safeguards Policy Statement 2009, the objectives of this plan are to: (i) address the aspirations, needs, and preferred options of ethnic minority groups; (ii) ensure that social and economic benefits for ethnic minority groups are culturally appropriate and that they participate actively in subprojects that affect them; (iii) avoid potentially adverse impacts on ethnic minority groups; (iv) minimize, mitigate or compensate for such adverse impacts when they cannot be avoided; and, (v) implement measures to strengthen the social, legal, and technical capabilities of government institutions to address ethnic minority issues.

### **Consultation and Social Preparation**

Throughout project preparation covering March 2013 to February 2014, information about subproject activities in each area were disseminated, and meaningful consultations were held with local populations, including the different ethnic groups residing there. Consultations were held first with local district and village leaders during site visits that formed part of the initial feasibility analysis of subprojects (18 June to 18 July 2013). The PPTA consultants then organized additional consultations with ethnic minority communities at each site in August 2013. A total of 4 community consultation meetings (2 in Kien Giang 1 in Dien Bien, 1 in Lao Cai) were held during the PPTA. Follow-up visits to confirm the subproject activities were undertaken in January 2014 by Government officials, ADB staff and the PPTA consultants.

The PPTA consultations presented information about the project's initial design and purpose, and the planned capacity development and training activities under output 3. Participants were asked to express their views on the potential beneficial impacts and risks of the project. The description of impacts and proposed actions to enhance benefits and mitigate risks are outlined in the Beneficial and Mitigative Measures sections of this report.

During project implementation, ethnic minority groups will be further consulted on all project activities that can potentially affect them. Every attempt will be made to obtain their participation

in (i) planning, designing, implementing, and monitoring measures to avoid adverse impacts or, when avoidance is not possible, to minimize, mitigate, or compensate for such effects; and, (ii) tailoring project activities and resultant benefits for affected ethnic minority groups.

### **Social Impact Assessment**

Viet Nam has 53 different ethnic groups that comprise 14% of the country's population. The ethnic minority groups located in the project areas include Dao and Hmong in Lao Cai, Thai in Dien Bien, and Khmer in Kien Giang. In Lao Cai and Dien Bien the ethnic minority communities living near project sites represent from 95% to 100% of the population in those areas. In Kien Giang the Khmer population represents 12% of those in the village situated nearest to Da Dung Cave and 44% of those living near Phu Tu Tourism Zone. Small pockets of Hoa found in Kien Giang that live outside of project areas are well integrated into mainstream Vietnamese (Kinh) society.

Ethnic minority groups are more likely to be in the poorest quintiles of the population and have less access to basic sanitation, water and durable housing than the majority population. Ethnic minority people face barriers to socio-economic development such as: (i) lower levels of education and lower literacy rates than the majority population; (ii) less Vietnamese language skills particularly among women; (iii) less access to start-up capital, business networks, and experience in business planning; and, (iv) residing in remote geographic locations with less access to markets.

The ethnic minority villages in the project areas are living near key tourism sites and generally have better access to basic services than ethnic minority groups living in more remote parts of the country. However, poverty in the ethnic minority villages targeted by the project is as high as 25% in Lao Cai and Dien Bien. The majority of men and women in the communities have only a few years of primary education and literacy is low. The ethnic minority populations are earning their main livelihood from farming but depend on sales of crafts and food to tourists as an important source of supplemental income. Many women interviewed report that they prefer to earn income from operating small businesses that sell to tourists as it is less labor intensive than farming but they lack knowledge of business planning, literacy and numeracy needed to expand this type of activity.

The project will benefit ethnic minority communities by increasing the number of tourists and tourist spending at sites/provinces targeted for infrastructure upgrades and capacity building. It will provide training in micro-enterprise development and management to address the barriers that ethnic minority groups face in expanding their income from selling to tourists, as well as provide improved access to transportation services from upgraded roads. Environmental improvements in Phu Tu Tourism Zone will improve sanitary conditions where Khmer people sell products to tourists. The potential negative impacts are mainly related to road construction, such as the need to reduce noise and pollution during construction, ensure traffic safety measures, and provide equal compensation for families affected by land acquisition and resettlement.

### **Beneficial and Mitigative Measures**

The project will implement the following actions under the Ethnic Minority Development Plan (EMDP) to increase benefits to ethnic minority groups and mitigate potential negative impacts:

Action 1: Support to strengthen community-based tourism activities in ethnic minority villages.

The project will strengthen, and where needed establish, Community Tourism Groups (CTG) that will have representation from the villages and communes, situated near tourist sites and along access roads to be upgraded. CTGs will (i) raise issues of concern among participating communities with the project implementation units (PIUs); (ii) ensure that the concerns of the community are adequately reflected in the design and implementation of the project; (iii) assist in the implementation of community awareness programs and training; and, (iv) ensure that the community is involved in community-based monitoring and evaluation.

Action 2: Allocation of retail space for ethnic minority women to market handicrafts, food, and beverages in upgraded tourist sites. Detailed infrastructure designs will provide maximum retail space for ethnic minority groups to develop tourism related businesses. The upgrades to walkways and facilities within sites will include designating space for women to operate as mobile vendors or provide covered areas for setting up tables to sell handicrafts and other products. In addition, road upgrades will include rest stops with vendor kiosks where ethnic minority groups will be allocated space to operate small businesses.

Action 3: Supplementary support for business planning and microenterprise development for ethnic minority group members: The ethnic minority populations stand to benefit from increased tourist visits to the site and along the improved roads to the extent that they are able to develop micro-enterprises that generate revenue from tourists. A full range of microenterprise support services will be provided by the project.

Action 4: Inclusion of ethnic minority groups in project management. This will be carried out by: assigning responsibility for safeguards implementation to PIU and Project Coordination Unit (PCU) staff, engaging social safeguards consultants, and ensuring ethnic minority group representation in project management and project implementation committees, reflecting the ethnic minority population in project areas.

Action 5: Promotion of responsible tourism and regular consultation to avoid adverse impacts. Output 3 includes a number of actions that promote responsible tourism and address potential adverse impacts of tourism on communities including (i) programs to promote hygiene, sanitation and traffic safety among community members and tourists; (ii) tourism awareness programs to promote responsible tourism and empowerment of women and ethnic groups in the tourism industry; and, (iii) support for national efforts to combat child exploitation, human trafficking, and the spread of HIV AIDS.

#### Implementation, Monitoring and Institutional Arrangements

The PCU, with the support of the international and national social safeguards specialists to be engaged as part of the project implementation consultants will be responsible for undertaking necessary measures to strengthen the capacity of concerned local officials to ensure effective implementation of the EMDP. Capacity development activities will be held for village leaders from all ethnic groups, and the ethnic minority group representatives of CTGs. A well-defined grievance redress mechanism has been developed to ensure that ethnic minority group members can communicate when they lack information about the project activities and anticipated impacts, report any negative impacts not addressed by mitigative measures, or inform project implementers about gaps in their inclusion in project benefits. The grievance redress process must be culturally sensitive and designed to work with existing practices of the ethnic minority community.

Monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the EMDP will be built into the Project Performance

Monitoring System (PPMS) to ensure it is addressed as a regular part of project monitoring. Implementation of the EMDP will be the shared responsibility of the Director of the PCU and the Director of the Provincial PIUs. Directors will appoint PCU and PIU-based social safeguards officers, to be responsible for social safeguard implementation, including this EMDP. The PCU social safeguards officer will be the focal staff that is responsible for implementation of the EMDP activities and will coordinate implementation and quarterly reporting with the safeguards officers in the PIUs. The management and reporting structure for the EMDP will follow the lines of responsibility for overall project management as described in the Project Administration Manual. The international (to be engaged for 4 months) and national (to be engaged for 12 months) social safeguards specialists and international and national gender specialists will assist the PCU and PIUs update and implement the EMDP, in close coordination with project beneficiaries.

### I. BACKGROUND

### A. Objectives

- 1. This document is prepared in accordance with ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS 2009) and following guidelines set out in the Draft Working Document *Indigenous Peoples Safeguards: A Planning and Implementation Good Practice Source Book* (2013).
- 2. The objectives of this plan are to: (i) address the aspirations, needs, and preferred options of ethnic minority groups; (ii) ensure that social and economic benefits for ethnic minority groups are culturally appropriate and that they participate actively in subprojects that affect them; (iii) avoid potentially adverse impacts on ethnic minority groups; (iv) minimize, mitigate or compensate for such adverse impacts when they cannot be avoided; and, (v) implement measures to strengthen the social, legal, and technical capabilities of government institutions to address ethnic minority issues.
- 3. The EMDP highlights how the project will result in positive benefits and avoid negative impacts on ethnic minority groups as an integral part of its core activities. Actions are specified to ensure that the Executing Agency (EA)<sup>1</sup> and engaged specialists carry out appropriate measures to achieve culturally appropriate beneficial results for ethnic minority groups and avoid/mitigate negative impacts. The EMDP will be implemented in synergy with the project's Gender Action Plan (GAP). The GAP ensures women's beneficial participation in the project and that gender equality measures reach women of all ethnic groups residing in project areas.

### B. Project Description

- 4. The expected impact of the project is that socioeconomic benefits of tourism increase and are more equitably distributed in Viet Nam. The outcome will be increased international tourism receipts benefit men and women living in targeted segments of the GMS corridors. Project outputs are: (i) improved last-mile tourism access infrastructure; (ii) improved environmental services in cross-border tourism centers; (iii) strengthened institutional capacity to promote inclusive tourism growth; and, (iv) effective project implementation and knowledge management. In Viet Nam the project will improve infrastructure and provide capacity building at tourism sites in Dien Bien, Ha Tinh, Kien Giang, Lao Cai, and Tay Ninh. In Dien Bien and Kien Giang. Project activities will take place in national tourism sites that are situated near ethnic minority villages. In Dien Bien and Lao Cai, subprojects to improve access roads to tourist attractions will follow existing road alignments that pass through ethnic minority villages where the surrounding communities have collective land use rights. As roads are based on existing alignments, acquisition of ethnic minority land is minimal. Resettlement Plans have been prepared to ensure fair compensation for any affected assets and temporary economic disruption that may be caused by the project.
- 5. The main effect that the project is expected to have on ethnic minority groups is beneficial; namely, the creation new livelihood opportunities in tourism. Tourism is an economic sector that favors micro- and small-enterprise development particularly in areas such as retail, food and beverage services and producing and selling souvenirs and handicrafts. With low start-up costs these types of enterprises are accessible and considered desirable by ethnic minority communities. Under output 3, the project includes activities to support micro- and small-

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism

enterprise development. In subproject areas in Dien Bien, Lao Cai and Kien Giang, the project will work primarily with women from ethnic minority groups as the main beneficiaries. With this underlying focus, the project presents a number of opportunities to improve ethnic minority groups' and women's access to economic opportunities, and further their strategic interests in tourism development, a dynamic and growing economic sector.

- 6. The project will also build the capacity of national and provincial tourism officials, and private and community tourism stakeholders, to strengthen destination management organizations and prepare destination management plans that support inclusive tourism growth. This EMDP identifies beneficial measures to promote the inclusion of ethnic minority groups in destination management activities, such as ensuring ethnic minority representation on Community Tourism Groups (CTGs), adaptation of awareness and training materials so they are accessible to ethnic minority communities, and provision of micro- and small-enterprise support services. Capacity building activities are foreseen to have only positive impacts.
- 7. The EMDP recognizes that when poorly managed and uncontrolled, tourism growth can engender problems to local populations such as increased risks of communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, and child exploitation. The project will strengthen the capacity of provincial Departments of Culture, Sports and Tourism (DCSTs) to promote responsible tourism and engage with the private sector, Women's Union, and relevant health and law enforcement agencies to reduce these potential negative risks.

#### II. SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### A. Ethnic Groups in Vietnam

8. Viet Nam has 53 ethnic minority groups that represent 14% of the country's population.<sup>2</sup> Table 1 provides an overview of the population of the largest 10 ethnic groups in the country.

Table 1: Population of 10 Largest Ethnic Groups in Vietnam

Ethnic Group	Total Population	Men	Women	% of Total Population
Kinh	73,594,427	36,304,095	37,290,332	85.73
Tay	1,626,392	808,079	818,313	1.89
Thai	1,550,423	772,605	777,818	1.81
Muong	1,268,963	630,983	637,980	1.48
Khmer	1,260,640	617,650	642,990	1.47
Hoa	823,071	421,883	401,188	.96
Nung	968,800	485,579	483,221	1.13
Hmong	1,068,189	537,423	530,766	1.24
Dao	751,067	377,185	373,882	.87
Gia Rai	411,275	201,905	209,370	.48
Total	85,846,997	42,413,143	43,433,854	100

Source: United Nations Population Fund.

9. Poverty and access to social services vary among ethnic groups. Ethnic minority groups are more likely to be in the poorest quintiles of the population and have less access to basic

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> UNFPA (2011) Ethnic Groups in Vietnam: An analysis of key indicators from the 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census (UNFPA: Hanoi), p. 7.

sanitation, water and solid houses than the majority population.<sup>3</sup> Ethnic minority groups face barriers to socio-economic development such as (i) lower levels of education and lower literacy rates than the majority population; (ii) less Vietnamese language skills particularly among women; (iii) less access to start-up capital, business networks, and experience in business planning; and, (iv) residing in remote geographic locations with less access to markets.

10. The project offers an opportunity to address some of these key barriers to reducing poverty among ethnic minority populations with a particular focus on women. By increasing tourism visits and spending in ethnic minority areas, the project will create more business opportunities for ethnic minority groups in the target provinces. Barriers such as less access to capital and lack of business planning skills and language training will be addressed through capacity development activities planned under Output 3.

### B. Legal and Policy Context of Ethnic Group Development in Vietnam

- 11. For more than a decade, Viet Nam has recognized the importance of improving the situation of ethnic minority groups as an integral component of its poverty reduction strategies. The Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy for 2001–2010 (CPRGS) set 11 goals, of which 7 dealt directly with issues of gender and ethnic minorities and 2 with issues of vulnerability, poverty eradication, and ethnic culture preservation. These set out to (i) achieve better education for all; (ii) reach gender equality and empower women; (iii) reduce infant and child mortality; (iv) improve maternal health; (v) combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other communicable diseases; (vi) reduce vulnerability; and (vii) eradicate poverty and preserve ethnic minority culture.
- 12. The current national Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) 2010–2020 highlights the need to further alleviate poverty and improve the living conditions of ethnic minority people, underscoring that the promotion of cultural heritage (of all ethnic groups) and tourism is expected to make a significant contribution to sustainable development. The SEDP aims to accelerate the development of mountainous areas with ethnic minority populations, focusing on improving infrastructure, in particular road access, to service ethnic minority communities and improving access to quality health and education services for ethnic minorities.
- 13. In 2011, the Government of Viet Nam issued the Decree on Ethnic Minority Work (No: 05/2011/ND-CP). The fundamental principles of the decree are:
  - To implement the ethnic minority policy on the principles of equality, solidarity, respect and mutual assistance for development.
  - To assure and implement the policy on comprehensive development and gradual improvement of material and spiritual life for ethnic minority people.
  - To assure preservation of the language, scripts and identity, and promotion of fine customs, habits, traditions and culture, of each ethnic minority group.
  - Ethnic minority groups shall respect customs and habits of other groups, contributing to building an advanced Vietnamese culture deeply imbued with the national identity.
- 14. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MCST) is responsible for implementing sections of the decree, including Article 13 (cultural conservation and development policy) which includes the provisions to support the collection, study, protection, conservation and promotion

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ibid, p. 27, 35.

of the fine traditional cultural values of ethnic minority groups in the ethnic community of Vietnam. MCST is also responsible for Article 15 (policy on tourism development in ethnic minority areas) which aims to support infrastructure construction for tourism that is associated with environmental and ecological protection; to support the promotion and diversification of tourism forms and products; and to reasonably tap potential in landscapes and scenic places for tourism development.

- 15. The MCST coordinates these activities with the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs that is responsible for coordinating ethnic issues and developing and implementing policies for ethnic minority groups in mountainous regions.
- 16. Other legal documents related to ethnic minorities include:
  - Decree 82/2010/ND-CP of government, dated 20 July 2010 on teaching and learning of ethnic minority languages in schools.
  - Decree 69/2009/ND-CP of government, dated 13 August 2009 on regulating additional planning of land use, land prices, land acquisition, compensation, assistance and resettlement.
  - Resolution no. 30a/2008/NQ-CP of government, dated 27 Dec. 2008 on support program for rapid and sustainable poverty reduction for 61 poorest districts
  - Decision 74/2008/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister dated 9 June 2008 on support productive land and residential land for poor ethnic minority households in Mekong Delta area.
  - Decision no. 33/2007/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister dated 20 July 2007 on the policy of assistance to improve knowledge of laws as a program of 135; phase 2.
  - Decision no. 01/2007/QD-UBDT dated 31-May-2007 of the Ethnic Minorities Committee on the recognition of communes, districts in the mountainous areas
  - Decision no. 05/2007/QD-UBDT dated 6 September 2007 of the Ethnic Minorities Committee on its acceptance for three regions of ethnic minorities and mountainous areas based on development status
  - Circular no. 06 dated 20 September 2007 of the Ethnic Minorities Committee guidance on the assistance for services, improved livelihood of people, technical assistance for improving the knowledge on the laws according the decision 112/2007/QD-TTg
  - Decision no. 06/2007/QD-UBDT dated 12 January 2007 of the Ethnic Minorities Committee on the strategy of media for the program 135; phase 2
  - Decree 84/2007/ND-CP of the Government of Viet Nam on revision of issuing Land Use Rights Certificates, land acquisition, implementation of land use right, procedure for compensation, resettlement when land acquired by State and grievance redress.
  - Decree No.70/2001/ND-CP requiring that all documents registering family assets and land use rights must be in the names of both husband and wife.

### C. ADB Safeguard Policy

17. The ADB Safeguard Policy Statement (2009) and Operations Manual (OM F1/BP and F1/OP 20 January 2010) affirm that environmental and social sustainability is a cornerstone of economic growth and development. ADB commits to ensuring environmental and social sustainability in the projects it supports. The Safeguard Policy Statement 2009 (SPS) sets out the policy objectives, scope and triggers, and principles for three inter-related key safeguard areas: environmental safeguards; involuntary resettlement safeguards; and indigenous people's safeguards. The objectives of ADB's safeguards are to: (i) avoid adverse impacts of projects on

the environment, affected people and indigenous people, where possible; (ii) minimize, mitigate, and/or compensate for adverse project impacts on the environment and affected people when avoidance is not possible; and (iii) help borrowers/clients to strengthen their safeguard systems and develop the capacity to manage environmental and social risks.

- The term Indigenous Peoples is used interchangeably with Ethnic Minority/ies in this 18. document. The terms are used in a generic sense to refer to a distinct, vulnerable, social and cultural group possessing the following in varying degrees: (i) self-identification as members of a distinct indigenous cultural group and recognition of this identity by others; (ii) collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats or ancestral territories in the project area and to the natural resources in these habitats and territories; (iii) customary cultural, economic, social, or political institutions that are separate from those of the dominant society and culture; and (iv) a distinct language, often different from the official language of the country or region. In the case of Viet Nam, there is a high degree of consistency between the Viet Nam recognition of the right of ethnic groups to conserve their culture, history and language and ADB's definition of Indigenous People. The main point of divergence (though not relevant to this project) is that, in the case of ADB's policy, a group that has lost collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats or ancestral territories in the project area because of forced severance remains eligible for coverage. National legislation, customary law, and any international conventions to which Viet Nam is a party are taken into account for application of the ADB policy.
- 19. ADB's Indigenous Peoples safeguards are triggered if a project directly or indirectly affects the dignity, human rights, livelihood systems, or culture of indigenous people or affects the territories or natural or cultural resources that indigenous people own, use, occupy, or claim as an ancestral domain or asset. Subprojects in Lao Cai, Dien Bien and Kien Giang will directly and positively impact on the livelihoods of indigenous peoples living near the tourist sites to be upgraded and already active in gaining income and employment from the tourism sector. Minor land acquisition and any temporary economic disruption that may be caused by the project are addressed in Resettlement Plans which have been prepared for each project province.
- 20. The project's capacity building activities to improve tourism planning and management aim to protect indigenous peoples' culture. Increasing tourism activity in project areas will affect ethnic minority livelihood systems positively by increasing access to diversified sources of income while not detracting from ethnic minorities' collective and individual control of cultural resources. Sound implementation of the EMDP will ensure that the project maximizes benefits to indigenous groups living near subproject sites and takes measures to avoid negative impacts.

#### III. ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS IN THE SUBPROJECT AREAS

#### A. Dien Bien Province

### 1. Subproject Description

21. Dien Bien has two subprojects; namely, (i) development of the Dien Bien Phu Cultural Exchange and Tourist Information Center; and, (ii) Muong Phang Access Road Improvement. The Muong Phang Access Road Improvement will impact on ethnic minority groups living along the road to be upgraded, as well as those that sell food, beverages, and handicrafts at the Moung Phang National Tourism Site. Development of the Dien Bien Phu Cultural Exchange and

Tourist Information Center is in the town center and not expected to impact any ethnic minority groups.

- 22. Muong Phang National Tourism Site is famous for its role as the Vietnamese command center during the battle of Dien Bien Phu. Situated 20 km east of Dien Bien City in Dien Bien Province, poor road conditions currently discourage tourists from visiting the site and also impede the local population's access to markets and services. To address these constraints, the Muong Phang Access Road Improvement subproject will (i) upgrade the existing 19 km Him Lam-Muong Phang access road to double bituminous surface treatment (DBST) standard with 5.5 m carriageway, roadside drainage, culverts, and embankment stabilization; (ii) rehabilitate two small bridges, (iii) construct two rest stops with viewing platforms and vehicle parking areas (approximately 1,000 m<sup>2</sup>), vendor kiosks, and male and female public toilet blocks; (iv) enlarge the parking area by 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> at the existing Muang Phang Tourist Reception Center and construct a small market with vendor kiosks, tourist rest pavilions, male and female public toilets blocks, and landscaped public space; (v) upgrade existing footpaths and lighting within the Muong Phang historical site; (vi) upgrade water and electricity supply and wastewater and solid waste management systems in the tourist reception area; and (vii) install directional and information signage at key locations.
- 23. Table 2 provides an overview of the main ethnic groups located near the subproject sites. About 9,872 people living in Ta Leng, Pha Khoang and Muang Phang communes, of which 75% comprise ethnic minority people, will benefit from the improved access road, increased tourism, and better access to markets and services.

### 2. Socio-economic Context in the Subproject Area

- 24. Dien Bien Province is a northern mountainous province bordering the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) and People's Republic of China (PRC) with a land area of 9,563 km². The province contains one city, one town, and 7 rural districts. The mountainous terrain reaches 1,800m at its highest point and 70% of the land area has a gradient over 25 degrees. The total population of Dien Bien Province is 519,300, divided between Kinh (18.4%), Tay (0.3%), Thai (38%), Hmong (35%), and small pockets of other ethnic minority groups (Kho Mu, Giay, Ha Nhi, Lao and La Hu). Dien Bien is one of Viet Nam's poorest provinces with a poverty rate of 38%. Large sections of the population depend on subsistence agriculture using shifting agriculture techniques. Poor access to markets and extension services hinders the development of commercial agriculture. While all commune centers have had a road link to the district center since 2009, 30% of these rural roads are inaccessible to vehicular traffic for most of the rainy season.
- 25. Muong Phang National Tourism Site is situated in a forested area of Muong Phang commune, Dien Bien district, approximately 27 km to the north east of Dien Bien City by road. The subproject road to be upgraded is the road connecting Him Lam ecotourism site in Dien Bien Phu City to Muong Phang commune via Ta Leng and Pa Khoang communes. There are 17 ethnic minority villages (almost all Thai) living along the road, all producing a variety of agricultural products and handicrafts that appeal to tourists (see Box 1). The poverty rate is 25% in Ta Leng, 19% in Pa Khoang, and 13% in Moung Phang.
- 26. From 13 to 17 July 2013 the PPTA consultants held a series of key informant interviews with provincial officials in Dien Bien. The purpose of these interviews was to better understand the socio-economic profile of ethnic minorities living in the area and any programs and services the local government is providing for these groups. After meeting provincial officials a series of

focus group discussions and a socioeconomic survey comprising a sample of villagers living along the upgraded roads were held from 15 to 22 August. A total of 69 men and women were interviewed. The minutes of the consultations are provided in Annex 1.

Table 2: Population and Ethnicity at Dien Bien Subproject Sites

	Location	<u>Population</u>				<u>Ethn</u>	ic Group	<u>(%)</u>		
			Women (%)	Kinh	Tay	Thai	Khmer	Hmong	Dao	Other
	Dien Bien Province	519,300		18.4	0.3	38.0	-	34.8	-	8.5
Muong Pha	ang Access Road In	nprovement								
District	Dien Bien City	51,712	49.90		-		-		-	
Commune	Ta Leng	1,050	40.52	7.5	-	19.1	-	33.1	-	39.1
Villages	Ta Leng	405	50.12	8.1	-	4.4	-	37.3	-	50.1
	Kê Nênh	283	45.22	3.9	-	1.8	-	88.0	-	6.4
	Nà Nghè	257	38.91		-	46.7	-		-	53.3
District	Dien Bien District	111,405	50.08	27.0	0.7	52.8	5.6	10.0		3.9
Commune	Pa Khoang	4,151	50.58	-	-	66.6	-	-	-	34.2
Villages	Bản Đông Mệt II	357	49.01	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-
	Bản Kông	127	49.60	-	-		-	-	-	100.0
	Bản Hả I	115	53.91	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-
	Bản Co Thón	106	47.16	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-
	Bản Xôm I	220	54.54	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-
	Bản Kéo	200	50.00	-	-		-	-	-	100.0
	Bản Đông Mệt II	327	51.07	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-
	Bản Hả II	116	47.41	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	
	Bản Ten	145	51.72							100.0
Commune	Mường Phăng	4,671	48.97	21.8	-	78.2	-	-	-	-
Villages	Bản Phăng III	160	50.00	6.9	-	93.1	-	-	-	-
	Bản Bánh	273	49.08	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-
	Bản Phăng I	220	49.54	1.8	-	98.2	-	-	-	-
	Bản Phăng II	211	47.30	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-
	Bản Bua	264	47.72	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-
Dien Bien I	Phu Cultural Exchai	nge and Touris	m Information	Center						
District	Dien Bien Phu City	51,712	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ward	Thanh Truong	5,043	49,19	95.7	1.9	3.0	-	-	-	-
Villages	Street Group 6	437	49.19	90.8	2.3	6.9	-	-	-	-
	Street Group 4	420	48.80	95.7	1.4	-	-	-	-	-
	Street Group 5	363	70.24	97.5	-	1.4	-	-	-	-

Source: PPTA consultants and the Executing Agency.

Notes: Groups in other category for Dien Bien comprise Nung, Muong, Kho Mu, Si La, La Hu, Hoa, Sinh and Mun. Other category in Ta Leng mainly Kho Mu.

#### **Box 1: The Thai Ethnic Group**

The Thai make up approx. 1.81% (1.55 million) of Viet Nam's population, making them the third largest ethnic group in the country. Comprising 38% of Dien Bien's population, the Thai people are the largest ethnic group in the province. While Dien Bien is the Thai's homeland, Thai people also make up large portions the populations of Son La, Lai Chau, Hoa Binh, Thanh Hoa and Nghe An provinces, and are also present in the northern and north-eastern provinces of Lao PDR. The Thai's language belongs to the Tay-Thai language group of the Tai-Kadai language family. They differ from many other Tai groups in that they are not Buddhist, instead practice a form of ancestor and spirit worship. Commonly, the Thai Den (Black Thai, a subgroup of the Thai) in Dien Bien continue to wear their traditional clothing, which includes for women colorful head-scarves and tight-fitting shirts adorned with silver buttons and for men shorts with a belt, a shirt with an open collar and two pockets on either side. Traditionally, the Thai are settled agriculturists who cultivate wet rice. They also raise pigs, goats, chickens and grow vegetables for their own use, and sell firewood, vegetables, and textile handicrafts in the market.

In Dien Bien, the Thai Den are increasingly involved in the growing tourism industry, for example through tour guiding and the sales of handicrafts to visitors, such as at the Muang Phang National Tourist Site, and as hosts for ethnic village tours, which usually include cultural performances and meals including ethnic food, providing income and employment opportunities, especially for women. Several Thai Den ethnic villages have been declared cultural tourism villages, and more are planned. While it is likely that exposure to more tourists and overall development trends will accelerate cultural change within host communities, at the same time the interest from outsiders in their culture can inspire cultural pride and create economic opportunity by presenting local culture to visitors can stimulate cultural survival. Output 3 activities and the actions in this EMDP are designed to ensure that host communities stay in control of are equipped to make informed decisions about their involvement in the tourism industry.

27. Table 3 shows the ethnic composition of the socio-economic survey respondents, which were majority Thai (84%), a reflection of the high number of Thai living in the subproject area. Some Kinh, Hmong and Kho Mu people were also included in the sample.

**Table 3: Ethnic Composition of Respondents** 

		Mei	n	Wom	en	<b>T</b> . 4 . 1	•
	_	N	%	N	%	Total	%
Kinh		1	2.6	-	-	1	1.4
Thai		29	76.3	29	93.5	58	84.1
Kho Mu		6	15.8	1	3.2	7	10.1
Hmong		2	5.3	1	3.2	3	4.3
	Total	38	55.1	31	44.9	69	100

28. Table 4 shows the education level of respondents. While 30% have completed secondary school or above, this was much higher for men (53%) than women (16%). The majority (64.5%) of women respondents had no schooling or had not completed primary school. The results clearly show favor for education of boys over girls at the time this adult population attended school. The key informant interviews indicate that this bias continues but some progress is being made in promoting girls' education. Ta Leng has only one primary school in the commune center, and Pa Khoang and Muong Phang each have 2 primary schools. The lack of primary schools outside of the commune centers remains a barrier to young people's education, especially as parents are concerned about girls travelling too far from home to attend school.

**Table 4: Education Level of Respondents** 

		Men		Women		T-1-1	0/
		N	%	N	%	Total	%
No schooling, illiterate		-	-	11	35.5	11	15.9
Primary incomplete		6	15.8	9	29.0	15	21.7
Primary complete		5	13.2	5	16.1	10	14.5
Secondary incomplete		7	18.4	1	3.2	8	11.6
Secondary complete		18	47.4	3	9.7	21	30.4
High school complete		1	2.6	2	6.5	3	4.3
Vocational / technical complete		1	2.6	-	-	1	1.4
	Γotal	38	55.1	31	44.9	69	100

29. Access to water supply and sanitation services in the surveyed area is high as shown in Table 5.

**Table 5: Household Source of Water Supply** 

	Men		Women		Total	%
_	N	%	N	%	TOTAL	70
Traditional/shallow well	32	84.2	31	100.0	63	91.3
Public tap	1	2.6		-	1	1.4
Canal, river, pond	5	13.2	-	-	5	7.2
Tradition/shallow well and public tap	1	2.6	-	-	1	1.4
Total	38	55.1	31	44.9	69	100

30. Almost all respondents had a traditional/shallow well as a water source with only a 7 relying on other sources. As noted in Table 6, two-thirds had a latrine (pit or two chambers) and 23% used a temporary latrine. Only 1 respondent indicated they had no latrine. Regarding access to medical facilities, over 95% reported that they seek medical treatment at a health center. The majority (95%) indicated that they receive information from the national government through the television and from the local government through village meetings.

**Table 6: Household Sanitation Facilities** 

		Mer	1	Wom	en	Total	0/
		N %		N %		Total	%
Pit latrine		12	31.6	11	35.5	23	33.3
1 or 2 chamber latrine		18	47.4	8	25.8	26	37.7
Septic tank		1	2.6	2	6.5	3	4.3
Temporary latrine		6	15.8	10	32.3	16	23.2
None		1	2.6	-	-	1	1.4
	Total	38	55.1	31	44.9	69	100

31. Dien Bien is characterized by ethnic groups practicing subsistence agriculture, with the sale of rice, vegetables, small animals, and fish being the main source of livelihood for the majority of respondents. Approximately half of respondents indicated that their harvest was just enough to meet basic needs and half indicated it was more than enough to cover basic needs, with only 1 respondent reporting that they did not harvest enough to meet basic needs. The number of respondents that sell their harvest by type of commodity is presented in Table 7.

Table 7: Commercial Crops Produced by Households Surveyed

	Y	es	No		Total	0/
	N	%	N	%	Total	%
Fish	12	27.9	31	72.1	43	100
Rice	48	98.0	1	2.0	49	100
Vegetables	14	73.7	5	26.3	19	100
Animals husbandry	11	50.0	11	50.0	22	100

32. The survey information shows that those living along this road are able to access markets in the commune/city center for at least part of the year, and about half are involved in commercial production. However, 95% of households indicated that their monthly income is less than D 2.3 million, or about \$100 (Table 8).

**Table 8: Household Income (Range)** 

	N %		Average	Range		
Range in Income			income/month (D)	Min	Max	
Lowest (< 2.3 million)	66	95.7	1,329,000	533,000	2,208,000	
Medium (>2.3 - ≤5 million)	2	2.9	3,208,000	2,500,000	3,917,000	
Highest (> 5 million)	1	1.4	8,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000	
Total / Average	69	100.0	1,480,000	533,000	8,000,000	

33. As shown in Table 9 about 14.4% of the respondents are classified as poor and 20% are close to the poverty line, based on the average per capita income required in 2012 to cover basic needs, calculated at D400,000 per month in rural areas and D500,000 in urban areas.

**Table 9: Poverty Classification of Households** 

		Men		Women		Total	0/
	_	N	%	N	%	Total	%
Very poor		-	-	1	3.2	1	1.4
Poor		5	13.2	4	12.9	9	13.0
Near-poor		11	28.9	3	9.7	14	20.3
Not classified as poor		22	57.9	23	74.2	45	65.2
	Total	38	55.1	31	44.9	69	100

- 34. None of the respondents were aware of the subproject activities prior to the interview. After being informed of the planned road improvements and capacity building activities during community consultations, all (including the 7 Kho Mu and 3 Hmong households) agreed that it would be beneficial to the community. They cited that the main reasons it would be beneficial were (i) improved transport services arising from the improved road, (ii) better access to markets, and (iii) more income generation and job opportunities from higher numbers of tourists.
- 35. The main concerns expressed by the ethnic minority people about the potential negative impacts of the project related to the dust, noise and the difficulties of travel during construction. Some people were concerned about the need to acquire small parcels of land for road widening and more traffic accidents after construction. The solutions recommended were fair compensation for any land acquisition and to ensure the road is of good quality, with signs posted to promote road safety and remind drivers to observe speed limits.

36. As presented in Table 10, two thirds of respondents indicated that they were interested in taking on new jobs or business activities from tourism. This was consistent across all ethnic groups. The positive response was slightly higher for men than for women.

Table 10: Interest in Tourism-related Jobs & Businesses Development

		Men		Wom	en	Tatal	0/
		N	% N		%	Total	%
Yes		25	65.8	18	58.1	43	62.3
No		13	34.2	13	41.9	26	37.7
	Total	38	55.1	31	44.9	69	100.0

37. The types of preferred income generating activities are presented in Table 11. Women were most interested in developing food and beverage services and selling handicrafts. The survey team noted that currently, it is mainly Thai women that sell handicrafts and local forest products to tourists at the Muang Phang National Tourist Site, which also employs Thai women as tour guides.

Table 11: Preferred Type Tourism-related Jobs & Businesses Development

	Men N %		Women		Tatal	0/
_			N	%	Total	%
Renting out/ working in tourist accommodation	1	2.6	5	16.1	6	8.7
Cooking and selling cooked food	11	28.9	12	38.7	23	33.3
Selling packaged food and beverages	11	28.9	11	35.5	22	31.9
Selling handicrafts	26	68.4	12	38.7	38	55.1
Tour-guiding/trekking services	1	2.6	1	3.2	2	2.9
Cultural performances (e.g., music, dance, ceremonial, etc.)	12	31.6	3	9.7	15	21.7
Total	38	55.1	31	44.9	69	100.0

### 3. Consultations during Subproject Design

- 38. The PPTA consultants and local officials held a focus group discussion with Thai ethnic minority people from 4 villages in Muong Phang Commune (Ban Fang 1, Fang 2, Fang 3 and Banh Village) on 21 August 2013. These villages, which are 100% Thai, were selected because they were situated closest to the Muong Phang National Tourism Site. A total of 14 men and 8 women attended the meeting The topics discussed were:
  - The socio-economic situation of the population;
  - The subproject description and an overview of ADB's social safeguards;
  - The expected impacts of the subproject, including the project benefits and potential negative impacts;
  - Participants views about the subproject and its impacts, as well as their recommendations for the design and construction of the road;
  - Type of support needed to ensure the ethnic minority population benefits from the subproject.
- 39. The participants openly discussed their perspectives on the benefits of the project, issues of concern and their main recommendations for project implementation to enhance

benefits and avoid negative impacts. Overall, there was broad support for the subproject. Highlights of the discussion on benefits included:

- All discussants agreed that the subproject investments to improve the road to Muang Phang will benefit their communities by bringing better access to markets and services, and more tourists. Construction of the tourism information centre in Dien Bien was also seen as beneficial to the local tourism industry. An increased number of tourists will support economic development and employment opportunities.
- Upgrading the access road will also benefit people living in other communes by increasing trade and making travel more convenient. More tourists will travel on the road, buy local products at rest stops while sight-seeing, and shop in the community markets.
- 40. Participants highlighted the need for business development support, foreign language training, and access to capital to start tourism related businesses. In response, these activities. among others, have been incorporated into the design of output 3 of the project.
- In terms of the potential negative impacts, the main concerns expressed were that the road may be blocked during the construction period and retail activities along the road may be temporarily disrupted. Communities recognized that improving the road would require some permanent acquisition of small parcels of land and requested that they receive fair compensation for any productive or residential land acquired. The participants also emphasized the need for traffic safety and to ensure that tourists received information about appropriate and respectful behavior before visiting the area. In response, information and education campaigns for tourists have been incorporated into the design of output 3. Other recommendations arising from the consultations are reflected in the EMDP's beneficial and mitigative measures. The minutes of the consultations are in Annex 1.

#### 4. **Subproject Impacts**

42. The main benefits and potential negative impacts that the Dien Bien subprojects may have on ethnic minority groups are presented in Table 12. The project has prepared a Resettlement Plan for Dien Bien, which addresses the resettlement impacts.

Table 12: Main Benefits and Potential Negative Impacts of the Dien Bien Subprojects						
Output	Potential Benefits	Potential Negative Impacts				
Last Mile     Tourism Access     Infrastructure     Improved.						
Muong Phang Access Road Improvement	High: Improved road provides local population, including ethnic minorities, better access to town services, improved	Low: Increased traffic creates noise and safety issues for settlements close to the road.				
	access to markets for agriculture products, and reduced transportation costs.	Low: Acquisition of small parcels of productive land affects the livelihoods of 137 Thai ethnic minority				
	High: Tourist road traffic brings new income generating activities to the Thai population and other ethnic groups living	households. This is addressed in the Dien Bien Resettlement Plan. There are no severely affected households.				
	along road.	Low: Risk that increased tourism will attract new residents and small				

Output	Potential Benefits	Potential Negative Impacts
		businesses, causing ethnic minority communities to lose control over tourism development in their locality.
2. Environmental Services in Cross Border Tourism Centers Improved	No activities under this output in Dien Bien	
3. Institutional Capacity to Promote Inclusive Tourism Growth Strengthened	High: These activities are designed to engage local community members in tourism site management and enterprise development in culturally appropriate and inclusive ways. Ethnic minority community members will benefit from training in tourism planning, enterprise development, and hospitality services as well as awareness-raising in health, hygiene, safety, heritage conservation and avoidance of the negative impacts of tourism.	None: No negative impacts are anticipated from these activities.
4. Effective Project Implementation and Knowledge Management	Medium: The integration of the updating, implementation and monitoring of the EMDPs into the project's work plan will ensure culturally-appropriate benefits are realized and concerns of ethnic minority groups in project planning and cultural heritage protection are adequately addressed.	Low: The PCUs and PIUs will be promoting the country's ethnic diversity as a tourism asset in accordance with legal and policy directives. They will ensure that ethnic minority communities continue to have an active role in planning activities that affect their cultural assets, land area, and local resources.

EMDP = indigenous people's plan; PCU = project coordination unit; PIU = project implementation unit

#### 5. Beneficial Measures

- 43. Action 1: Support to strengthen community-based tourism activities in ethnic minority villages. The project will strengthen, and where needed establish, Community Tourism Groups (CTG) that will have representation from the villages and communes situated near tourist sites and along the access road to be upgraded. CTGs will (i) raise issues of concern among participating communities with the Dien Bien DCST; (ii) ensure that the concerns of the community are adequately reflected in the design and implementation of the project; (iii) assist in the implementation of community-based training and awareness programs; and, (iv) ensure that the community is involved in community-based monitoring and evaluation through participation in project review meetings. Specific actions to ensure that the concerns of ethnic groups are reflected in community tourism planning include:
  - (i) All villages in the project's catchment area, including those conducting tourismrelated business at the sites, will designate at least two members (one man and one woman) as focal point of their CTG. All ethnic groups (e.g. Thai, Hmong, Kho Mu and others) will be provided with assistance to strengthen, and establish where needed, CTGs;
  - (ii) Ethnic minority villages will be consulted and contribute to the preparation of destination management plans in subproject areas, identifying suitable tourist

- attractions such as rest areas, walking trails, cultural industries, and local markets that can draw visitors to stop and spend money in their communities;
- (iii) Assistance will be provided to help ethnic minority villages to develop low-cost facilities such as stalls for selling local products, install signage, develop cultural shows and home stay, and develop other types of microenterprises. Business advisory services will also help CTGs establish and manage revolving funds support expansion of community-based tourism activities. In addition to support under output 3, a lump-sum amount is included for these activities in the EMDP budget.
- 44. **Responsibility for action.** PIUs will coordinate with villages to establish/strengthen CTGs under the guidance of the PCU safeguards officer and social safeguards consultants. PIU staff together with the social safeguards consultants will work closely with ethnic minority groups to develop destination management plans and associated annual activity plans and budgets. Project funds will be held by the PIU and disbursed based on the annual activity plans formed in consultation with CTG focal points and village leaders.
- 45. Action 2: Allocation of retail space for ethnic minority women to market handicrafts, food, and beverages in upgraded tourist sites. The Muong Phang National Tourism Site has an existing area for retail stalls in the parking area, to be expanded as part of the project. Ethnic minority women from nearby villages are also selling goods along the pathways within the site. Expansion of the parking area, improvements to footpaths within the site, and construction of additional vendor kiosks will create additional opportunities for women to sell food, beverages, and handicrafts to tourists. In addition, the road upgrade will include two rest stops with vendor kiosks. To ensure that ethnic minority women equitably benefit from the additional retail space and business opportunities, the following actions will be taken:
  - (i) Participatory consultations with ethnic minority women living near the tourist sites and rest stops to gain their views and input on the detailed design of the facilities;
  - (ii) The facilities will maximize the number of vendor kiosks available in designated spots, while not detracting from the historic and natural values of the site;
  - (iii) Development of vendor areas that are covered but open-sided to accommodate mobile vendors:
  - (iv) Participatory consultations with ethnic minority men and women to determine the criteria for assigning space to vendors at the various locations;
  - (v) Ensuring, through the CTGs, that (i) ethnic minority women are made aware of opportunities to rent a kiosk or sell as mobile vendors at the sites; (ii) rental rates and terms of payment are to be determined in consultation with ethnic minority men and women, with a view to ensure affordability; and (iii) interested ethnic minority women are aware and given equal opportunity to enroll in output 3 training and business development activities.
- 46. **Responsibility for action.** The PIU Director, with support of the social safeguards consultants and civil engineers will ensure that the final design of facilities allocates appropriate retail space to accommodate vendor kiosks and areas for mobile vendors, and that rental rates are set at affordable levels for ethnic minority populations.
- 47. Action 3: Supplementary support for business planning and microenterprise development for ethnic minority group members. The ethnic minority populations stand to benefit from increased tourist visits to the site and along the improved roads to the extent that they are able to develop microenterprises that generate income from tourists. The actions

outlined below will ensure that the local ethnic minority populations are able to benefit from the increased arrival of tourists:

- (i) As part of the activities planned under output 3, design and conduct training in business planning and microenterprise development (including hospitality, marketing handicrafts and other local products to tourists, hygiene, guiding, and food service), with separate classes for women; these classes will comprise at least 90% ethnic minority participants given their predominance in the local population;
- (ii) Provide ethnic minorities with training in hospitality services and how to sell to tourists, using training materials and hand-outs in local languages or using easily understood visuals appropriate to the local context;
- (iii) As part of the tourism value chain analysis planned in output 3, determine the most lucrative business opportunities for ethnic minority women, considering their existing skills and production capabilities, market demand, and training needs;
- (iv) Assist CTGs establish/strengthen revolving funds to provide start-up capital for ethnic people wishing to open a tourism-related microenterprises such as home stay, food and beverage services, or handicraft shops.
- (v) Conduct training in foreign languages such as English, French, and Chinese for ethnic minorities to further expand their opportunity to interact with and generate business from foreign tourists.
- 48. **Responsibility for action**. The tourism training specialists, value chain specialist, and micro- and small-enterprise development specialists together with PCU and PIU staff will develop training programs in these areas with guidance from the social safeguards consultants. The PCU safeguards officer will ensure (i) training materials and handouts are prepared using locally understood languages; (ii) that community facilitators from ethnic minority groups are trained to provide follow-on coaching for women in microenterprise development after the training sessions are completed; and (iii) strengthening/establishment of revolving village funds. In addition to support under output 3, a lump-sum amount for these activities is included in the EMDP budget.
- 49. **Action 4: Integration of ethnic minority representation in project management.** In order to ensure the integration of ethnic considerations into overall project management, the following actions will be taken:
  - (i) A social safeguards officer and a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) focal person will be appointed in the PCU and PIU;
  - (ii) Gender development specialists (international 3 months and national 12 months) and social safeguards specialists (international 4 months and national 12 months) will support the PCU and provincial project implementation teams;
  - (iii) The EMDP will be updated during implementation based on the detailed design of civil works and information gained during stakeholder consultations;
  - (iv) Ethnic minority representation in the PIUs will be of equal proportion to the percentage of ethnic minorities in the provincial population;
  - (v) Representative(s) from the Youth Union or the Women's Union, and the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs will be invited to attend and participate in the national project steering committee and the provincial project steering committee meetings:
  - (vi) Monitoring data will be disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, and income;

- (vii) All progress reports, internal or external, shall include a section which reports on the affects that the project is having on ethnic minority groups—both positive and/or negative.
- 50. **Responsibility for actions**: The PCU Director in coordination with the PIU Director in Dien Bien is responsible for implementation of the above actions.

### 6. Mitigative Measures

- 51. The key concerns regarding negative impacts that could arise from the subproject are related to: (i) road safety and noise from increased vehicle traffic: (ii) loss of local control over tourism development; (iii) the loss of cultural heritage and traditions due to increased tourism; and (iv) acquisition of small plots of residential and agricultural land associated with the planned road upgrades. Land acquisition for the road improvements are minor and addressed in the Resettlement Plan. Problems arising due to increased tourism activity will be monitored but the risks are considered very low risk given that communities already have some experience with tourism, and the type and scope of the proposed culture and nature-based tourism are not likely to induce illegal activities in the project areas. Output 3 includes a number of actions that address potential negative impacts and promotes responsible tourism. The specific measures are highlighted in Box 2.
- 52. To ensure that ethnic minority groups are not negatively impacted by the project, and to monitor risks associated with tourism growth, a process of regular consultation will be integrated into the project activities throughout implementation. The PIU will ensure ongoing consultations with ethnic minority group members, their leaders and mass organizations (e.g. the Women's Union and Youth Union) working in concerned villages. The following actions will be taken to ensure regular consultation and participation of ethnic minorities:
  - (i) Provincial PIUs will request ethnic minority villages to designate focal points (with equal numbers of men and women) in the CTG. The CTG focal points will provide inputs to PIUs and consultants on the design of training and awareness raising programs that will take place in their villages;
  - (ii) Provincial PIUs will set up meetings with the District, Commune and Village Leaders, including the Women's Union, Youth Union representatives, and CTG members. The meetings will be held at project inception and then on a semi-annual basis to review project progress and ensure that all local officials and village leaders, including ethnic minorities, are fully aware and understand the project and its objectives. These meetings will review the status of tourism growth in the local area, whether the benefits are spread equitably across villages and ethnic groups, and determine if actions are needed to facilitate a more balanced distribution of benefits from tourism. These meetings will also identify if negative impacts are arising from tourism, health and safety issues, and the need to control any negative impacts from tourism growth. Law enforcement officials will be invited to the consultations if negative impacts such as human trafficking, child exploitation, or other illegal activities arise;
  - (iii) The PIUs, with the support of district authorities, will convene meetings with CTGs on a quarterly basis to review project work plans and progress, and seek ethnic minority representatives' inputs into civil works design and construction schedules;
  - (iv) The ethnic minority representatives of CTGs will provide a brief report on the affects of the project in their community, including reports on any negative

- impacts, communities views on corrective actions needed, and whether the community needs additional support in order to more fully benefit from project activities; and
- (v) Village-level consultations will be organized on an annual basis as part of project performance monitoring to review the past year's work program and results, ethnic minorities' views on the project's effectiveness, and the outcome of any corrective actions. In keeping with their role as community mobilizers, the Women's Union and Youth Union at the district level will support the organization of the consultations and ensure information on project activities is disclosed to all ethnic groups living in the project area.

### **Box 2: Promoting Responsible Tourism in Ethnic Communities**

**Public Health and Safety Promotion Program.** To promote increased safety and wellbeing of tourists and residents, this activity will (i) conduct road safety awareness in communities living adjacent to project-supported road improvements; (ii) campaign to encourage wearing of helmets while operating motorbikes, and prevent driving while intoxicated; (iii) strengthen systems to ensure compliance with tourist transport vehicle safety and maintenance regulations; (iv) conduct food safety and sanitation awareness seminars targeting tourist accommodation providers, restaurants, and local markets; and (v) assist tourist site operators improve solid waste management (i.e. reduce, reuse and recycling programs) and access municipal waste collection services.

**Tourism Awareness Programs.** This activity will support information and education campaigns to raise awareness among key tourism stakeholders and the general population on the (i) economic and social benefits of responsible tourism practices; and (ii) the potential negative impacts of tourism mismanagement such as the degradation of cultural and natural heritage and spread of communicable diseases.

Heritage Protection, Management and Interpretation Program. This activity will facilitate (i) development of culture, nature and historic heritage protection measures such as heritage zoning and associated regulations; (ii) preparation of heritage management plans; (iii) heritage protection awareness campaigns; (iv) heritage guide training; and (v) heritage research and interpretation, including the development of heritage trails, signage, leaflets, guidebooks and maps.

**Program to Combat Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking.** This activity will build on existing country/regional efforts to map out the occurrence of child exploitation (including child sex and child labor) and human trafficking in the tourism industry, and incorporate measures in Destination Management Plans to help prevent and enforce laws against these crimes.

Source: Project Administration Manual.

### B. Lao Cai Province

### 1. Subproject Description

53. Lao Cai Province will benefit from two subprojects: (i) Ta Phin-Ban Khoang Access Road Improvement and (ii) Lao Cai Cultural Exchange and Tourism Information Centre. The Ta-Phin Ban Khoang Access Road Improvements will upgrade a rural road running through ethnic minority communities and will have positive impacts on the livelihoods of the ethnic minority population. The Lao Cai Cultural Exchange and Tourism Information Centre is located in the city center and not expected to impact ethnic minorities. Small pockets of ethnic minorities living in Lao Cai city center are well integrated into mainstream society. Table 13 provides an overview of the ethnic composition in the project's catchment area.

54. **Ta Phin–Ban Khoang Access Road Improvements.** Despite possessing interesting attractions such as an old monastery, caves, and rich cultural traditions, the predominantly ethnic minority Dao and Hmong settlements of Ta Phin and Ban Khoang communes received only 7,500 visitors in 2012 and generated a modest \$5.8 per visitor. In comparison, tourist arrivals in the nearby town of Sapa reached 610,000 in 2012 and are growing at 17% per year. To help ethnic minority communities living around Sapa attract more visitors the subproject will (i) upgrade the 6 km Ta Phin Access Road (beginning at the intersection with Highway 4D) to DBST standard with 5-6 m carriageway, install roadside drainage, culverts, and passing bays; (ii) rehabilitate two bridges, each 5 m wide with a 10 m span; (iii) upgrade the existing track between Ta Phin and Ban Khoang (8.7 km) to form a 3.5 m wide paved rural road; (iv) construct male and female public toilets blocks and a 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> parking area in Ta Phin; and, (vi) install directional signage and information boards.

### 2. Socio-economic Context in the Subproject Area

55. From 10 to 12 July 2013 a series of key informant interviews and surveys were held with Lao Cai provincial officials, Sapa District officials, and merchants and mobile vendors in Ta Phin Commune. All surveys were undertaken by the PPTA consultants as part of the subproject feasibility analysis. From 25 to 31 August 2013 the consultants, with support from local surveyors, conducted a series of follow-on consultations/focus group discussions and a socioeconomic survey with villagers living along the Ta Phin – Ban Khoang access road.

Table 13: Population and Ethnicity at Lao Cai Subproject Sites

		- · · · · · · ·			,		· · · · · ·			
	<u>Location</u>	<u>Por</u>	<u>oulation</u>			<u> </u>	<u>thnic Grou</u>	<u>ıp (%)</u>		
		Total	Women (%)	Kinh	Tay	Thai	Mon- Khmer	Hmong	Dao	Other
	Lao Cai	646,800		34.6	15.3	0.3		23.8	16.0	10.0
	Province									
Lao Cai Cu	Itural Exchange	and Touris	sm Information	Center						
City	Lao Cai	100,653	53.0	73.1	4.9	3.1	5.9	4.2	2.0	6.8
Ward	Pho Moi	11,173	52.1	98.7	0.63	0.1	-	0.1	-	0.4
Section	24 A	237	51.4	89.6		5.4	-	3.3	-	1.7
Ta Phin – B	an Khoang Acc	ess Road I	mprovement							
District	Sapa	53,549	•	3.0	-	-	-	82.0	15.0	-
Commune	Sapa	4,610	52.9	4.0	-	-	-	58.0	38.0	4.0
Villages	Giang Cha	743	56.8	3.0	-	-	-	97.0	-	3.0
J	(Road									
	Section 1									
	Starts)									
	Ma Tra	908	52.0	4.0	-	-	-	96.0	-	4.0
Commune	Ta Phin	2,928	51.2	4.0	-	-	-	81.0	15.0	4.0
Villages	Giang Tra	393	52.4	5.2	-	-	-	94.8	-	5.2
	Sa Xeng	628	56.5	22.0	-	-	-	78.0	-	22.0
	(Road									
	Section 2									
	Starts)									
	Lu Khau	415	47.7	6.8	-	-	-	93.2	-	6.8
Commune	Ban Khoang	2,603	51.3	3.0	-	-	-	90.0	-	3.0
Villages	Sin Ho	297	52.5	2.0	-	-	-	70.0	28.0	2.0
	Can Ho	262	53.4	2.0	-	-		98.0	-	2.0
Total (Catcl	hment Villages)	8,434	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: PPTA consultants and the Executing Agency.

Note: Lao Cai has 25 ethnic groups in the province. Others include Giay, Hoa, Nung and other Tibeto-Burmese Groups.

- 56. The socio-economic survey was conducted with 71 households, primarily those situated along the roadway in Ta Phin and just outside of Ta Phin towards Ban Khoang where the majority of tourism activity takes place. The 71 households represent approximately 10% of the population living along this section of the subproject road. In addition, key informant interviews were held with district and commune officials, village leaders, and representatives from the Youth Union and Women's Union.
- 57. The socio-economic survey respondents were 100% Dao ethnic minority. While Ta Phin Commune's population is 58% Hmong and 38% Dao (the remaining 4% is Kinh), the Dao are the main ethnic group with settlements along the subproject road and the group that interacts most with tourists in the subproject area (see Box 3).

### **Box 3: The Dao Ethnic Group**

The Dao comprise approximately 0.87% (750,000) of Viet Nam's population, making them the ninth largest ethnic group in the country. Comprising 16% of Lao Cai's population, the Dao is the third largest ethnic group in the province. It is believed the Dao originate in Hunan Province of the People's Republic of China. The Dao language belongs to the Hmong-Dao language group of the Hmong-Mien linguistic family. The Red Dao is the ethnic group with settlements along the subproject road and the main group interacting with tourists there. Common features of the Red Dao women's traditional attire are embroidered trousers and jackets with a red scarlet turban which can either be decorated with tassels or bells. Men typically wear a short shirt, long trousers, and a head-scarf. Dao people practice wet-rice cultivation and raise pigs, chickens, ducks, dogs and cats. Traditional handicrafts include textiles, silver products, bamboo and woven baskets. They also produce traditional medicines, organic honey, and fruits and vegetables.

The Red Dao living along the subproject road supplements their farm income by offering home stay and selling handicrafts to tourists. Ta Phin village, the focal point of tourism along the subproject road, has received assistance from the Pacific Asia Travel Foundation and Capilano University to enhance and diversify their handicrafts to meet tourist demand and promote tourism in the village. In spite of these efforts, the villages report a decline in arrivals and significantly lower occupancy rates in the home stays during 2013 due to the deteriorating condition of the Ta Phin access road and low service standards. The planned access road improvements and output 3 activities, particularly those focusing on improving destination and heritage management, tourism awareness, microenterprise support, and skills training are designed to address these issues.

58. The Hmong living close to Sapa regularly venture into the town to sell handicrafts directly to tourists as mobile vendors or sell produce to restaurants and hotels, but the more remote Hmong villages situated in the access road's catchment area presently gain few benefits from tourism (Box 4).

#### **Box 4: The Hmong Ethnic Group**

The Hmong make up approximately 1.24% (1 million) of Viet Nam's population, making them the eight largest ethnic group in the country. Comprising 23.8% of Lao Cai's population, the Hmong are the second largest ethnic group in the province. It is believed the Hmong originate in the hills and mountains of the Yellow and Yangtze River regions in the People's Republic of China, and migrated into the mountainous regions of the Lao PDR, Viet Nam and Thailand during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Hmong language belongs to the West Hmongic branch of the Hmong–Mien language family. Hmong people are known to be self-sufficient and very knowledgeable about herbal medicines and livestock development. They are very industrious and trade a variety of forest products and agricultural goods. Their traditional dress is adorned with intricate embroidery and heavy silver jewelry. Hmong New Year is celebrated in December/January with numerous festivities including top-spinning competitions, trade fairs, singing and the tossing of a small ball made of fabric by young men and women as part of a courting ritual.

Due to their industrious nature and eagerness to trade, Hmong women are often seen informally selling handicrafts, forest products, and fruits and vegetables in Sapa Town to supplement farm income. The population of Sapa and Ban Khoang Communes (where the subproject road starts) and ends) are 95% and 90% Hmong respectively, but most Hmong people living here gain few benefits from tourism because of physical difficulties in accessing Sapa town compounded by their lack of access to business networks and linkages to the tourism industry. Similarly, unlike other areas of Sapa district, there are very few trekking tours involving Hmong villages in the subproject catchment area, despite pristine natural surroundings, caves, and other natural attractions. Discussion with Hmong leaders in Sapa and Ta Phin during project preparation confirmed that the Hmong are eager to participate in tourism planning and management in their communities and take advantage of market opportunities for their crafts and agricultural products. The EMDP and output 3 activities are designed to respond to these concerns and aim to harness Hmong people's industriousness and traditional knowledge to foster greater participation and economic opportunities. There are also Hmong living in the subproject areas in Dien Bien Provinces which will be engaged in a similar manner.

59. Table 14 presents the education level of respondents. Notwithstanding the results of the survey, the commune head estimates that 50% of women were illiterate compared to 10% for men. Similarly, about 35% of men went beyond primary school, compared to only 12% of women. The head of the Sapa Women's Union reported that parents often take their girl child out of school to sell handicrafts or other products to supplement household income, and so retention of girls in school is an issue that needs to be addressed through awareness campaigns and advocacy to promote the benefits of girls' education.

**Table 14: Education Level of Respondents** 

		Men		Women		T-1-1	0/
		N	%	N	%	Total	%
No schooling, illiterate		7	11.1	1	12.5	8	11.3
No schooling, literate		5	7.9	2	25.0	7	9.9
Primary incomplete		20	31.7	3	37.5	23	32.4
Primary complete		8	12.7	1	12.5	9	12.7
Secondary incomplete		12	19.0	-	-	12	16.9
Secondary complete		7	11.1	-	-	7	9.9
Beyond secondary		4	6.2	1	12.5	5	7.0
	Total	63	88.7	8	11.3	71	100

- 60. All respondents reported that their household had access to a good source of mountain water for drinking, domestic use, and irrigation. The majority of respondents had pit latrines or septic tanks; however 25% indicated they had no latrine. While Ta Phin and Ban Khoang commune centers have basic services including a primary school, lower secondary school, and a health post, poor road conditions make access to these services difficult for those living outside the commune centers. The main livelihood in this area is subsistence farming mainly rice, corn and small animal husbandry. People in Ta Phin, in particular women, supplement household income with tourism-related activities such as the sale of handicrafts, souvenirs, food, and beverages. Many also operate home stay accommodation.
- 61. Shops and restaurants in Ban Khoang mainly serve local customers rather than tourists and the commune has discouraged the sale of handicrafts along the roadway because of traffic safety concerns.
- 62. As presented in Table 15, the main income source is agriculture. In an interview with the head of Ban Khoang commune he indicated that the main commodities are rice, corn, vegetables, cardamom, and livestock such as goats, pigs and cattle. In the past two years some

households in both Ban Khoang and Ta Phin have started cultivating orchids from which they can gain a high income (for example, 20 orchid pots can sell for about \$1,000).

**Table 15: Main Sources of Income** 

		Men		Women		Total	0/
		N	%	N	%	Total	%
Agriculture		55	91.7	7	87.5	62	91.2
Public service/government		4	6.7	1	12.5	5	7.4
Commerce/business		1	1.7	-	-	1	1.5
	Total	60	88.2	8	11.8	68	100

63. Household's average land area (Table 16) varies from less than 2,000 m² to 15,000m² with cardamom growers utilizing the largest plots. Rice is planted only once per year (January to August) because of a lack of irrigation. Annual household production is generally enough to meet family requirements but there little or no surplus for sale (Table 17). In winter, people plant vegetables in kitchen gardens to supplement their family's food supply and income.

Table 16: Household's Average Land Area

		Mer	Men		Women		0/
		N	%	N	%	Total	%
800-2,000 m <sup>2</sup>		8	12.7	-	-	8	11.6
2,500-3,000 m <sup>2</sup>		11	17.5	1	16.7	12	17.4
3,200-4,000 m <sup>2</sup>		4	6.3	1	16.7	5	7.2
4,500-5,500 m <sup>2</sup>		6	9.5	-	-	6	8.7
6,000-9,300 m <sup>2</sup>		10	15.9	1	16.7	11	15.9
9,300 -10,000m <sup>2</sup>		4	6.3	2	33.3	6	8.7
10,000 -12,000 m <sup>2</sup>		8	12.7	1	16.7	9	13.0
12,000-15,000 m <sup>2</sup>		12	19.0	-	-	12	17.4
	Total	63	91.3	6	8.7	69	100

Table 17: Household Food Security

	rabio il ricalocitora i coa cocallity					
	Mei	Men		Women		
	N	%	N	%	Total	%
More than enough for household' subsistence	15	23.8	3	50.0	18	26.1
Only enough for household subsistence	45	71.4	2	33.3	47	68.1
Not enough for household subsistence	3	4.8	1	16.7	4	5.8
Т	otal 63	91.3	6	8.7	69	100.0

64. The 71 respondents considered that most people in their village have just enough to live on. As shown in Table 18 most felt that their economic situation was average compared to their neighbors. Of those interviewed, 13 households (18%) were classified as poor and 4 (7%) were considered near-poor. This is roughly in line with the poverty rate of 20% in Ta Phin Commune but significantly less than Sapa's district-wide poverty rate of 55%.

Table 18: Self-assessment of Wealth

	Mei	n	Won	nen	_ Total	%
	N	%	N	%	= Total	70
Very wealthy compared to others	2	3.2	-		- 2	2.8

Bit more wealthy than others	11	17.5	1	12.5	12	16.9
Average situation for this village	35	55.6	4	50.0	39	54.9
Bit less wealthy than others	6	9.5	2	25.0	8	11.3
Poor compared to others	9	14.3	1	12.5	10	14.1
Total	63	88.7	8	11.3	71	100.0

- 65. Discussions with local officials indicated that due to the growth of tourism in Sapa District over the past decade, most households now gain income from selling some commodities or handicrafts and no longer practice only subsistence agriculture as they did in the past. This was confirmed in the household surveys, with 26 respondents reporting that they earn income from tourism. Dao women in particular gain income from selling textiles and embroidery, and some work as tour guides. Dao women also collect plants from the forest to make herbal medicines that are sold to tourists. Women undertake these income-generating tasks in addition to their domestic chores and child-caring responsibilities. Dao men primarily are engaged in agriculture and some men also work as tour guides. Employment as a guide is reported to be the most lucrative source of income, with typical earnings of D 20,000,000 or about \$1,000 per year. Selling handicrafts earns women about D 10,500,000 per year
- 66. Only 4 respondents were aware of the project prior to the consultations and socioeconomic survey organized by the PPTA team. After learning more about its objectives and scope, all 71 respondents agreed that the project would be beneficial to the community and to their own household. All supported the proposed road improvements, noting the subproject would bring better transportation services to the area, more tourists, and the potential to sell more products and gain additional income.
- 67. The main concern expressed was related to the temporary inconveniences during construction and the potential loss of some land due to road widening. The respondents expressed interest in participating in more consultations and want to ensure that the detailed design of the road and land acquisition is well-managed and fair, especially regarding compensation for any loss of land.

### 3. Consultations during Subproject Design

- 68. The PPTA consultants held one focus group discussion with Dao and Hmong ethnic minority people from two villages in Ta Phin Commune (Xa Xeng and Giang Cha) on 26 August 2013. The minutes of the consultations are in Annex 1. A total of 17 Dao and 4 Hmong participants attended (11 men and 10 women). The topics discussed at the meeting included:
  - As assessment of the socio-economic situation of the population;
  - An introduction to the subproject and ADB social safeguards policies;
  - The expected impacts of the subproject, including the project benefits and potential negative impacts;
  - The views on the participants on the subproject and its impacts, and their recommendations for the design, construction, and support needed for ethnic minority populations to benefit from the project.
- 69. The main points of the discussion on potential project benefits, issues of concern, and the participants main recommendations to enhance benefits and avoid negative impacts is summarized below:

- The communities living in the subproject area will benefit from more tourists because tourism stimulates production and more income generating opportunities for the local people.
- If the road is upgraded, it will link 3 villages with Sapa District; people in remote villages will greatly benefit from improved access to markets and social services;
- The upgraded road will also facilitate tourist travel into the villages to discover natural caves and cultural life of the local community, or to enjoy services such as the medicinal baths of Dao people, and trekking to Hmong villages.
- 70. All participants were acutely aware of the potential benefits of improved market access, summarized by a response from a Dao Woman "Each time we go to the market to sell vegetables and goods, we face many difficulties due to the poor condition of the road; we must always call for help from others to push the bicycles through the mud."
- 71. The participants also highlighted the need for business support services, foreign language skills, and access to capital so they could start or expand tourism-related businesses.
- 72. In terms of negative impacts, the main concerns expressed were inconvenience during road construction or a further decrease in the number of tourists if the road is blocked. Communities recognized that the road construction might temporarily disrupt the sale of crafts and tourism services, and would require some land acquisition. All emphasized that they should be fairly compensated for any acquired land. The participants also mentioned the need for traffic safety and to ensure tourists were oriented to show appropriate and respectful behavior while in the village. The discussion highlighted how incidents of trafficking of ethnic minority women has been a problem in Lao Cai and requested that the project provides specific support to strengthen the Women's Union existing anti-trafficking activities.
- 73. A summary of the main benefits identified and potential negative impacts are summarized in Table 18. The recommendations to enhance benefits and address negative impacts are reflected in the project's beneficial and mitigative measures. The project has also prepared a Resettlement Plan which addresses the land acquisition and resettlement impacts of both subprojects in Lao Cai province.

### 4. Subproject Impacts

74. The main benefits and potential negative impacts that the subproject will have on ethnic minority groups in Lao Cai are presented in Table 18.

Table 18: Main Benefits and Potential Negative Impacts of Subprojects in Lao Cai

Output	Potential benefits	Potential Negative Impacts
Last Mile Tourism     Access Infrastructure     Improved		
Lao Cai Cultural Exchange and Tourist Information Center (TIC)	Medium: The TIC will promote responsible tourism in more destinations in the province allowing ethnic minority communities to gain increased economic opportunities from tourism.	None: The TIC is situated in the city center where pockets of ethnic minority groups are well integrated. Ethnic minority groups are not affected by construction activities. Once completed the TIC will serve as a center for educating tourists and local people about the provinces cultural

Output	Potential benefits	Potential Negative Impacts
		heritage and promoting responsible tourism.
Ta Phin-Ban Khoang Access Road Improvements:	High: The villages situated along the road, and catchment area, are primarily Dao and Hmong. These villages will benefit economically from the increase in tourist traffic.	Low: Increased traffic creates noise and safety issues for ethnic minority settlements close to the road.  Low: Acquisition of small parcels of productive land from 110 ethnic minority households (Dao = 62; Hmong = 38; Kinh = 10) is addressed in the Lao Cai Resettlement Plan. There are no severely affected
	High: The improved road will provide ethnic minority populations with better access to markets and social services.	households.  Low: Risk that increased tourism will attract new residents and small businesses and ethnic minority communities will lose control of tourism development in their locality.
2. Environmental Services in Cross Border Tourism Centers Improved	No subprojects in Lao Cai under this output.	
3. Institutional Capacity to Promote Inclusive Tourism Growth Strengthened	High: These activities are designed to engage local community members in tourism site management and enterprise development in culturally appropriate and inclusive ways. Ethnic minority community members will benefit from training in tourism planning, enterprise development, and hospitality services as well as awareness-raising in health, hygiene, safety, heritage conservation and avoidance of the negative impacts of tourism.	None: No negative impacts are anticipated from these activities.
4. Effective Project Implementation and Knowledge Management	Medium: The integration of the updating, implementation and monitoring of the EMDPs into the project's work plan will ensure benefits are realized and concerns of ethnic minority groups in project planning and cultural heritage protection are adequately addressed.	Low: The PCUs and PIUs will be promoting the country's ethnic diversity as a tourism asset in accordance with legal and policy directives. They will ensure that ethnic minority communities have an active role in planning activities that affect their cultural assets, land area, and local resources.

### 5. Beneficial Measures

75. Action 1: Support to strengthen community-based tourism activities in ethnic minority villages. The project will strengthen, and where needed establish, Community

Tourism Groups (CTG) that will have representation from the villages and communes situated along the access road to be upgraded. CTGs will (i) raise issues of concern among participating communities with the Lao Cai DCST; (ii) ensure that the concerns of the community are adequately reflected in the design and implementation of the project; (iii) assist in the implementation of community-based training and awareness programs; and, (iv) ensure that the community is involved in community-based monitoring and evaluation through participation in project review meetings. Specific actions to ensure that the concerns of ethnic groups are reflected in community tourism planning include:

- (i) All villages in the project's catchment area, including those conducting tourismrelated business, will designate at least two members (one man and one woman) as focal point of their CTG. All ethnic groups (e.g. Dao, Hmong, and others) will be provided with assistance to strengthen, and establish where needed, CTGs;
- (ii) Ethnic minority villages will be consulted on the design of the road, parking area, and any other ancillary facilities;
- (iii) Ethnic minority villages will contribute to the preparation of destination management plans in subproject areas, identifying suitable tourist attractions such as caves, walking trails, and cultural industries that can draw visitors to stop and spend money in their communities;
- (iv) Assistance will be provided to help ethnic minority villages to install signage, develop cultural shows and home stay, and develop other types of microenterprises. Business advisory services will also help CTGs establish and manage revolving funds to support expansion of community-based tourism. In addition to support under output 3, a lump-sum amount is included for these activities in the EMDP budget.
- 76. **Responsibility for action.** PIUs will coordinate with villages to establish/strengthen CTGs under the guidance of the PCU safeguards officer and social safeguards consultants. PIU staff together with the social safeguards consultants will work closely with ethnic minority groups to develop destination management plans and associated annual activity plans and budgets. Project funds will be held by the PIU and disbursed based on the annual activity plans formed in consultation with CTG focal points and village leaders.
- 77. Action 2: Allocation of retail space in parking/rest areas for ethnic minority women to market handicrafts and other local products. The design of the road upgrade includes plans to expand the parking area in Ta Phin and potentially other villages. Dao women from Ta Phin and other nearby villages are already selling goods in the Ta Phin Commune centre and along the road. The creation of rest/parking areas creates the opportunity for women to set up additional small shops for selling crafts and other local products to tourists at these facilities. To ensure that ethnic minority women equitably benefit from the additional business opportunities, the following actions will be taken:
  - (i) The PIU will organize consultations on the design of the road and siting of parking/rest areas with each village situated along the roadway;
  - (ii) Development of vendor areas that are covered but open-sided to accommodate mobile vendors;
  - (iii) Participatory consultations with ethnic minority men and women to determine the criteria for assigning space to vendors at the various locations;
  - (iv) Ensuring, through the CTGs, that (i) ethnic minority women are made aware of opportunities to obtain space/permission to sell at the sites; (ii) rental rates or fees for mobile vendors, if any, and terms of payment are to be determined in

consultation with ethnic minority men and women, with a view to ensure affordability; and (iii) interested ethnic minority women are aware and given equal opportunity to enroll in output 3 training and business development activities.

- 78. **Responsibility for action.** The PIU Director, with support of the social safeguards consultants and civil engineers will ensure that the final design of the road incorporates parking/rest areas in appropriate locations and that fees for renting space/obtaining permission to sell there are set at affordable levels for ethnic minority populations.
- 79. Action 3: Supplementary support for business planning and micro-enterprise development for ethnic minority group members: The ethnic minority populations stand to benefit from increased tourist visits and the improved roads to the extent that they are able to develop micro-enterprises that generate revenues from tourists. The actions outlined below will ensure the local ethnic minority populations are able to benefit from the increased arrival of tourists and produce goods that meet the demands of visitors:
  - (i) As part of the activities planned under output 3, design and conduct training in business planning and microenterprise development (including hospitality, marketing handicrafts and other local products to tourists, hygiene, guiding, and food service), with separate classes for women; these classes will comprise at least 90% ethnic minority participants given their predominance in the local population;
  - (ii) Provide ethnic minorities with training in hospitality services and how to sell to tourists, using training materials and hand-outs in local languages or using easily understood visual aids appropriate to the local context;
  - (iii) As part of the tourism value chain analysis planned in output 3, determine the most lucrative business opportunities for ethnic minority women, considering their existing skills and production capabilities, market demand, and training needs:
  - (iv) Assist CTGs establish/strengthen revolving funds to provide start-up capital for ethnic people wishing to open a tourism-related microenterprises such as home stay, food and beverage services, or handicraft shops.
  - (v) Conduct training in foreign languages such as English, French, and Chinese for ethnic minorities to further expand their opportunity to interact with and generate business from foreign tourists.
- 80. **Responsibility for action**. The tourism training specialists, value chain specialist, and micro- and small-enterprise development specialists together with PCU and PIU staff will develop training programs in these areas with guidance from the social safeguards consultants. The PCU safeguards officer will ensure (i) training materials and handouts are prepared using locally understood languages; (ii) that community facilitators from ethnic minority groups are trained provide follow-on coaching for women in microenterprise development after the training sessions are completed; and (iii) strengthening/establishment of revolving village funds. In addition to support under output 3, a lump-sum amount for these activities is included in the EMDP budget.
- 81. Action 4: Combating human trafficking in cooperation with Lao Cai Province and Sapa District Women's Union (WU). The women interviewed in the focus groups and the Women's Union of Lao Cai Province has identified human trafficking as a problem, particularly of ethnic minority women. Lao Cai WU reports 2 to 3 incidents occur each year and they are concerned there are more cases that are unreported. To address this issue the WU have two types of programs: (i) awareness raising in communities and schools to help women and

children to identify how traffickers work, to avoid any interaction with people that might put them at risk, and to report anyone that demonstrates suspicious behaviors to the authorities; and (ii) providing shelters and support such as vocational training for victims of trafficking and women that decide to leave prostitution so that they can find new sources of employment.

- 82. These programs are running effectively but the WU does not have sufficient funds to expand to all communes and villages. The WU does not consider that tourism necessarily creates an increased risk of trafficking, rather views it as an opportunity to avoid trafficking as it gives women more alternatives for local income generation. One source of the problem is the proximity of Sapa District to a border area where women are lured with prospects of employment by unscrupulous intermediaries and then are not able to return home due to debt or fear of reprisal.
- 83. The project will allocate resources to support the WU's anti-trafficking efforts in ethnic minority communities in the project area. Specific actions include:
  - (i) The PCU safeguards officer and Gender Development Specialists will work with the Women's Union to identify how the project can support the extension of its anti-trafficking programs;
  - (ii) The PCU, PIU and the WU will together update the work plan and budget under the EMDPs capacity development cost items to support anti-trafficking efforts in Ta Phin, Ban Khoang, and Sapa communes;
  - (iii) The Lao Cai WU will implement the program using its existing materials and trainers. The national Gender Development Specialist will support the WU as needed to improve materials and training of trainers;
  - (iv) Anti-trafficking messages will be incorporated into the project's information and education materials that promote responsible tourism;
  - (v) The PIU safeguards officer will monitor the implementation of the program and report to the PCU on its results.
- 84. **Action 5: Integration of ethnic minority representation in project management.** In order to ensure the integration of ethnic considerations into overall project management, the following actions will be taken:
  - (i) A social safeguards officer and a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) focal person will be appointed in the PCU and PIU;
  - (ii) Gender development specialists (international 3 months and national 12 months) and social safeguards specialists (international 4 months and national 12 months) will support the PCU and provincial project implementation teams;
  - (iii) The EMDP will be updated during implementation based on the detailed design of civil works and information gained during stakeholder consultations;
  - (iv) Ethnic minority representation in the PIUs will be of equal proportion to the percentage of ethnic minorities in the provincial population;
  - (v) Representative(s) from the Youth Union or the Women's Union, and the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs will be invited to attend and participate in the national project steering committee and the provincial project steering committee meetings;
  - (vi) Monitoring data will be disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, and income;
  - (vii) All progress reports, internal or external, shall include a section which reports on the affects that the project is having on ethnic minority groups—both positive and/or negative.

85. **Responsibility for actions**: The PCU Director in coordination with the PIU Director in Lao Cai is responsible for implementation of the above actions.

# 6. Mitigative Measures

- 86. The key concerns regarding negative impacts that could arise from improvements to the access road to Ta Phin and Ban Khoang are very similar to those reported in Dien Bien Province, which is not surprising as both provinces have similar subprojects. These include: (i) the need to promote road safety; (ii) acquisition of small plots of land associated with the planned road upgrades; and (iii) need to boost anti-trafficking efforts and promote culturally appropriate behavior among tourists. Land acquisition for the road improvements are minor and addressed in the Resettlement Plan. Problems arising due to increased tourism activity will be monitored but the risks are considered very low risk given that communities already have some experience with tourism. The specific mitigative measures are highlighted in Box 5.
- 87. Following the example of Dien Bien, the PIU will organize regular consultations with ethnic minorities to ensure that they are not negatively impacted by the project, and to monitor risks associated with tourism growth. The process of regular consultation will be integrated into the project activities throughout implementation and will include the following actions:
  - (i) Provincial PIUs will request ethnic minority villages to designate focal points (with equal numbers of men and women) in the CTG. The CTG focal points will provide inputs to the PIUs and project consultants on the design of training and awareness raising programs;
  - (ii) Provincial PIUs will set up meetings with the District, Commune and Village Leaders, including the Women's Union, Youth Union representatives, and CTG members. The meetings will be held at project inception and then on a semi-annual basis to review project progress and ensure that all local officials and village leaders, including ethnic minorities, are fully aware and understand the project and its objectives. These meetings will review the status of tourism growth in the local area, whether the benefits are spread equitably across villages and ethnic groups, and determine if actions are needed to facilitate a more balanced distribution of benefits from tourism. These meetings will also identify if negative impacts are arising from tourism, health and safety issues, and the need to control any negative impacts from tourism growth. Law enforcement officials will be invited to the consultations if negative impacts such as human trafficking, child exploitation, or other illegal activities are taking place;
  - (iii) The PIUs, with the support of district authorities, will convene meetings with CTGs on a quarterly basis to review project work plans and progress, and seek ethnic minority representatives' inputs into civil works design and construction schedules;
  - (iv) The ethnic minority representatives of CTGs will provide a brief report on the affects of the project in their community, including reports on any negative impacts, communities views on corrective actions needed, and whether the community needs additional support in order to more fully benefit from project activities; and
  - (v) Village-level consultations will be organized on an annual basis as part of project performance monitoring to review the past year's work program and results, ethnic minorities' views on the project's effectiveness, and the outcome of any corrective actions. In keeping with their role as community mobilizers, the Women's Union and Youth Union at the district level will support the organization

of the consultations and ensure information on project activities is disclosed to all ethnic groups living in the project area.

#### **Box 5: Promoting Responsible Tourism in Ethnic Communities**

**Public Health and Safety Promotion Program.** To promote increased safety and wellbeing of tourists and residents, this activity will (i) conduct road safety awareness in communities living adjacent to project-supported road improvements; (ii) campaign to encourage wearing of helmets while operating motorbikes, and prevent driving while intoxicated; (iii) strengthen systems to ensure compliance with tourist transport vehicle safety and maintenance regulations; (iv) conduct food safety and sanitation awareness seminars targeting tourist accommodation providers, restaurants, and local markets; and (v) assist tourist site operators improve solid waste management (i.e. reduce, reuse and recycling programs) and access municipal waste collection services.

**Tourism Awareness Programs.** This activity will support information and education campaigns to raise awareness among key tourism stakeholders and the general population on the (i) economic and social benefits of responsible tourism practices; and (ii) the potential negative impacts of tourism mismanagement such as the degradation of cultural and natural heritage and spread of communicable diseases.

Heritage Protection, Management and Interpretation Program. This activity will facilitate (i) development of culture, nature and historic heritage protection measures such as heritage zoning and associated regulations; (ii) preparation of heritage management plans; (iii) heritage protection awareness campaigns; (iv) heritage guide training; and (v) heritage research and interpretation, including the development of heritage trails, signage, leaflets, guidebooks and maps.

**Program to Combat Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking.** This activity will build on existing country/regional efforts to map out the occurrence of child exploitation (including child sex and child labor) and human trafficking in the tourism industry, and incorporate measures in Destination Management Plans to help prevent and enforce laws against these crimes.

Source: Project Administration Manual.

#### C. Kien Giang Province

#### 1. Subproject Description

- 88. Kien Giang has two subprojects, namely (i) Da Dung Cave Access Improvement; and (ii) Phu Tu Environmental Improvement. Both will have impacts on ethnic Khmer that are living near the subproject sites. The subproject descriptions are presented below.
- 89. **Da Dung Cave Access Improvement.** Da Dung Cave complex is a national heritage site comprising 14 caves, located approximately 4 km from the Viet Nam–Cambodia border in My Duc Commune (population 6,000). Although there were 93,233 mostly domestic visitors in 2012, a lack of facilities and poor access limits income-generating opportunities for local enterprises. To address these constraints, the subproject will (i) upgrade the existing 2.0 km laterite access road to DBST standard with a 6 m carriageway; (ii) improve steps and footpaths to the caves, including installation of safety barriers and handrails; (iii) construct a tourist reception/information center with a food court, handicraft and souvenir kiosks, public market, and landscaped green space; (iv) construct a 2,500m² parking area; (v) install male and female public toilets blocks and rubbish bins; (vi) upgrade water supply and improve electricity supply and public lighting; (vii) improve wastewater and solid waste management systems; and (viii) install directional signage and information boards.

90. **Phu Tu Environmental Improvement.** Phu Tu National Tourism site is situated in Binh An Commune (population 11,000), Kien Luong District, and approximately 60 km from the Viet Nam–Cambodia border. Phu Tu is set in a pleasant seaside location and received approximately 320,000 visitors in 2012. Official forecasts suggest that this number will continue to grow rapidly over the coming years. Lacking adequate waste management systems together with poor traffic management and uncontrolled encroachment onto the main access road, tourism growth has created a public health hazard for visitors and the surrounding community. To address these issues the subproject will (i) upgrade the main (700m) and secondary (3.5 km) access roads to DBST standard with 6.0 m wide carriageway with lighting and drainage; (ii) construct/upgrade public toilets; (iii) construct a 1,000m³/day wastewater treatment facility; (iv) improve the ferry pier, walking paths and other public amenities; and (iv) improve and expand the existing market area, including the construction of 60 vendor kiosks and a visitor information center with parking. and (v) install directional and information signage.

#### 2. Socio-economic Context in Subproject Area

- 91. From 29 June to 4 July 2013 the PPTA team held a series of key informant interviews with Kien Giang provincial officials, Ha Tien and Kien Luong district officials, retail operators and mobile vendors at Da Dung Cave and Phu Tu as part of the subproject's feasibility analysis. At Da Dung Cave, one focus group discussion was held in My Duc Commune on 13 August 2013 comprising 12 women and 4 men, all of whom were Khmer. In addition, a socio-economic survey was undertaken with 20 households living near Da Dung Cave, of which 50% of respondents were Khmer and 50% Kinh. At Phu Tu, the social survey was conducted with 20 residents of the nearby village of Ba Trai of which respondents were 9 Khmer, 8 Kinh and 3 Hoa. The record of consultations with affected ethnic groups is in Appendix 1 and an overview of ethnic minority representation in Kien Giang is presented in Table 19.
- 92. Both subproject areas include Kinh (the national majority), Khmer and small pockets of Hoa, with the Hoa being highly assimilated into mainstream Kinh society and one of the wealthiest ethnic groups in Viet Nam. At Phu Tu, the socio-economic situation of the Kinh and Hoa are similar as both are businesses owners and traders at the tourist site. The Khmer population lives close to the site but are primarily engaged as mobile vendors because they lack the resources and risk-tolerance to lease spaces at the site (Box 6). Thus, they earn lower incomes on an informal basis and have been categorized as a *distinct* and *vulnerable* ethnic group in the context of this EMDP, in accordance with ADB's SPS 2009.

Table 19: Population and Ethnicity at Kien Giang Subproject Sites

	<u>Location</u>	Por	<u>ulation</u>	Ethnic Group (%)				
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Total	Women (%)	Kinh	Khmer	Other		
	Kien Giang Province	1,726,200		86.7	12.6	0.6 <sup>a</sup>		
Da Dung Ca	aves Access Improvements							
District	Ha Tien (Town)	54,253	51.0	86.7	10.6	2.7		
Commune	My Duc	6,035	51.0	40.9	52.9	6.2		
Villages	Thach Dong	2,399	-	78.0	12.0	-		
Phu Tu Env	vironmental Improvements							
District	Kien Luong	81,710	-	86.5	11.0	3.5		
Commune	Binh An	11,088	52.0	85.4	11.8	2.8		
Villages	Ba Trai	2,924	53.0	36.3	44.0	19.7		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Mainly comprising well-assimilated and wealthy Hoa.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Hoa ethnic group is not usually considered an ethnic minority because of their high cultural assimilation with the majority ethnic Kinh, and status as one of the wealthiest ethnic groups in Vietnam. Source: World Bank/H.A Daeng. 2009. *Indigenous Peoples, Poverty and Development: A Widening Poverty Gap for Ethnic Minorities.* 

#### **Box 6: The Khmer Ethnic Group**

The Khmer Krom, or ethnic Khmer in Viet Nam, makes up approximately 1.47% (1.2 million) of Viet Nam's population, making them the fifth largest ethnic group in the country. Comprising 12.6% of Kien Giang's population, the Khmer are the second largest ethnic group in the province. The Khmer are indigenous to southern Viet Nam, parts of which were administered by Cambodia until the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Khmer language is part of the Mon-Khmer branch of the Austro-Asiatic language family, and is also spoken by the ethnic Khmer in Cambodia and east Thailand. The vast majority of the Khmer are Theravada Buddhists. Khmer Buddhist temples form the cornerstone of the Khmer Krom identity, and help safeguard the Khmer language, culture, tradition and customs. Their primary livelihoods consist of rice farming, animal husbandry, and for those living in coastal areas, fishing. Poverty levels are generally higher than the majority Kinh, partially stemming from low educational levels.

At the subproject sites in Kien Giang province (Da Dung Caves and Phu Tu National Tourism Site), Khmer women are supplementing family income by selling food and handicrafts to tourists. However, they typically operate as mobile vendors because they lack opportunities to rent or establish permanent shops due to limited access to affordable financing, have less tolerance for risk, and lack business management and service skills. The EMDP and output 3 activities are designed to ensure Khmer men and women have equal access and opportunities to increase their income and gain employment in the tourism sector by involving them in tourism planning and management at subproject sites and providing targeted enterprise support services and skills training.

- 93. **Da Dung Cave Access Improvements.** Ha Tien City is an important deep-sea port that links Kien Giang and the surrounding region to a number of tourist and trade destinations in the region. The key economic activity in the city is import and export trading, centered on the port and on cross-border trade with Cambodia. Ha Tien's population is about 11% ethnic Khmer, concentrated primarily in coastal peri-urban villages and dependent on animal husbandry, fishing, and some farming as their main livelihood activities.
- 94. Da Dung Cave is located in Tach Dong Village of My Duc Commune. Tach Dong has 12 poor households, equivalent to a poverty level of only 2%. The poor are of Khmer ethnicity with no productive land, having sold it years ago to pay off household debt. Da Dung Cave is also close to My Lo village with a population of approximately 1,200, of which 80% of the population is Khmer.
- 95. The socioeconomic survey showed that 50% of respondents, and over 60% of women, have not completed primary school. Focus group discussions confirmed that the education level of the Khmer population is lower than the majority Kinh. Most households (84%) in the subproject area have access to piped water from Ha Tien Town and the remainder use either wells or harvest rainwater. The commune has a health center, which is accessible to all households. My Duc commune has two important tourist sites, namely, the Da Dung Cave and Tach Dong Pagoda. Both sites have set aside areas for the local people to sell souvenirs, food and beverages to tourists. At Da Dung 6 of the 12 vendors are Khmer but at Tach Dong Pagoda (not part of the project area) the majority of vendors are Kinh. During the peak season additional Khmer women come to both sites to sell as mobile vendors. When asked to identify the main barriers to expanding their business or establishing permanent shops, Khmer women mentioned that a lack of access to affordable credit and poor business-planning skills were the key constraints.
- 96. **Phu Tu Environmental Improvements.** The subproject site is located in Ba Trai Village, Binh An commune of Kien Luong District. Binh An commune has a population of 11,088 people living in 2,617 households. There is limited fertile land in Binh An and due to salt intrusion and lack of irrigation, only one crop of rice is grown. The socioeconomic survey found that the main

sources of income are tourism (40%), fishing (35%), trading and selling handicrafts (15%), and agriculture (10%). Khmer families rely primarily on fishing, selling goods as mobile vendors at the Phu Tu site, and rice farming. Hoa families are primarily involved in commerce/trade. Binh Anh has 1 primary school, 1 secondary school and 1 healthcare station. More than half (55%) of households have access to piped water; 66% have their own latrines (pit or two chamber), and the remainder use temporary latrines.

- 97. Ba Trai Village was established in the 1980s. It covers 200 ha with a population of 2,924 people living in 669 households, of which 44% are ethnic Khmer. The village has a primary school but the nearest secondary school is 10 km away. The health station is 5 km from the village. The majority of the population has completed primary school but very few youth advance to secondary school, preferring instead to begin working to contribute to household income. Households have varied water sources: 30% have piped tap water provided by the public utility; 30% use a well, and 18% collect water from a nearby stream.
- 98. In terms of livelihood activity, approximately 18% of households in Ba Tri are involved in trading and tourism services. There are 97 are kiosks owners/renters operating at Phu Tu and 26 offer accommodation or tourist transportation services. Other livelihood activities include raising small animals (25%), rice farming (15%), and fishing (13%), with the remainder of households employed by the local food processing and construction industries. Approximately 150 Khmer women from the Ba Trai village supplement household income by selling food and beverages to tourists as mobile vendors at Phu Tu. The village has 10 poor households with income under D400,000/person/month.
- 99. Khmer households are less likely to have access to water and sanitation facilities due to their lower income levels. The focus group discussion indicated that Khmer families placed less priority on sending children to school and wanted their children to contribute to family income as soon as possible.
- 100. When asked to identify barriers to expanding their business or gaining permanent employment in the tourism industry, similar to the situation at the Da Dung Cave, Khmer women mentioned that their lack of business planning skills and difficulties in obtaining affordable credit were key constraints. The women also reported that they were sometimes discouraged to sell as mobile vendors by the site's security team.
- 101. A key issue regarding tourism development in Ba Trai is settlement of 14 household's (8 Khmer and 6 Kinh) outstanding claims for land acquired from them in 1998 to create the Phu Tu Tourism Site. Compensation for these 14 households is included as a corrective action in the resettlement plan that has been prepared for Kien Giang province.

# 3. Consultations during Subproject Design

102. Focus group discussions were held with Khmer people at both project sites in Kien Giang. At Da Dung Cave one focus group discussions was held with 12 Khmer women and 4 Khmer men on 13 August 2013. At Phu Tu consultations took place on 11 August 2013 with 7 Khmer men and 7 Khmer women in Ba Trai village. This was followed by a discussion with 3 Khmer women selling to tourists at Phu Tu. on the tourism site itself in the other group. The topics discussed were:

- The socio-economic situation of the population.
- ADB's social safeguards policies.

- The expected impacts of the subproject, including the project benefits and potential negative impacts such as temporary economic disruption during civil works construction.
- Participants views on the subproject, its impacts, and their recommendations on how to maximize benefits for the local Khmer population.
- Information about the past history of the land acquisition and the status of the pending claims.

103. The summary of the discussions is in Annex 1. All participants were in favor of the subproject, as some expressed concern that their income level was declining over the past few years. Some perceived that the number of tourists has declined since the collapse of the Father-Son rock structure<sup>5</sup> for which the site is famous. Others attribute fewer tourists and less tourist spending to the degradation of the environment, citing poor solid waste management and lack of sanitation as major problems. They also mentioned that the poor quality of the stalls built in an ad hoc fashion creates a negative impression for visitors. The key recommendations put forth during the meetings included:

- Improve public toilets, waste water treatment, and waste water management to improve the hygiene and environmental conditions at the site.
- Ensure that the Khmer population in Ba Trai is allowed to access the site to sell food and beverages. The Khmer in Ba Tri depend on this for income and if only people paying rents for shops are allowed to sell the villagers will not be able to benefit economically from the subproject.

104. Khmer women interviewees made it clear that it is important for them gain access to the site to sell products as mobile vendors and noted that Kien Giang Tourist Joint Stock Company (JSC) security guards have from time to time prevented the women from selling, or tried to extort payment for permission to sell at the site. With the provincial decision to revoke the JSCs management concession in 2014 and place management of the site under the direct authority of the Kien Giang DCST and District Office of Culture, Sports and Tourism, this issue will be addressed during project implementation by involving Khmer people in consultations to develop a destination management plan for Phu Tu, and ensuring that they are allocated permission and space to operate as mobile vendors at the improved facilities.

#### 4. Subproject Impacts

105. The main benefits and potential negative impacts that the subproject will have on Khmer ethnic minority groups in Kien Giang are presented in Table 20.

Table 20: Subproject Impacts in Kien Giang

	Table 20. Subproject illipacts il	i Men Glang
Output	Potential benefits	Potential Negative Impacts
Output 1: Last Mile Tourism Access		
Infrastructure Improved		
Dung Cave Access	Medium: An upgraded road	Low: Increased traffic creates noise
Improvements	provides Khmer households in My	and safety issues for settlements
,	Duc (80% Khmer) commune with	close to the road.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Phu Tu is famous for a twin rock formation which are considered 'father and son'. In 2007 the one of the formations collapsed.

Output	Potential benefits	Potential Negative Impacts
	better access to markets and social services.	
Output 2 Environmental Services in Cross Border Tourism Centers Improved:	High: Improved road brings more tourist traffic and more economic opportunities for Khmer men and women to sell food and beverages to tourists and gain employment in the tourism industry.  High: The Khmer population, in particular women, gain income from selling as mobile vendors. Sanitary conditions at the site are improved for vendors and tourists.	None: The subproject involves no land acquisition. Tourism is already present and the type and scale of increased tourism will not create negative impacts on ethnic minority heritage and culture.  Low: Some temporary economic disruption for shop owners during civil works construction. Mobile vendors will continue to be granted access to sell at the site during design,
Phu Tu Environmental Improvement	High: The project's resettlement plan assures that compensation for land acquired in 1998 is paid at current market prices acceptable to affected households.	construction, and operations phases of the subproject.
	High: Hoa traders and business owners will benefit from greater access to economic opportunities from increased tourism at the site.	
3. Institutional Capacity to Promote Inclusive Tourism Growth Strengthened	High: These activities are designed to engage local community members in tourism site management and enterprise development in culturally appropriate and inclusive ways. Ethnic minority community members will benefit from training in tourism planning, enterprise development, and hospitality services as well as awarenessraising in health, hygiene, safety, heritage conservation and avoidance of the negative impacts of tourism.	None: No negative impacts are anticipated from these activities.
4. Effective Project Implementation and Knowledge Management	Medium: The integration of the updating, implementation and monitoring of the EMDPs into the project's work plan will ensure benefits are realized and concerns of ethnic minority groups in project planning and cultural heritage protection are adequately addressed.	Low: The PCUs and PIUs will be promoting the country's ethnic diversity as a tourism asset in accordance with legal and policy directives. They will ensure that ethnic minority communities have an active role in planning activities that affect their cultural assets, land area, and local resources.

# 5. Beneficial Measures

106. Action 1: Support to strengthen community-based tourism activities in ethnic minority villages. The project will strengthen, and where needed establish, Community

Tourism Groups (CTG) that will have representation from the villages situated along the access road to Da Dung Cave and villages with vendors (both mobile and fixed) operating at Phu Tu. CTGs will (i) raise issues of concern among participating communities with the Kien Giang DCST; (ii) ensure that the concerns of the community are adequately reflected in the design and implementation of the project; (iii) assist in the implementation of community-based training and awareness programs; and, (iv) ensure that the community is involved in community-based monitoring and evaluation through participation in project review meetings. Specific actions to ensure that the concerns of ethnic groups are reflected in community tourism planning include:

- (i) All villages in subproject catchment areas will designate at least two members (one man and one woman) as focal point of their CTG. All ethnic groups present will be provided with assistance to strengthen, and establish where needed, CTGs;
- (ii) Villages with ethnic minorities will be consulted on the design of roads, parking areas, vendor kiosks and selling areas, and any other ancillary facilities;
- (iii) Ethnic minorities will contribute to the preparation of destination management plans for Phu Tu and Da Dung Cave;
- (iv) Business advisory services will help CTGs establish and manage revolving funds to support expansion of community-based tourism. In addition to support under output 3, a lump-sum amount is included for these activities in the EMDP budget.
- 107. **Responsibility for action.** PIUs will coordinate with villages to establish/strengthen CTGs under the guidance of the PCU safeguards officer and social safeguards consultants. PIU staff together with the social safeguards consultants will work closely with ethnic minority groups to develop destination management plans and associated annual activity plans and budgets. Project funds will be held by the PIU and disbursed based on the annual activity plans formed in consultation with CTG focal points and village leaders.
- 108. Action 2: Allocation of open areas in Phu Tu and Da Dung Sites for Khmer women to market food, beverages and other goods. One or two areas in each site will be designated as space for mobile vendors to sell their goods; this will be a covered open space with paved/tiled flooring and access to a water tap washing. The space will be open for Khmer women mobile vendors from Ba Tri and other surrounding villages to utilize on a first-come first serve basis. The concept is not to restrict the vendors to this area but to provide a hygienic and comfortable place to sell, or to prepare food/ clean dishes before/after circulating around the site.
- 109. To ensure that Khmer ethnic minority women benefit from the creating of more retail space, the following actions will be taken:
  - (i) The PIU will organize consultations on the design of the open sided area with Khmer women selling as mobile vendors to gain their inputs on the design of the facility;
  - (ii) Construction of areas that are covered but open-sided to accommodate mobile vendors:
  - (iii) Participatory consultations with ethnic minority men and women to discuss a system for registering the vendors to ensure they are granted open access to the site and charges for water, electricity, and sanitation, if any, are affordable;
  - (iv) Ensuring, through the CTGs, that (i) ethnic minority women are made aware of opportunities to obtain space/permission to sell at the sites; and (ii) interested

ethnic minority women are aware and given equal opportunity to enroll in output 3 training and business development activities.

- 110. **Responsibility for action.** The PIU Director, with support of the social safeguards consultants and civil engineers will ensure that the final design of the facilities are designed appropriately and any fees/permission to sell at the site are set at affordable levels for ethnic minority populations.
- 111. Action 3: Supplementary support for business planning and micro-enterprise development for ethnic minority group members: The ethnic minority population stands to benefit from increased tourist visits and the improved access road to the extent that they are able to develop micro-enterprises that generate revenues from tourists. The actions outlined below will ensure the local ethnic minority populations are able to benefit from the increased arrival of tourists and produce goods that meet the demands of visitors:
  - (i) As part of the activities planned under output 3, design and conduct training in business planning and microenterprise development (including hospitality, marketing handicrafts and other local products to tourists, hygiene, guiding, and food service), with separate classes for women; these classes will comprise ethnic minority participants proportional to the local population;
  - (ii) Provide ethnic minorities with training in hospitality services and how to sell to tourists. Assess ethnic minorities ability to communicate in the Vietnamese language, and if necessary, develop training materials and hand-outs in local languages, or using easily understood visual aids appropriate to the local context;
  - (iii) As part of the tourism value chain analysis planned in output 3, determine the most lucrative business opportunities for ethnic minority women, considering their existing skills and production capabilities, market demand, and training needs;
  - (iv) Assist CTGs establish/strengthen revolving funds to provide start-up capital for ethnic people wishing to open a tourism-related microenterprises such as home stay, food and beverage services, or handicraft shops.
  - (v) Conduct training in foreign languages such as English, French, and Chinese for ethnic minorities to further expand their opportunity to interact with and generate business from foreign tourists.
- 112. **Responsibility for action**. The tourism training specialists, value chain specialist, and micro- and small-enterprise development specialists together with PCU and PIU staff will develop training programs in these areas with guidance from the social safeguards consultants. The PCU safeguards officer will ensure (i) training materials and handouts are prepared using locally understood languages; (ii) that community facilitators from ethnic minority groups are trained provide follow-on coaching for women in microenterprise development after the training sessions are completed; and (iii) strengthening/establishment of revolving village funds. In addition to support under output 3, a lump-sum amount for these activities is included in the EMDP budget.
- 113. Action 4: Integration of ethnic minority representation in project management. In order to ensure the integration of ethnic considerations into overall project management, the following actions will be taken:
  - (i) A social safeguards officer and a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) focal person will be appointed in the PCU and PIU;

- (ii) Gender development specialists (international 3 months and national 12 months) and social safeguards specialists (international 4 months and national 12 months) will support the PCU and provincial project implementation teams;
- (iii) The EMDP will be updated during implementation based on the detailed design of civil works and information gained during stakeholder consultations;
- (iv) Ethnic minority representation in the PIUs will be of equal proportion to the percentage of ethnic minorities in the provincial population;
- (v) Representative(s) from the Youth Union or the Women's Union, and the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs will be invited to attend and participate in the national project steering committee and the provincial project steering committee meetings;
- (vi) Monitoring data will be disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, and income;
- (vii) All progress reports, internal or external, shall include a section which reports on the affects that the project is having on ethnic minority groups—both positive and/or negative.
- 114. **Responsibility for actions**: The PCU Director in coordination with the PIU Director in Kien Giang is responsible for implementation of the above actions.

#### 6. Mitigative Measures

- 115. The key concerns regarding negative impacts that could arise from the subproject are related to (i) road safety and noise from increased vehicle traffic; (ii) loss of local control over tourism development; and (iv) temporary economic disruption that could arise during the improvement of the access road or improvements to the tourist sites. Corrective actions for past acquisition of land, and compensation for temporary economic disruption are addressed in the Resettlement Plan. Problems arising due to increased tourism activity will be monitored but the risks are considered very low risk given that communities already considerable some experience with tourism, and the type and scope of the proposed culture and nature-based tourism are not likely to induce negative impacts in the project areas. Output 3 includes a number of actions that address potential negative impacts and promotes responsible tourism. The specific measures are highlighted in Box 7.
- 116. The process of regular consultation will be integrated into the project activities throughout implementation and will include the following actions:
  - (i) Provincial PIUs will request villages with ethnic minorities to designate focal points (with equal numbers of men and women and reflecting the ethnic minority population of the village) in the CTG. The CTG focal points will provide inputs to the PIUs and project consultants on the design of training and awareness raising programs;
  - (ii) Provincial PIUs will set up meetings with the District, Commune and Village Leaders, including the Women's Union, Youth Union representatives, and CTG members. The meetings will be held at project inception and then on a semi-annual basis to review project progress and ensure that all local officials and village leaders, including ethnic minorities, are fully aware and understand the project and its objectives. These meetings will review the status of tourism growth in the local area, whether the benefits are spread equitably across villages and ethnic groups, and determine if actions are needed to facilitate a more balanced distribution of benefits from tourism. These meetings will also identify if negative impacts are arising from tourism, health and safety issues,

- and the need to control any negative impacts from tourism growth. Law enforcement officials will be invited to the consultations if negative impacts such as human trafficking, child exploitation, or other illegal activities are taking place;
- (iii) The PIUs, with the support of district authorities, will convene meetings with CTGs on a quarterly basis to review project work plans and progress, and seek ethnic minority representatives' inputs into civil works design and construction schedules:
- (iv) The ethnic minority representatives of CTGs will provide a brief report on the affects of the project in their community, including reports on any negative impacts, communities views on corrective actions needed, and whether the community needs additional support in order to more fully benefit from project activities; and
- (v) Village-level consultations will be organized on an annual basis as part of project performance monitoring to review the past year's work program and results, ethnic minorities' views on the project's effectiveness, and the outcome of any corrective actions. In keeping with their role as community mobilizers, the Women's Union and Youth Union at the district level will support the organization of the consultations and ensure information on project activities is disclosed to all ethnic groups living in the project area.

#### Box 7: Promoting Responsible Tourism in Ethnic Communities

**Public Health and Safety Promotion Program.** To promote increased safety and wellbeing of tourists and residents, this activity will (i) conduct road safety awareness in communities living adjacent to project-supported road improvements; (ii) campaign to encourage wearing of helmets while operating motorbikes, and prevent driving while intoxicated; (iii) strengthen systems to ensure compliance with tourist transport vehicle safety and maintenance regulations; (iv) conduct food safety and sanitation awareness seminars targeting tourist accommodation providers, restaurants, and local markets; and (v) assist tourist site operators improve solid waste management (i.e. reduce, reuse and recycling programs) and access municipal waste collection services.

**Tourism Awareness Programs.** This activity will support information and education campaigns to raise awareness among key tourism stakeholders and the general population on the (i) economic and social benefits of responsible tourism practices; and (ii) the potential negative impacts of tourism mismanagement such as the degradation of cultural and natural heritage and spread of communicable diseases.

Heritage Protection, Management and Interpretation Program. This activity will facilitate (i) development of culture, nature and historic heritage protection measures such as heritage zoning and associated regulations; (ii) preparation of heritage management plans; (iii) heritage protection awareness campaigns; (iv) heritage guide training; and (v) heritage research and interpretation, including the development of heritage trails, signage, leaflets, guidebooks and maps.

**Program to Combat Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking.** This activity will build on existing country/regional efforts to map out the occurrence of child exploitation (including child sex and child labor) and human trafficking in the tourism industry, and incorporate measures in Destination Management Plans to help prevent and enforce laws against these crimes.

Source: Project Administration Manual.

#### IV. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE, CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION

117. Ethnic minorities living in project areas will be consulted on all subproject activities that can potentially affect them. Every attempt will be made to obtain their participation in (i) planning, designing, implementing, and monitoring measures to avoid adverse impacts or, when

avoidance is not possible, to minimize, mitigate, or compensate for such effects; and (ii) tailoring project activities to maximize benefits for affected ethnic minority communities. Box 8 summarizes the process of meaningful consultation that will be employed by the project implementation team.

- 118. The PCU will provide oversight to ensure that such consultations are held. The Provincial PIUs will be responsible for ensuring community participation through the CTG that will have ethnic representation and liaison persons from every concerned ethnic group. The PIU will set up regular meetings with District Leaders, Village Leaders, the Women's Union, and Youth Union to ensure that all the involved people are fully aware and understanding the project.
- 119. During detailed design and in the planning of training activities consultations will be held in every concerned ethnic minority village. It is crucial to invite all villagers to the meetings, and conduct separate meetings with vulnerable households (e.g. poor, having disabled family members, mobile vendors without assured access to tourist sites) to get their perspective on the project activities. The aim of the consultations is to properly inform all ethnic minorities about the project, its scope, implementation schedule and activities, as well as of expected impacts on the local community. The consultations will also serve as venue for ethnic minorities to express their concerns and feedback regarding project activities. These meetings will be scheduled to follow set milestones throughout the subproject phases.
- 120. To ensure full disclosure with ethnic minority groups, all communication concerning the project will take place using languages and communication media that are understandable to all participants. Public meetings will be organized in villages whenever possible. Information will be posted in central public locations such as the district and area offices, village information boards, and directly in households. Information will be pictorial when necessary in order to guarantee accessibility of the information for those with poor literacy skills.

#### **Box 8: What is Meaningful Consultation?**

According to the SPS (2009), meaningful consultation is a process that:

- Begins early in the project preparation stage and is carried out on an ongoing basis throughout the project cycle;
- Provides timely disclosure of relevant and adequate information that is understandable and readily available to affected people;
- Is undertaken in an atmosphere free of intimidation or coercion;
- Is gender inclusive and responsive, tailored to the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups; and
- Enables the incorporation of all relevant views of affected people and other stakeholders into decision making, such as project design, mitigation measures, the sharing of development benefits and opportunities, and implementation issues.

Source: ADB. 2009. Safeguard Policy Statement.

121. Stakeholders' opinions, including those of ethnic minorities, will be fully documented through minutes, attendance and photos taken at the meetings. All concerns will be recorded and brought into the project planning process and used during implementation to adjust project activities. The EMDP will be updated at the start of project implementation in parallel with the detailed design process, in order to ensure ethnic minority participation and updating of measures to address any changes or adjustments in the project. Any concerns, claims or grievances brought up in meetings or other consultations will be recorded in the same way. The draft and final EMDP will be disclosed at district and village public meetings that include all

relevant stakeholders. Women representing affected households must be present at the disclosure meetings. Copies of the draft and final updated EMDP, translated into the Vietnamese language and relevant ethnic minority languages will be available at the District offices and village leader's house.

- 122. Updating and dissemination of the EMDP is integral to the project's Stakeholder Communication Strategy, detailed on the Project Administration Manual. Key activities in the strategy that are designed to support updating, dissemination, and implementation of the EMDP include: (i) establishment, and regular consultation with, local ethnic focal points in subproject areas; (ii) community meetings in parallel with detailed infrastructure design; (iii) community consultations with ethnic minority groups on their needs and preferences; and (iv) joint meetings between officials, ethnic minority groups, project staff, and civil society/mass organizations on matters of ethnic participation in project initiatives.
- 123. Disclosure will also include posting on the ADB website as indicated in Table 21.

Table 21: Disclosure through the ADB website

Document	Stage
EMDP	Prior to staff review meeting
Updated EMDP	At project inception. Immediately after detailed designs completed
EMDP Monitoring Reports	Throughout project implementation

#### V. CAPACITY BUILDING

- 124. Capacity building for the DCSTs, Women's Union and members of the Youth Union in the project area is crucial for EMDP implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The PCU, with the support of the international and national social development and gender specialists will be responsible for undertaking necessary measures to strengthen the capacity of concerned local officials to effectively implement the EMDP. Capacity development activities will also target village leaders from all ethnic minorities, and the ethnic minority representatives of CTGs.
- 125. Capacity building for local officials shall focus on the social, legal, and technical capabilities which are necessary for EMDP implementation, monitoring and evaluation, as well as increasing knowledge on gender and social inclusion and the value of cultural diversity as a key asset for Viet Nam's tourism development. Capacity building for CTG members and village leaders shall focus on improving project management skills, ability to facilitating community meetings, and prepare brief verbal and written reports to document issues and other concerns of the communities. Capacity building shall be begin at project inception and continue throughout EMDP updating and implementation.
- 126. A detailed capacity building plan incorporating the issues and objectives outlined above will be prepared by the PCU and PIUs early in the project implementation cycle.

#### VI. GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

127. A two-track grievance redress mechanism will be put in place to handle both involuntary resettlement and issues affecting ethnic minorities. This is intended to ensure consistency in the project's approach to resolving grievances. Ethnic minorities will be made aware that they can at any time communicate with project management entities when they lack information about project activities and anticipated impacts; report any negative impacts not addressed by mitigative measures; or inform project managers about gaps in their inclusion in project benefits.

- 128. It is the responsibility of PIU Directors, together with Commune and District authorities and the Dien Bien, Kien Giang, and Lao Cai PPCs to help to resolve confusion, misunderstandings or problems that may arise as a result of the project. To ensure that all grievances of those affected by any aspect of the project are resolved in a timely and satisfactory manner, and that all avenues for airing grievances are available, detailed procedures for hearing and redressing grievances, including appeal processes, will be made public through an effective public information campaign accessible to all ethnic groups. The grievance redress procedure shall also be made available in the project's Public Information Booklet and explained to ethnic groups using ethnic minority languages.
- 129. Grievances related to any aspect of the project/subprojects will handled through negotiation aimed at achieving consensus. An aggrieved affected person (AP) or affected household (AH) will be free from any fees in connection with the lodging and resolution of complaints, as these will be borne by the EA.
- 130. Grievances redress mechanisms of the project (relating to both resettlement and indigenous people's) will follow Article 138 Land Law 2003; Law on complaint No. 02/2011/QH13; Article 63 and Article 64 of Government Decree 84/2007/NĐ-CP; Clause 2, Article 40 of Decree 69/2009, and the regulation on grievance in Government Decree 75/2012/NĐ-CP dated 20/11/2012.
- 131. Where complaints about administrative decisions or administrative acts regarding land management/ethnic affairs are settled for the first time by the People's Committees of rural districts, urban districts, provincial capitals or provincial towns, but the complainants disagree with the settlement decisions, they are entitled to initiate lawsuits at People's courts or continue to complain with the provincial/municipal People's Committees.
- 132. The statute of limitation for complaining about administrative decisions or administrative acts regarding land management will be ninety days (90) as from the date of receiving such administrative decisions or knowing about such administrative acts. In case the complainant is not able to appeal in accordance with the statute of limitations because of illness, natural disasters, sabotage, travel, distant learning or other objective obstacles, that time not included in the time limit for lodging.
- 133. According to Decree No. 75/2012/ND-CP dated 3 October 2012:
- i. Within 15 days from the decision to settle the complaint, those who are competent to settle the complaint are responsible for publication of decision on complaint settlement in one of the forms prescribed in Clause 2 of Article 41 of the Law on Complaints;
- ii. In case of publication of the decision at the meeting, the meeting participants must include the person who makes the decision to resolve the complaint; the complainant or his/her representatives; and concerned agencies, organizations and individuals. Before conducting the public meetings the person that is competent to settle complaints must send notice to the concerned agencies, organizations and individuals. The advance notice period should be three days in advance;
- iii. The notice of the decision on announcing settlement of complaints on the mass media is radio, television, print and electronic press. Persons who are competent to settle complaints are responsible for choosing the type of media to make the announcement. In case the agency or person who is competent to settle complaints has established an e-portal or electronic information page, it must be publicized on that e-portal or electronic information

- page. The number of times the decision is to be publicized on the radio is at least 2 times; on television at least 2 times; by print at least 2 times. If posting on the internet or on an electronic information page, it should be posted for at least 15 days from the date of notification; and
- iv. When the decision is posted in offices of organizations that have resolved the complaints, decisions shall be posted for at least 15 days from the date of notification.
- 134. Grievance redress can be summarized in the steps set out below:
- 135. First Stage: Commune People's Committee. An aggrieved affected household may bring his/her complaint to any member of the Commune People's Committee, either through the Village Chief or directly to the CPC, in writing or verbally. It is incumbent upon said member of CPC or the village chief to notify the CPC and PIU Director about the complaint. The CPC will and PIU Staff will meet personally with the aggrieved affected household and will have 30 days (or 45 days for complicated case) following the lodging of the complaint to resolve it (in remote and mountainous areas or complicated case, the complaint should be resolved within 45 or 60 days, respectively). The CPC secretariat is responsible for documenting and keeping a file of all complaints that it handles.
- 136. Upon issuance of the decision of the CPC, the affected household can make an appeal within 30 days (45 days for mountainous area). If the second decision has been issued and the household is still not satisfied with the decision, the affected household can elevate his/her complaint to the DPC.
- 137. **Second Stage: District People's Committee.** Upon receipt of the complaint from the household, the DPC will consult with the PIU Director and have 45 days (or 60 days for complicated case) and 60 days for remote and mountainous areas (or 70 days for complicated case) following the lodging of the complaint to resolve the case. The DPC is responsible for documenting and keeping a file of all complaints that it handles.
- 138. Upon issuance of the decision of the DPC, the affected household can make an appeal within 30 days. If the second decision has been issued and the affected household is still not satisfied with the decision, the affected household can elevate his/her complaint to the PPC.
- 139. **Third Stage: Provincial People's Committee.** Upon receipt of the complaint from the affected household, the PPC will consult with the PIU Director have 45 days (or 60 days for complicated case) and 60 days for remote and mountainous areas (or 70 days for complicated case) following the lodging of the complaint to resolve the case. The PPC is responsible for documenting and keeping a file of all complaints
- 140. Upon issuance of the decision of the PPC, the affected household can make an appeal within 30 days if they disagree. If the second decision has been issued and the affected household is still not satisfied with the decision, the affected household can elevate his/her complaint to the court within 45 days.
- 141. **Final Stage, the Court of Law Arbitrates.** Should the complainant file his/her case to the court and the court rules in favor of the complainant, then the PIU will have to increase the compensation at a level to be decided by the court. In case the court will rule in favor of PPC, then the complainant will receive compensation approved by PPC.
- 142. The affected people will be provided with support and assistance by locally based organizations, in case they have limited capacity or in case they have questions or complaints.
- 143. If efforts to resolve complaints or disputes are still unresolved and unsatisfactory following the project's grievance redress mechanism, the households have the right to send their concerns or problems directly to ADB's Southeast Asia Department (SERD) or through ADB

Viet Nam Resident Mission. If the households are still not satisfied with the responses of SERD, they can directly contact the ADB's Office of the Special Project Facilitator as outlined in the Information Guide to the Consultation Phase of the ADB Accountability Mechanism.

144. The grievance redress mechanism will be continuously disseminated to by the PIU during project implementation. The project grievance procedure does not impede access to the court at any time.

#### VII. MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

145. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the EMDP will be built into the Project Performance Monitoring System (PPMS), to be developed during the first year of project implementation. EMDP monitoring will (i) ensure that the ethnic minorities have been engaged in the project activities and community meetings outlined in the Consultation and Participation Plan (CPP) are being conducted; (ii) assess the quality and timeliness of ethnic minority support programs; (iii) identify problems; and (v) formulate appropriate responses. EMDP monitoring will be consistent with the project's Design and Monitoring Framework. Quarterly progress reports will provide periodic updates on EMDP and CPP implementation and the effect of the project on ethnic minority groups. The midterm evaluation will consider past updates and make adjustments to the PPMS, as required. All monitoring data and reports will contain information disaggregated by sex and ethnicity. The framework for monitoring the EMDP is summarized in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: EMDP Monitoring Framework** 

Event	Objectives	Location	Timing	Responsible
Project Inception Workshops	<ul> <li>Disseminate the EMDP widely.</li> <li>Obtain inputs from APs for EMDP updating.</li> </ul>	All target provinces, districts, and villages in project catchment areas with ethnic minorities.	Q1 and Q2 following loan effectiveness.	PCU and PIUs.
Ad-hoc village consultations	<ul> <li>Disseminate the updated EMDP</li> <li>Obtain community feedback on EMDP implementation.</li> </ul>	All target provinces, districts, and villages in project catchment areas with ethnic minorities.	As required.	CTG focal points & PIUs.
Quarterly reports on EMDP implementation	Assess compliance with the EMDP, timeliness and quality of ethnic minority support programs, recommend response to problems identified.	Field data compiled and reports prepared in PIU and PCU offices.	Each quarter, for integration with EA consolidated progress reports to the Government and ADB.	PCU and PIUs.
ADB semi- annual monitoring missions	Assess compliance with EMDP. Provide guidance to resolve any implementation or compliance issues.	Field visits to project sites with ethnic minorities. Meetings with PCU and PIUs.	Two missions per year.	ADB, PCU and PIUs.
Annual PSC meetings	<ul> <li>Assess progress and compliance with the EMDP.</li> <li>Provide policy guidance and advice on EMDP implementation issues.</li> </ul>	Provincial PPC or MCST Offices.	Annually or adhoc if project is not complying with EMDP.	MCST and PPCs.

AP = affected persons; CPP = consultation and participation plan; CTG = community tourism group; EMDP = ethnic minority development plan; MCST = Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism; PCU = project coordinating unit; PIU = project implementation unit; PPC = Provincial People's Committee; PSC = Provincial/National Steering Committee meetings.

#### VIII. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 146. Sound implementation of the EMDP will be the responsibility of the Director of the PCU and Director of each PIU. The Directors will assign at least one member of the PCU and PIU to be responsible for social safeguards implementation, including this EMDP. The safeguards officers from the PCU and PIUs, with the support of the consultants, Women's Union, Youth Union, and CTG focals will implement EMDP activities. Implementation of the EMDP will be integrated into the overall project management structure as described in the Project Administration Manual.
- 147. Consultants to be engaged to support the PCU and PIU implement the EMDP and other social safeguards comprise an International Social Safeguards Specialist (3 months), National Social Safeguards Specialist (12 months), International Gender Specialist (4 months) and National Gender Specialist (12 months). The PCU will appoint a safeguards coordinator to coordinate and monitor the EMDP and RPs in each province. The consultant safeguards specialists will work closely with other consultants to integrate measures to address ethnic minority participation into the project's annual work plans. The terms of reference for other consultants working under output 3 such as Tourism Training Specialists and Micro- and Small-Enterprise Development Specialists include provisions to ensure that the project benefits ethnic minority groups.
- 148. The PIU will work with the District Office of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Management Committees, Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs, and CTG members at each subproject site to ensure that implementation of the EMDP stays on track. CTG representatives, with training and support from the national Social Safeguards Specialist and the PIU, will hold community consultation meetings shortly after project inception and regular progress review meetings during implementation to ensure the community is involved in the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the EMDP. The outcomes of the regular community consultations will be summarized and fed into the projects quarterly progress reports. The EMDP implementation structure is presented in Figure 2. Solid arrows represent reporting relationships; hashed lines represent coordinating relationships.

**MCST Executing Agency (EA)** ADB Project Coordination Unit (PCU) Safeguards Officer (SO) DCST **Provincial Implementing Agency** (PIU) **Project Management & Design** Safeguards Officer Consultant (PMDC) (SO) Social Safeguards Specialists (International & National) **District Office of Community Tourism Groups-**Culture, Sports and **CTGs** (with ethnic minority representation) **Tourism Mass Organizations** e.g. Women's Union and Youth 44 Union

**Figure 2: EMDP Implementation Framework** 

#### IX. BUDGET

149. The project's main benefits to ethnic minority groups will arise from the proposed infrastructure improvements and capacity building to be provided under output 3, which are included in the estimated project costs to be financed by the ADB loan. A budget for additional meetings and consultations, capacity/asset development specifically targeting ethnic minority groups, and the publication of training and awareness raising materials for ethnic minority groups have been specifically earmarked in the EMDP budget below, to be financed by the ADB loan. The EMDP budget will be administered by the PIU in close coordination with CTG focals and representatives of the Women's Union and Youth Union in each participating province. Planning and budgeting for EMDP implementation will be integrated into preparation of the project's annual work plan and budget.

**Table 22: Budget for EMDP Implementation** 

No.	Item	Unit	Quantity	Amount (\$)	Total (\$)
1	Consultation sessions			(+)	(+/
1.1	District	Session	10	250	2,500
1.2	Village	Session	10	150	1,500
1.3	District, WU, YU per diems travel	Pers. Day	100	10	1,000
2	Community Tourism Group				
2.1	Meetings on ethnic minority group issues	Session	30	150	4,500
2.2	Ethnic minority group representative travel costs/allowance	Pers/Day	300	10	3,000
3	Livelihood / Capacity Development Funds				
3.1	Ethnic minority Group Supplementary Fund - Training, Inputs	\$15,000/ Province	3	15,000	45,000
3.3	Awareness materials in ethnic minority languages / visuals	Lump-Sum	3	2,500	7,500
4	Capacity Development				
4.1	Capacity development on EMDP - local officials	Event	6	500	3,000
4.2	Capacity development - Village leaders, CTG	Event	6	500	3,000
5	Implementation support				
5.1	Update EMDP - meetings, travel	LS	1	1500	1,500
5.2	Monitoring - meetings, travel	Annual	5	500	2,500
	Total				75,000

# X. SCHEDULE

150. An indicative schedule for EMDP implementation is provided below.

**Table 23: EMDP Implementation Schedule** 

				implementation Schedule																	
NO.				YE	AR 2			YEA	<b>AR 3</b>			YEA	AR 4			YE	AR 5				
	Quarter	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1	Update EMDP																				
2	Support for strengthening tourism capacity							ı						ı			ı	ı			
3	Support for business planning & micro-enterprise development																				
4	Support for livelihood development in ethnic minority group villages																				
5	Integration of ethnic minority group inclusion in project management																				
6	Ongoing consultation and meetings with ethnic group villages and representatives																				
7	Capacity building for local officials, ethnic minority CTG representatives, and the CTG																				
8	Monitoring (quarterly) including community level progress review meetings																				
9	Semi-Annual Reporting																				

#### ANNEX 1: MINUTES OF CONSULTATIONS DURING PROJECT PREPARATION

#### **CONSULTATIONS IN DIEN BIEN PROVINCE**

Date: 21 August 21 2013

Participants:

- Focus Group Discussion with ethnic minority household (HH) representatives (21 people including 15 men and 6 women) in the office of Muong Phang National Tourism Site Management Board.
- Interview the key informant: Mr. Hoang Quy deputy head of Ethnic Minority Committee of Dien Bien province;
- President of Women's Union (WU) of Dien Bien province.
- Head of Muong Phang National Tourism Site Management Board, Mr. Lo Van Hoang.
- Socioeconomic survey (SES) interviewed 17 village chiefs located along road to be upgraded and 3 chiefs of residential block 4, 5, 6 of Thanh Truong commune where De Castries Bunker is located.

#### Summary of demographic and socioeconomic information

- Muong Phang national tourism site command headquarters of the Vietnamese forces during the Dien Bien Phu campaign lies in a primeval forest in Muong Phang commune, Dien Bien district, approximately 27 km to the north east of Dien Bien City by road and 10km by air. The road proposed to be upgraded is the road connecting Him Lam ecotourism site (belonging to Dien Bien Phu city) to Muong Phang commune (belonging to Dien Bien district). The road is formerly located within Muong Phang commune. However, early of 2013, Muong Phang was divided into 03 communes of Ta Leng (belonging to Dien Bien Phu city); Pa Khoang and Muong Phang. Along the road there are 17 villages of ethnic minorities with unique traditional culture and variety of agricultural products and handicrafts beloved by tourist.
- Dien Bien Provincial Cultural Exchange and Tourist Information Center proposed to be constructed is located at De Castries Bunker the command headquarters of the French forces and within Dien Bien Phu city. The entire site belongs to Thanh Truong ward with 3 adjacent residential block No. 4, 5 and 6.

### **Ta Leng Commune**

- Area of Ta Leng commune is 1,537.27 ha with 3 residential blocks. Population of Ta Leng is 1,050 people with 249 HHs. Number of women-headed HHs is 10.
- The ethnicities represent 91.6% (228 HHs), with Hmong people of 80 HHs, accounting for 32.1%, Kho Mu people of 87 HHs, i.e. 34.9%, Thai people of 60 HHs, i.e. 24.1%. The remaining is Kinh people. The average income per capita of the commune in 2012 is D 625,000/month. The number of poor HHs is 50 out of 249 HHs, in which 49 HHs are ethnic minority HHs. The economic structure is 100% of agriculture (rice, crops, cattle husbandry and forest planting). The commune has health-care station but temporarily and poor equipped. The commune is connected to the electric grid.
- Lack of tap water. Local people mostly use stream water. About 30% of HHs has private latrines. The commune has 1 primary school. All villages have roads connecting the commune's centre and can be travelled in all seasons. There is not any tourism facility.
- 85% of women and 95% of men are literate.

#### Pa Khoang Commune

• Area of commune: 702.27 ha with 21 villages. Population of 4,151 people with 911 HHs. The number of ethnic monitory HHs is 909, accounting for 99.8% of population. The Thai

- people account for 62.1% (557 HHs= 2,578 people); Hmong people accounts for 0.7% (6 HHs = 28 people), the Kho Mu people account for 37.1% (346 HHs=1,542 people). The average income per capita is D450,000/month/person. This income shows that Pa Khoang is a poor commune.
- The commune has 2 primary schools and no health-care station. The commune has 4 guest houses/motels for tourists. However, not many of tourists stay here and rent accommodation services because the Muong Phang road has to be upgraded. The tourists often go by tour to visit to historic relics within the day and return.

# **Muong Phang Commune**

- Area of 3,465.29 ha with 26 villages. Population of 4,671 people with 1,002 HHs. Thai people accounts for 77.09%; Hmong people accounts for 19.9%, Kinh people account for 2.9%. The number of poor HHs is 610, i.e. 60.87% of population. Agriculture makes up 96.34% of economic structure, the remaining is small business.
- The commune has 2 primary schools, 1 secondary school and 1 high school, 1 health-care center. 24 out of 26 villages have connected to electricity.

#### Than Truong Ward

- Area of 601.92 ha with 11 residential blocks and 6 villages. Number of HHs is 1,331 with 5,043 members. Number of ethnic minority HHs is 420, with 1,725 members. 60.1% of the population is ethnic people. Thai people accounts for 31.4% and the remaining are Hmong, Nung, Muong, Kho Mu, Si La, La Hu, Hoa, Sinh Mun people.
- Number of poor HHs is 29 (2.2%). Average income is D 15.5 million/year/person = D 1,291.000/month/person. 17 of the poor HHs are ethnic minority HHs.
- Economic structure of ward: Agriculture 14%; tourism 48%, handicraft 38%.
- The ward has 1 primary school, 1 secondary school, 1 health-care station and 1 local poly clinic.
- There are 23 small enterprises.

#### **State Support Programs**

- According to Mr. Hoang Quy, deputy head of ethnic minority committee of Dien Bien province, all three commune are located along Muong Phang road, are the poor communes under the poverty line and eligible for Program No. 135. In 2012, each commune received D 1 billion for infrastructure investment budget; fresh water supply project (construction of reservoir, water system from upstream to the residential HHs through primary filtering system). From 2013, an equivalent of D 1.5 billion will be supported to every commune.
- In term of village people's life, according to the Decision No. 102 of Prime Minister, each person of HHs receives D25,000 per year on average for iodine salt; 5kg of powdered soup and D100,000 for hybrid corn seeds.
- The state supports budget for construction of cultural house. Since 2012, by Decision of Prime Minister and Ministry of Education, Hmong and Thai children are taught Hmong and Thai language. Hmong language books are authored by Ministry of Education and Thai language is authored by Department of Education of Dien Bien.

#### **Key Discussion Points**

- Gender relationship (information from interviews of women and men of Muong Phang commune, 22 Thai people including 14 men and 8 women)
- In HHs, women still do almost housework such as cooking, washing, going shopping, taking water, etc. In production activities, men often do plowing. Women do transplanting and take care of rice field.

- Women often participate in meetings and training course in community. Men often take care of family affairs such ancestor worship and death anniversary.
- Men are considered playing decisive role in household. Boys are preferred over girls. Nowadays young couples often stop at 2 children.
- When getting marriage, daughters do not automatically inherit parent's property like son but just receive some gifts such as clothes, furniture from their parents. However, many women think that the current marriage status has more progress and equality than before. The phenomenon of family violence is no longer as popular as before. Nowadays, women get more involved in family's discussion and decision.
- Land-use certificate is often registered by household owner, often by name of the men. The commune has not transferred procedure to the land-use certificate (red book) registration by both husband and wife.
- Difficulty of the ethnic monitory women:
  - Limited education, many people cannot speak Kinh language (Vietnamese) because family cannot afford children's schooling.
  - o Poor living condition, the women have to work much harder, less leisure time.
  - o Poor quality travelling condition, women cannot go further to do business.
  - Storms, floods occur frequently, precarious life
- There are 2 opinion groups for living condition. One thought that the living condition is better than 5 years ago but not so much. The second one thinks that the living conditions have not any changed due to inflation, price increase.
- Muong Phang has a market but just a few people go to market for sale and purchase because they live by self-providing products. However, some HHs, who produce surplus crops and livestock, often bring their products to Dien Bien Phu City for trading. Thus, travelling is their essential demand.

### - Awareness of local people and commune's authorities on proposed subprojects

• Except for Mr. Lo Van Hoang–leader of Muong Phang national tourism site management team, no one else knows about the subproject prior to the consultation.

#### - Subproject's benefits

- All members of FDGs think that the investments of SP will benefit community. Construction of tourism information centre is also good. The increase of number of tourists will promote economic development and employment opportunities.
- Construction and upgrading of roads also benefit the people of other communes. They
  need to travel. The subproject also help create improvements of people's livelihoods by
  increase of goods exchange and convenient travelling; the tourists have convenient
  travelling condition, have rest stops for sight-seeing (terraced fields, ecological forest, etc.)
  and can visit goods in community market.
- Help women easy in travelling, children going to school conveniently even by bike, motorbike or on foot.
- To go to markets in Dien Bien city, we often go by motorbike. In the dry season (from January to April) travelling is quite easy. In the wet season (from May to August) it's extremely difficult. There is thick mud and potholes, men feel difficulty to drive not mention the women. The upgraded road will help us so much in travelling, facilitating women to do business. Tourists will come here much more easily (interviewed man of FGD).
- Faster health-care emergency and rescue.
- Exploit more tourism potential of localities, attracting tourists.
- Connect tourism sites throughout province in a continuous tourism cycle, so that the tourists can visit various destinations. Presently, tourist visiting De Castries Bunker often

- have wish to visit Muong Phang tourism site but the poor travelling condition sometimes restrict them.
- Create employment opportunities for community, promote economic development. The
  ethnicities of Dien Bien province have chances to develop some tourism services such as
  cuisine with local foods of forests and brocade products (weaving, making cushions,
  embroidered skirts and clothes). The developed tourism-related activities will make the
  positive impacts on the above.
- Currently, due to bad traffic road, the tourists to site and goods exchange activities are restricted. "We are so glad if the access road to Muong Phang national tourism site is upgraded. We wish for the investment from the State".
- The poverty reduction and tourism development of Dien Bien has close relationship. Investment in road upgrading has good effects on poverty reduction of local people.

#### - Negative impacts

- Some HHs located along the access road to Muong Phang site may have land, house, assets and trees affected, however, not large. In some alignment bending points, if the design is not paid suitable attention, some HHs may be seriously affected. The HHs are renting places in De Castries Bunker (Thanh Truong ward) or in Muong Phang tourism site (Muong Phang commune) may be affected in livelihoods because stop of business if the management board won't facilitate re-renting the business stalls.
- Women are mostly the vendors in tourism sites. If they have to stop business, they will be directly affected and their families accordingly.
- The good road however may rise risk of traffic accidents if the adults and children are not aware of or don't comply with the traffic rules. "The ethnic minority people have just known how to drive the motorbike without any awareness of traffic rules. They drive in the way that they want, this may increase the risk of traffic accidents which are dangerous for themselves and others" (chief of village Phang 3).
- "Developed tourism may increase prostitution. Criminals may find it easier to disrupt public security. The increased number of tourists also make volume of waste increased which needs the proper treatment method so as not to pollute the people's living environment" (Head of residential block 6 Thanh Truong ward).
- The construction of will have temporary impact on travelling of people due to materials and construction schedule. If the construction duration is prolonged, it will make significant impacts on living of HHs along the road.
- The business HHs at centre of Muong Phang commune may be affected due to temporary stop of business. Women will likely impacted by loss or reduced area of business places.
- Conflicts may occur between construction labor and local people. This has happened already in Phang village/Bua village between residents with road workers.

#### Community's experience with tourists.

- Generally, people has positive experiences with tourists. They are considered polite and want to visit and learn about local history and relics. Tourist's coming will promote local economic development.
- People think that Dien Bien has many things to introduce to tourists, firstly the historical relics such as De Castries Bunker, A1 hill, Him Lam hill, Muong Phang command headquarters. Some others like local food of Thai, Hmong people and others ethnicities. The third is majestic mountain scenery of Dien Bien.

# Willingness of the Community

• The construction and upgrading of road should be implemented as soon as possible so local people and tourists can benefit.

- In past years, the road has been repaired many times for damage due to rains, storms, flood and landslides. "We would like to propose the Management Board pay reasonable attention to controlling and checking work's quality, because the road will bear high load of coaches and weather conditions. Work maintenance should be done after completion to avoid quick downgrading" (Deputy head of ethnic minority committee; head of Muong Phang site management board).
- Should pay attention to construction duration and prevent dust, construction disposals
  affect working environment and travelling of people. "We would like to propose that the
  management board control construction status to ensure it won't make serious impacts on
  people' living condition".
- Facilitate women to sell goods in tourism site: "We wish that the tourist sites after completion will have selling places for us" (woman in Muong Phang site).

#### Community's capacity building and tourism promotion requests

- There should be support actions from the State's tourism development agencies to make a plan for community tourism development.
- "Dien Bien tourism has much potential but is less developed because the service is simple and less diversified. If there is not the guidance and supports for development, local people will do business spontaneously. The high potential needs chance to develop" (Deputy head of ethnic minority committee).
- Create favorable conditions for poor HHs, especially ethnic minority women to have stalls on tourism site. If not, the subproject won't benefit the poverty reduction for people.
- Training/guidance on community tourism products for women in villages: "We would like to learn more about "home stay" service like in Lao Cai to have more attractive tourism activities" (a woman focus group)
- Training to increase awareness of people and tourists on environment protection and maintaining tourism landscape. "If the people are not aware of protection of environment and historical relics, upgrading of the tourism site will become meaningless".
- Arrange the traffic rules training course to local people.

#### **Group recommendations**

- Improvement of road and electricity infrastructure to facilitate economic growth.
- "The current electric system is 2-phase system, it restricts us doing everything. We wish to be supported in investment of 3-phase system, then people can invest kinds of machines, rice mills, sawmills to have new employment opportunities to gain more income" (a man of FDG).
- Support to build the cultural house for villages.
- "Currently there is not cultural house. Once there is the community activity such as meeting or discussions have to take place in private house of village chief".
- The land area for cultural house construction is available but lack of budget. A cultural house with area of 200 m<sup>2</sup> costs approximate D 600 million on average.
- Public information about the project implementation plan (road upgrading and information centre) should be provided to people for monitoring.

#### **CONSULTATIONS IN LAO CAI PROVINCE**

Subjects of qualitative interviews: 11 July 2013

Participants:

- President of Lao Cai WU
- Staff of Committee on Ethnic Minorities
- President of WU of Ta Phin commune Ms. Ly May Pham
- President of WU of Sapa district Ms. Ha Thi Lan
  - Director of Lao Cai International Tourist Joint Stock Company (located in Pho Moi ward, Lao Cai city) – Mr. Hoang Van Tuyen
- Director of a private hotel in Sapa Mr. To Ba Hieu

26 August 26 2013 Focus Group Discussions with ethnic groups of Ta Phin commune held in office of Ta Phin People's Committee (21 persons, 11 men and 10 women)

#### Information about socio-economic conditions.

- Number of HHs: 566 =2,996 people (Hmong people: 312 HHs; Dao people: 211 HHs; Kinh people: 43 HHs). Number of poor HHs under poverty line of MOLISA accounts for 162 HHs; number of poor women-headed HHs is 7.
- The commune has 1 primary school, divided into 6 divisions, 0 1,000m<sup>2</sup> health-care centre.
- There is one market under construction in the commune's centre.
- The commune has 1 association established by women to produce traditional brocade goods. This association has been supported by many international and local NGOs in vocational training and English training. The person in charge of this association is the former president of commune WU. Presently, its products have been purchased by Craft Link organization to sell for foreign tourists in Hanoi. However, income of women working here reaches only D 5 million per month.
- The main income is derived from agriculture such as rice, corn farming and vegetables, cardamom planting. Cardamom is the type of plants which brings the highest income with price at D 130,000/kg for dried fruits to the Chinese for making medicine.
- Rice is farmed only one season per year because of lack of water. Rice is farmed from January to August. In winter, people plants vegetables in gardens. Fields are left fallow to lack of water. Rice is enough for family's consumption but not for sale.
- In two recent years, some HHs have planted orchids which brings the high income, for example 20 orchids pots can gain D 20 million
- Beside agriculture, the HHs also farm goats, chickens, pigs, cattle. Acipenser (type of Salmon) is farmed in Ban Khoang village.
- Dao and Hmong women know weaving and embroidering primarily serving the family. The household do weaving also manufacture a number of products to sell to tourists. Number of households serve tourist through "home stay" service and sale of brocade goods is 18 out of 566 households.
- How are the poor supported by State's preferential policies? Children are exempted from school fees; provide health insurance policy. The poor are also granted rice and fertilizer. The average income of the poor is very low at D 250,000 per month.
- According to president of commune, approximate 50% of women is literate because almost them completed the fourth class education (of primary school). The parents themselves think that education will help nothing to their girls and "often force their girls to quit school for making sale" (said president of Sapa's WU). Moreover, the children don't like going to school.
- Rate of literacy of men is 90%.

#### **Gender relationships**

- Women do most of the household chores, men do not share but entrust completely women with it, especially Hmong women.
- Dao women are more active and have better earning capacity and thus make their voice much heard. Dao women can make money from selling forest leaves for medicinal bathing. They are the passed on by parents the recipes of remedies which are handed down from generation to generation.
- Violence against women is common in Hmong people families when men are drunk (quoting many people in the focus group). There is a fairly common preference for boys. Child marriage takes place commonly, although there is quite a lot of the propaganda from WU and commune government to prevent this.
  - Pho Moi ward in Lao Cai city where the tourist centre is expected to be constructed
- Population: 11,173 people = 3,017 HHs. 557 HHs 18.5% are ethnic minority Giay, Hoa and Hmong people.
- In residential block No. 24 with population of 237 people = 65 HHs, there are only 5 ethnic minority HHs.
- 8 HHs have businesses, 25 HHs do services of accommodations/tourist transportation; 23 HHs are Government staff; the remaining do various jobs. The block has no poor HHs.

#### Information about subproject

 Only the leaders of Ta Phin commune are informed about the subproject through official channels, i.e. meetings with Sapa District and Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism. Otherwise, local people did not have information about project before consultations. Some women said that they thought there was going to be a project because of seeing foreign consultant team coming for work, but no other details.

# In your view, will this Subproject be beneficial for tourism development in this area? Ta Phin-Ban Khoang Rural Access Road Improvements and Lao Cai Cultural Exchange and Tourism Information Centre SP:

- Interviewees highly supported these projects. When being about benefits the interviewees mentioned:
- The existing road is seriously downgraded, causing difficulty in travelling for both local people and tourists, thus, the investment will benefit all subjects travelling.
- The information centre will be a highlight of Lao Cai city to the tourists and facilitate arrangements and organization of tourist activities for tourists (said the director of tourist company).
- Encourage tourists to visit tourist destinations throughout province thanks to information they get about those destinations.
- Good arrangement and organization will satisfy tourists.

# What people or groups of people will benefit from the subprojects Why and How? How about the poor?

- The local authority will benefit from SP because the increased number of tourists will drive economic development and promote production in response to demand. It also creates a more comprehensive developed face for the commune.
- Community will benefit from increase of number of tourists thanks to more income gained and production increased.
- If the road is upgraded, it will connect 3 villages, people in the further villages will highly benefit. The upgraded road will also facilitate tourist travel to remote villages to discover natural caves and cultural life of local community or enjoy services such as medicine bathing

- of Dao people. The women also have chances to participate into production of tourists goods.
- Women will benefit from the subproject. "Currently, each time going to market for sale of vegetables and goods, we face much difficulties due to the poor condition in places (e.g. near old monastery on Sapa Ta Phin road), we always call for help from others to push the bicycles. Thus, the local women are really waiting for this new road".
- The poor also benefit from the subproject because they can be involved in production of goods, tourist activities or other employment such as motor taxi or porter. The trading exchanges then become more easily. A Dao farmer in Xeng village said "We plant orchids to sell to tourists and people during Tet festival. If the access road to village is available, guests can approach the village by car, the number of buyers will increase and products will be transported easier"
- Children also benefit. Currently, to the schools are located far from villages, the children have to go by bike (sunny season) and on foot (rainy season), so the upgraded road will help them travel easier.
- We wish the project will be soon implemented.

# Concerns of people during construction

• In Ta Phin almost has no concerns on environment, just worry about travelling condition during construction because obstacles of rock and materials.

# The things they want to introduce to tourists:

- The living custom and habits of the indigenous people
- Markets of highland region
- Natural mountainous landscape

#### **Concerns after construction**

- Increase of trafficking of women
- President of WU of Sapa district estimated that the increased number of tourists also brings some negative impacts such as increase of trafficking of women. Sapa district is currently a hotspot of trafficking of women. In 2012, there were 108 women sold to traffickers. In the first 6 months of 2013, there were already 40 women and girls trafficked. Up to now, only 2 persons have come back. The WU of district has done a lot of advocacy programs for parents and young girls on this issue by the media program, inviting fraud victims to speak at meetings to help women aware of ploys of traffickers.
- "The ethnic minority girls like the Hmong people are very honest and gullible. In love and sexual relationships, they live more "openly" than the Kinh people (easy to have sexual relationship) because they are not bound by the concept of "virgin". The bad guys often pretend to be tourists and trick ethnic girls by love affairs or taking tours together. Parents of girls are often very honest believing that those guys can help their girls have more wealthy life. That is such simple way they fall for trafficking tricks" (said Ms. Ha Thi Lan, president of Sapa district WU).
- In Ta Phin village, the participants confirm that Sa Xeng village had 6 women tricked and sold by Hmong woman from Bac Ha (a district in Lao Cai). "The commune and village, WU and security team has reminded families that: Parent should not let their girls hang out with strangers and not listen to seduction about doing business or living in another place". Almost Women sold are Hmong people not yet any Dao people.
- · Girls quit school because they are tired of farming
- The girls often quit school early because they prefer to selling and tour guiding to gain income. Some are forced by their parent to earn money. Some women are tired of farming because trading brings higher income.

#### Requests and proposed solutions

- If the road is constructed, the first priority should be taken to control safety during construction and limiting impact on people's travelling.
- Should pay attention to the poor HHs and help them do business at the information centre site
  - By priority level, the items selected by people include:
- Improvement of road so that tourist cars and coaches can access into commune and local people can travel easily (the most important);
- Drinking water (secondly important): The State supported the crowded-populated areas with water from upstream. People of the sparsely populated areas have to take water far from their home. Depending on distance, the average cost to comment to the public water supply is approximately D 2 million. This is not affordable;
- Village's people wish for a centre market to do business. Before, they have to come to Sapa town to sell as mobile vendors but this is now forbidden, thus a market is wish of almost all people (thirdly important);
- o There should be irrigation to fields (to add water for seasons of crops and rice);
- Electricity. Approximate 70% of population is served by . Currently, some villages far from the district centre are lacking electricity. Sa Xeng village is located only 1.5km far from the centre but still lacking of electricity because the people cannot afford it.
  - -To promote community development, the following solutions are summarized from ideas of interviewees and the focus group discussion in Lao Cai (director of motel, tourist operator, Sapa WU, Chairman of Ta Phin commune, the FDG):
- Exploiting potential of Sapa by encouraging eco-tourism, developing business activities with keeping the local identity such as medicine leaves bathing of Dao people, products of traditional brocade and other goods for tourist's taste;
- Help more remote villages link handicraft and agriculture production to the market in Sapa and Lao Cai.
- Training for doing business or providing services like "home stay";
- Training English and skills behaving to tourists for local people;
- Vocational training/guiding to produce the community-based tourism products, new souvenirs attracting tourists;
- Training on professional operation for local tourist-related business and enterprises.
- Guiding local people do community-based tourist services by visiting the good modules.
- Encouraging ethnic men share housework for women and against trafficking of women, especially the ethnic minority people;
- Training to increase awareness of local people and tourist on environment and landscape.

#### CONSULTATIONS IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE

# Phu Tu National Tourist Site Environmental Improvements and Da Dung Cave Access Road Improvements

Date: 11 – 13 August 2013.

Focus group discussion with 7 men 7 women of Khmer ethnicity in Ba Trai village, Binh An commune, Kien Luong district.

Focus group discussion in Thach Dong village, My Duc district, Ha Tien town (4 men and 12 women).

Consultative interviews with business households in Phu Tu tourist site impacted by the subproject including 3 Khmer women.

Consultative interviews with President of Women's Union of Binh An commune and head of Ba Trai village, Binh An commune; head of My Lo village of My Duc commune.

Representative of Women's Union (WU) of My Duc commune, head of Thach Dong village and vice-chairman of People's Committee of Binh An commune.

Head of management unit of Phu Tu national tourist site and Da Dung cave site.

Chairman of People's Committee of My Duc commune and Ha Tien town.

# Summary of demographic and socio-economic characteristics

- Binh An commune is a poor commune of Kien Luong district with an area of 3,993.55 ha. Land is suitable for the cultivation of vegetables; rice is difficult with one crop per year due to salinity and lack of irrigation. Most people are fishing and/or farming.
- Binh An commune has a population of 11,088 people with 2,617 households, 992 out of which are ethnic monitory. Of the 992 ethnic minority households, there are 344 Hoa HHs, 645 Khmer HHs and 3 HHs from others ethnic minority.
- Economic structure of the commune: Agriculture accounts for 10.0%, tourism for 40%; handicraft 15% and other areas account for 35%. The commune has 1 primary school, 1 secondary school and 1 healthcare station. 54.8% HHs are served with tap water (i.e. 1,433 HHs/total 2,617 HHs); 66% HHs (i.e. 1,726 HHs) have their own latrines with many types and quality; most are the simple latrines, the number of septic tanks is limited.
- The Phu Tu national tourist site is located in area of Ba Trai village, Binh An commune. The village has been established since 1980s and has a land area of 199 ha. The village has stretching along the road for 6 km from the commune's centre to Hon Trem tourist site. Although the road is downgraded it is useable in both dry and rainy season. Total population of the village is 2,924 with the equivalent of 669 households, of which the ethnic minorities account for 63.7%. Women represent 53% of the population of Ba Trai village and 52% of population of Binh An commune. There are 123 households (18.5%) are involved in trading and tourism services, of which 97 are kiosks owners and 26 offer accommodation and tourist transportation services. 90 out of 669 households depend on rice farming, 20 households on crops farming; 148 households on animal husbandry; 10 households on producing cake/sugar from Palmyra palm tree; 80 households have boats for sea fishing; 2.9% households are employed as builders.

- My Duc commune: 1,430 HHs with 6,255 people; there are 3,170 people ethnic minority people, of which Khmer = 563 HHs with 2,814 people (52.9%); Kinh 40.9%; Hoa: 6.2%.
- Agriculture accounts for 10% of economy, tourism 86% and handicrafts 4%.
- 52.9% of the population of My Duc commune is ethnic Khmer.
- Thach Dong village: Population of 2,563 people, women represent 1,272 people, equivalent to 49.6%. 518 HHs (i.e. 84.2%) use tap water connected from Ha Tien town; 79.3% HHs have separate latrines.
- Khmer people in Ba Trai village informed that in recent 15 years some important events happened. The first one is State's land acquisition in 1997-1998 to which a group of HHs who have land acquired had objection reaction to the State because of too low compensation. The second one is that Hon Phu Tu was partially broken in 2007 and some people believe that that is the reason making this site less sacred and therefore number of visitors decreased.
- The Khmer said that most of them and their children graduate primary school. The Khmer do not attach high importance to education because they prefer going to work to help their families. Moreover, some children graduating secondary or high school still cannot find job and finally stay home. In contrast, Hoa people pay more attention to their children's education. They want their children graduate high school or university to leave village for better employee opportunities in the big cities like Binh Duong or Ho Chi Minh.
- Binh An commune has 1 healthcare station located in the centre. People of Ba Trai village have to go 5km to access health services of the station. The village has only 1 primary school, the children at secondary and high school have to go more than 10km to school.
- People of Ba Trai village using 3 main water resources: 30.6% HHs using wells; 30.4% of HHs use tap water, and 39% use combined tap water; 18.7% HHs use water from the streams and mountainous creeks; the remaining use various water resources. In Thach Dong village, the HHs located near road use tap water, the HHs near Da Dung cave area use well water because the mains has not reached them.
- The main incomes of Ba Trai people is from agriculture, including rice farming (90 HHs) and cattle husbandry (148 HHs with number of cattle of 311), sea fishing (80 boats) and small trading at tourist site (97 HHs have stalls and 27 HHs offer accommodation and passenger transport services). By assessment of local people, economic status of the village in recent years seems to decline due to decreased number of visitors, influence of bad weather conditions and failed shrimp farming.
- In view of both local authority and residents, the reason for change in number of visitors is that the tourist site has not invested and upgraded in many years. Domestic waste from tourism activities, food and beverage trading and lack of public toilets has seriously impacted area's environment. The trading activities and stalls are disorderly and make a negative impression to the visitors. Phu Tu site has not any entertainment services rather than beach bathing. Before 2009, the sire was under management of Peoples Committee of the District, the annual number of arrivals reached 200,000-600,000 on average. After 2009, the administration management was assigned to Kien Giang Tourist JSC then the number of arrivals reduced by more than 50%. The reason is lack of investment and poor site management.
- The tourism environment has gradually downgraded with untreated waste. The beach is degraded by sediment and bears consequences from "Flood drainage for the western region" of Southwest provinces (digging channels to lead floodwater to the sea helping the western provinces of Dong Thap, An Giang and Kien Giang to avoid flooding).
- Number of the poor in Ba Trai and Hon Phu Tu area 9 HHs (accounting for 1.3%) with income under D400,000/person/ month, 01 near-poor HH with income of D410,000/ person/ month.

# Number of poor HHs in Thach Dong: N/A

- Almost all poor HHs are ethnic minority HHs. Reason for the poverty of these HHs are recorded as lack of production land. The poor HHs are mostly farming HHs but have no land for agricultural production because of being sold out to pay debt. Income of the whole HHs depends on man's employment and woman's peddling in the tourist site and therefore is unstable.
- Lack of working capital
- Long illness of family's members
- In Thach dong, some people are involved in gambling in border are with Cambodia which drives their families deep in poverty.
- Limited education and knowledge background

#### Gender relationship

- Generally, men are considered as the head of family and have right of making the most important family's decisions.
- The farming work in the fields such as plowing, sowing, spraying, harvesting is mostly undertaken by men. Men are also the main labor force in sea fishing. Women often support men's work by weeding or selling the fishing products.
- Women often do the housework and men are often employed as laborers. To the HHs
  trading in Da Dung and Hon Phu Tu tourist site, women are the main sellers and men
  support them.
- Men (excepting the fishing men) often participate the meetings held by the village or commune authorities.
- Through women's participation in the community's activities such as protecting environmental conditions, lending capital for household's economic improvement, women's position has been increased even though slow.
- Women nowadays have better economic, social and cultural knowledge; living condition (healthcare, wearing, housing, transportation services and cultural demand) has been improved although household's incomes seem to decline in 2012-2013 (according to opinions of the households); the birth rate reduces from 5 children/household to 2 or 3 children/household.
- However, women's participation in commune's authorities and mass organizations in My Duc and Binh An commune is very low. The Women's Union is obviously headed by women.
   Women often undertake tasks of accounting, cashier in People's Committee at commune level. Leaders of commune and villages are men. Khmer women don't really care about community activities because they are too busy with making ends meet.

### Awareness of residents and commune's leaders on the proposed subprojects

 Whilst leaders of both communes are clearly and sufficiently informed about the subproject (by the meetings hold by provincial DSCT and PC of Kien Luong district and Ha Tien town), just a few households knew about it before the consultations.

#### On benefits and negative impacts in regard to gender approach

- People and leaders of Binh An commune as well as My Duc commune think that the Phu Tu and Da Dung tourist site upgrading will benefit local socio-economic and tourism development, thanks to exploiting the tourism potential of localities attracting more visitors
- Creating employee opportunities for local labor, promoting economic development.
- Creating the provincial/district/commune tourism branch thanks to lots of visitors
- Linking with other provincial tourist site in a tour of various destinations (the visitors can visit many destinations conveniently).

- Women representatives of Khmer HHs in Da Dung site are very hesitate to express their opinions and need much encouragement. This is different from northern women – Khmer are still not familiar with community activity.
- Khmer HHs in FGDs at two localities also said that the residential community, especially
  women may benefit from the increased demand on tourism services. Almost all Khmer
  women are street vendors selling Palmyra palm cake, sugar, fruit and others beverage, etc.
  in the tourist site, so the investment in this area will bring the positive impacts on their
  livelihoods.
- Some jobs that are disappearing may have chance for development because women are willing to make the products for tourists, such as making cake from palm sugar, bamboo products, products from sea clams and snails.
- If the trading in tourist site becomes convenient, the men leaving home can come back to support their women and stay local.
- President of the WU of Binh An commune said that the subproject together with community activities will help people have higher awareness on sea environmental protection. The women in general and Khmer women in particular will have opportunity to strengthen their understandings on gender issue and women's rights.

#### **Negative impacts**

- The Khmer women (in Phu Tu site) complain that they cannot have a kiosks in the tourist site although they are the local residents, because they are too poor to have enough money for buy/rent a kiosk there. They are selling as the street vendors and often annoyed by security team in the tourist site. They wish to have a place in the tourist site without charging such a high amount (approximately 2 million). They said that if this issue won't be taken into consideration, the project investment becomes meaningless to them.
- Some negative impacts mentioned by the people are that during construction at Phu Tu trading activities of HHs may temporarily stop due to construction. Crime may increase after construction.
- The representatives of Binh An commune authority thinks that Hon Phu Tu site is located far from residential area and therefore won't cause any impacts.
- Others felt the subproject would impacts on the environment during construction such as dust, noise affecting trading activity of HHs in tourist site.
- Women sellers in the tourist site also concern about environmental condition of "Hon Phu
  Tu" because in their view the environmental management of the agency in charge doesn't
  work well. Waste is left on beach too much. Waste from seafood restaurants has not been
  treated causing odor in some places.
- Concern about having no place/kiosk in the tourist site because of lack of money.
- The people at risk of wrong use or waste compensation amount (from land acquisition payments) and no longer build house.

# Leaders of local authority and WU of Binh An commune and My Duc commune mention the following potential negative impacts of tourism development

- Waste and wastewater increased
- Increased Volume of tourist coaches leads to air pollution due to emission.
- Conflicts among vendors due to competition
- Prostitution problem.
- The HHs in Thach Dong don't take much interest in environmental issues at Da Dung site.
   In their view, construction and upgrading of some tourist site's items are advantageous for both local people and visitors. Women will benefit more because they are the direct sellers in tourist site.

# Desire of community – Solutions proposed from public consultation and interviews with key persons.

- The tourist site should be improved as soon as possible to soon come into operation (both two subprojects).
- Should pay attention to check of work quality, O&M and management so that the work won't downgrade like other works.
- Pay attention to working safety and minimize impacts from dust and waste to the working environment of people.
- Design entertainment areas to keep visitors stay longer. The existing services of the tourist site are quite poor and simple.
- Should pay much attention to designing and construction of public toilet and waste treatment system.
- Facilitate the poor, especially Khmer HHs, to obtain the selling place/kiosk in the tourist site. If not, the poor won't benefit from upgrading and improvement of Phu Tu and Da Dung tourist site.
- Construct a community-based tourism development fund and lend HHs with low interest rate (or even no interest) to help women start getting involved in trading after being trained.
- Training to Khmer people, especially women, on the experiences/behaviors/attitudes they should have with the visitors.
- Training/guiding production of community-based tourism products, new souvenirs.
- Training on rising awareness on protecting environment and landscape to people and visitors.
- Training on gender and role of women in community-based tourism development.
- Provide affected HHs with appropriate compensation amount for the assets or land impacted (group of impacted HHs)
- Training and guiding employee skills/livelihoods to people/women at request of the impacted persons.
- Connect tap water for the poor.
- Information disclosure to people about plan for construction and improvement for monitoring.

Figure A1.1: Record of Attendance Lao Cai Province

Conte	LIS DA nt/ Nội dung: J. Lýp.	TOF PARTICIPAN ANH SÁCH THAM D	Ų' 	
Dated No.	on Thời gian: .25/.7/.  Full name  Họ và Tên	Agency/ Únit Đơn vị công tác	Sán Chrang Amount Số tiền	Phone/email
01	Le Phu Die	Ma ban khoung	20.000	Hir
02	Li Quây Phú	Xã Bản khoang	20.000	Phú.
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14	Lý hi Su	Ka Bas Cheang	20 010	Suc
111	Sung thi kis	Xa' Bai thoung	20.00	Say
E	Jourd Lin ma	1/3		
			Prepared by	Mgaời lập biểu hya nga film Huyen

Figure A1.2: Record of Attendance Dien Bien Province

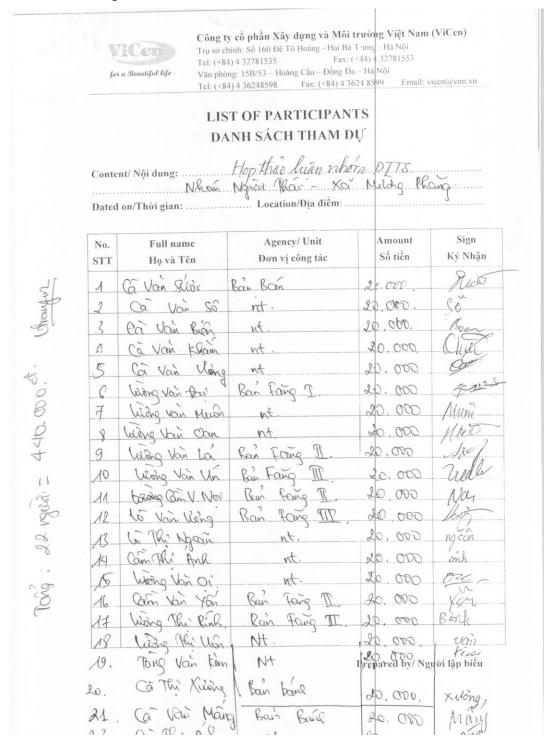


Figure A1.3 Record of Attendance Kien Giang Province

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3	Danh Mut	20-106	· II e	Misc
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5	Thi Hurol	20.000	-/1-	Huor
6	Thi Cop	20.00	_//_	Cón
7	Thi Sco	20.000	16	Mo
8	Thi Ri	25.000	-11-	Ruj
9	Thi Khuốl	20-000	-11	Shua
10	gian Thi Kha.	20-100	-14	Ana
11	Dant Doal	20-000	-//-	lut
12	Danh upEnna	020. 100	-11-	Donah
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