

# Piloting Self-selection activities for REDD+ Benefit Distribution Systems



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# Overview

1. Intention of the piloting
2. Brief methodology
3. Key results
4. Key recommendations
5. Going forward



**SNV** **UN-REDD PROGRAMME VIET NAM**

### Involving local actors in REDD+ benefit choices

**Key lessons learned in Viet Nam**

- Groups tended to prioritize payments for forest patrols, cash payments to households, and agricultural inputs in kind. The large majority of groups did not select infrastructure investments as this was seen as a role for local authorities.
- Priorities differed between groups depending on their social composition (i.e. gender, ethnicity, wealth).
- Virtually all groups reacted to the conditionality of REDD+. Most groups changed the kinds and timing of benefits, for example by postponing cash payments to the final year. A few groups also reacted in surprising ways, challenging key premises of REDD+ SDS considered unjust.
- Some groups wanted to be involved in the assessment of performance for fairness and transparency reasons (i.e. participatory based monitoring).

**Helping local people to make informed choices for performance-based REDD+ benefits**

Consulting local people about their preferences for REDD+ benefits is not an easy task. Most forest people are not used to being asked what benefits they would like to get in return for participating in forest management, and when they would like to receive such rewards, even if they have been asked before, they will most likely struggle to comprehend a key feature of REDD+ – that they will only receive the agreed benefits if they produce a certain performance.

Local people's participation in the selection of benefits is a critical precondition for effective, efficient and equitable REDD+ Benefit Distribution Systems (BDS). Only if local people participate actively in choosing the kinds and timing of benefits will those take on the incentive function required for performance-based REDD+. Only if REDD+ practitioners apply suitable procedures for facilitating such participation will REDD+ provide inclusive opportunities for all local stakeholders.

**The activity**

The UN-REDD Programme in Viet Nam commissioned SNV to develop suitable procedures for participatory selection of REDD+ benefits. The SNV team conducted a total of fifteen pilots in seven villages chosen to represent a variety of conditions characteristic of forest communities in Lam Dong province, Viet Nam.

The team developed the REDD+ activity as an innovative approach for participatory selection of REDD+ benefits (see Textbook). The REDD+ activity provides a simple procedure to communicate key parameters of REDD+ to local people and to facilitate collective choices about the kinds and timing of benefits. It highlights trade-offs between different kinds of benefits and different disbursement schedules.

The pilots in Viet Nam demonstrated the REDD+ activity can help local people make suitable choices about REDD+ benefits. All groups came to collective decisions on the kinds and timing of benefits.

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<http://www.snvworld.org/redd>

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# 1. Intention of the pilot

- Design & test an approach for local REDD+ actors to self-select benefits
  - Recommend monitoring system
  - Recommend transparency measures
- Why? - important to consider local preferences for benefits

## 2. Brief methodology

- Activities undertaken in Lam Ha and Di Linh districts
  - 7 villages, 15 groups
  - Different socio-economic composition (consultative approach)
  - BDS consultations
- Design of game
- Conduct game across 3 Scenarios
- Record & verify benefit choices



## 2. Brief methodology

### The 'Game'

- Hypothetical REDD+ scenario to elicit people's preferences for benefit types and timing
- Groups of 10-12 with different social compositions
- Assume land size, values, carbon price, 5 year time-frame
- 3 key scenarios
  - Successful REDD+ activities over 5 years
  - Fire – 50% payback of REDD+ benefit
  - Part of the forest converted to ag – payback of REDD+ benefit
- Benefits offered
  - Cash; Infrastructure (roads, schools); agricultural extension services; land tenure certificates
  - + local in-put into preference choices

## 3. Key results

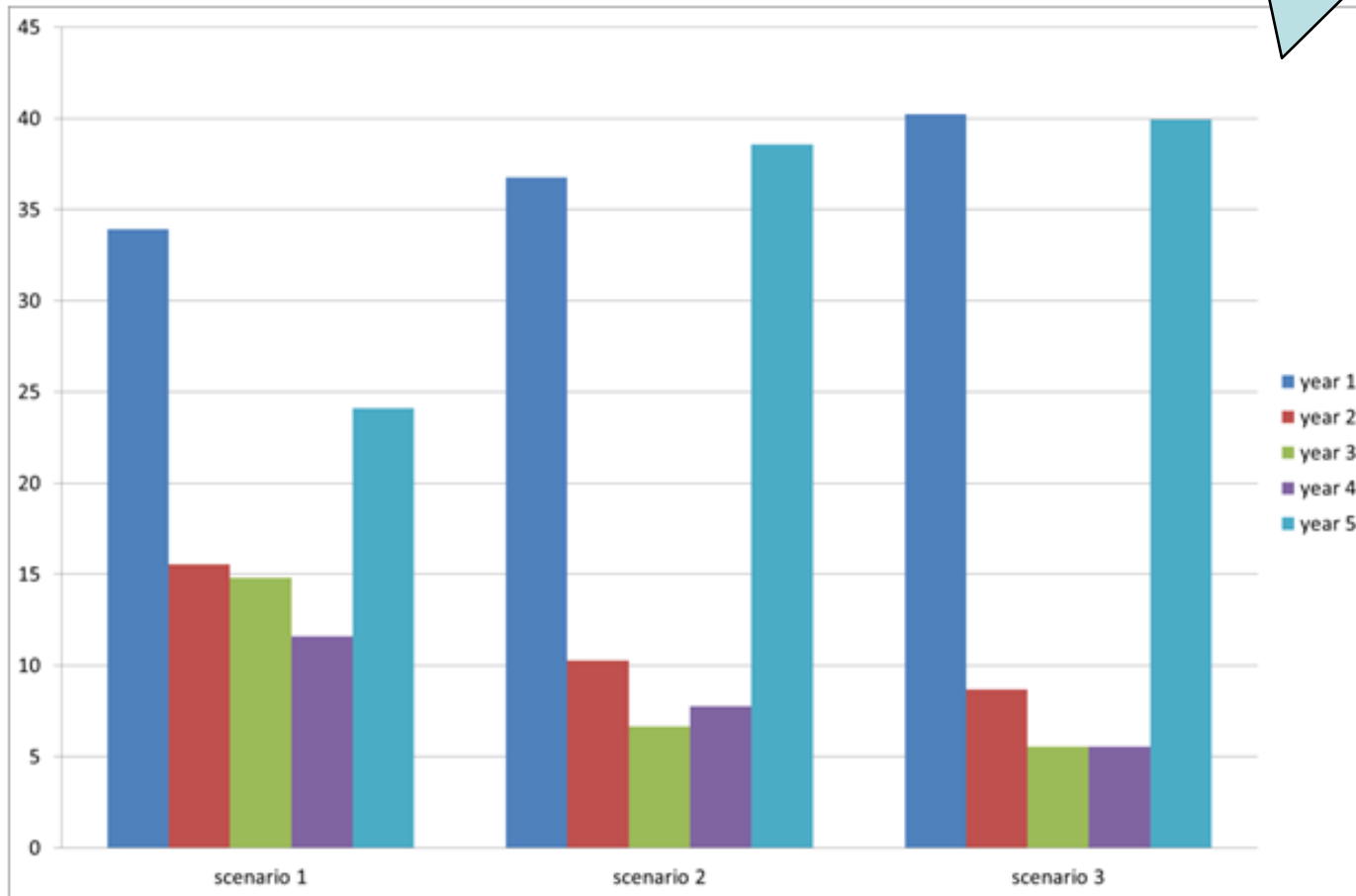
### Key results for 15 activities across 7 villages

- Local people can make suitable choices by way of the REDD+ game
- Significant variation in the kinds of benefits and disbursement schedules
  - Men and women prioritize different kinds of benefits and delivery schedules, as do groups with members from different wealth strata and possibly groups of different ethnic backgrounds
  - Most groups wanted mixes of cash; agricultural support and forest protection
- Strong reactions to the conditionality



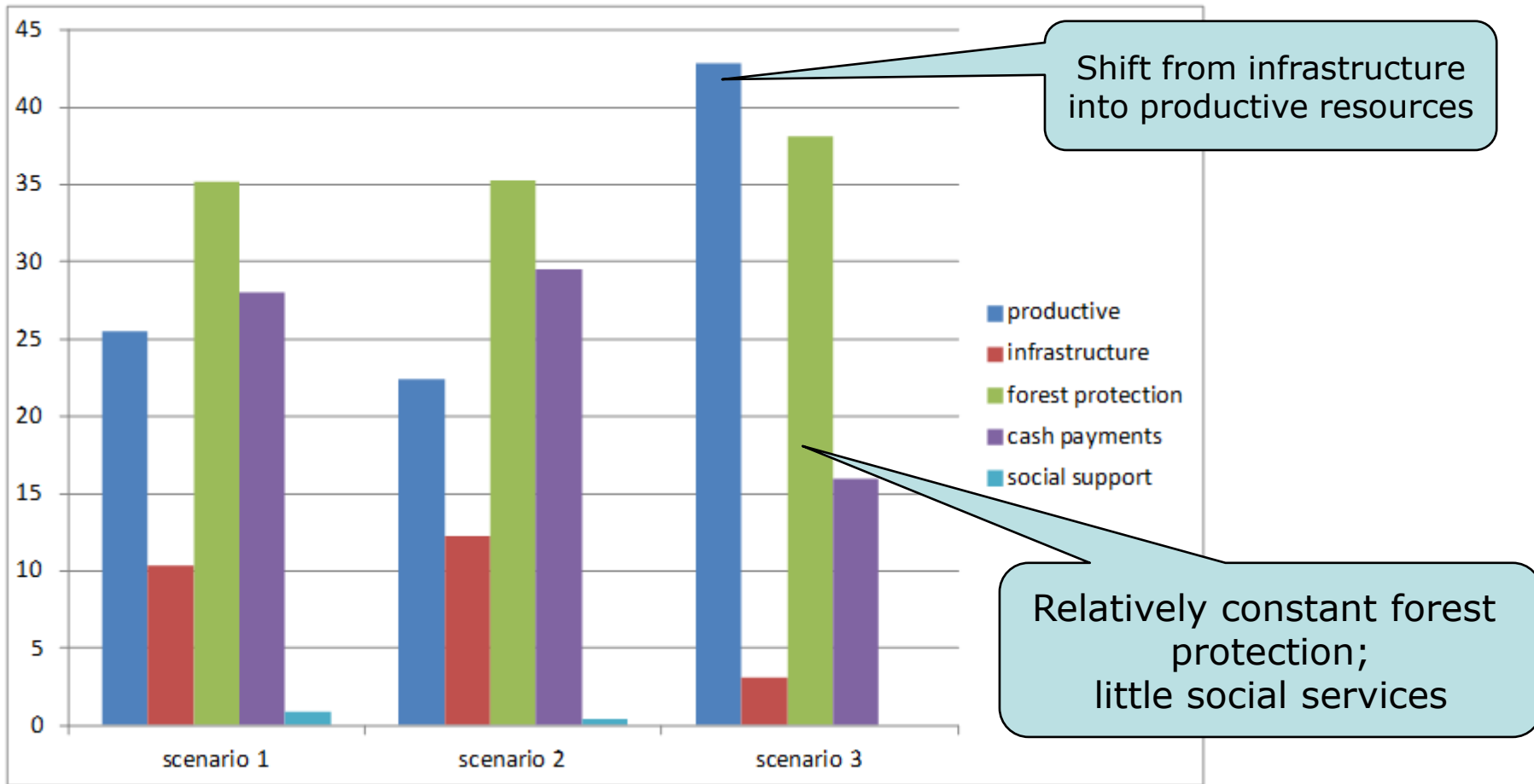
Understanding of conditionality = change of allocation over time. Shift from yrs 2-4 to yr5

## Disbursement of benefits in yr 1-5 (%)



<http://www.snvworld.org/redd>

# Distribution of benefits across different scenarios (%)



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## 4. Key recommendations

- Replicate 'game' based approach
- Logistics: Phased approach, tailored to particular conditions of villages (e.g. plans)
- REDD+ Management Boards established at the provincial or district level to supervise activities and document results in minutes countersigned by the village head and CPC
- Monitoring progress towards benefit realization: Pilot participatory forest monitoring
  - Some groups would insist on exact measurement of the volume of carbon lost.
- Keep methodology simple and reach out proactively to marginalized stakeholder groups, e.g. women & poor people.
- Need to identify key local stakeholders and incentives for corrupt behaviour
- Future self-selection activities to offer local people a wide and open menu of options for REDD+ benefits, including various kinds of 'participation payments'

<http://www.snvworld.org/redd>

## 5. Going forward.....

- Full report soon to be realised
- Plans to use similar approach in Phase 2 of the UN-REDD Programme
- Further replication by other implementing partners?



# Thank you

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