

**GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION (GMS)
BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION CORRIDORS**

**Ngoc Linh – Xe Xap –Huong Hoa Biodiversity Corridor
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM**

Commune Profile and Investment Plan

A Roang Commune, A Luoi District, Thua Thien Hue Province

Version 13 June 2010

PART A: COMMUNE PROFILE

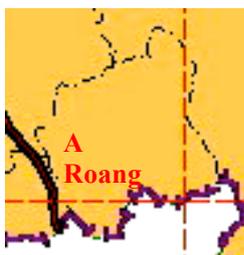
1. LOCATION

A Roang commune is located to the South-East of A Luoi town. This commune which is 25 Km from A luoi town, spreads about 14 Km along the Ho Chi Minh highway from A Luoi to Quang Nam province.

A Roang is bordered on the East by Huong Nguyen Commune, A Dot Commune in the West, Huong Lam Commune in the North, Quang Nam Province and Laos in the South.

The total land area of A Roang Commune is 5,726.5 ha with nine villages: A Roang 1, A Roang 2, Ka Rol, A Ho, A Min, Ka Lo, A Ka- A Chi, A Ka 2, Huong Son - A Chi.

GPS coordinates are 755933 - 1782689 with elevation of 473m masl.



2. SOCIO-CULTURAL PROFILE

Table 1 presents the summary of socioeconomic profile.

Table 1. Summary of socioeconomic profile in A Roang Commune

PARAMETER	RESPONSE/ ENTRY
Population	
Total population	2,445
Population density	0.5 persons per ha
Household population	508
Household size	5
Male population	1,242
% Male population	50%
Labor force	1,103
Education	Mostly primary
Poverty and livelihood	
Average income	5 million VND/ annum/working adult (average working adult per HH = 3)
Source of income	Forest plantation, farming and handicraft (knit, weave)
No of Poor Households	119
Poor Population	595
% poor population	24.3%
Ethnic Minority	
Total EM population	2,186

(Source: A Roang CPC, 2010)

2.1 Population and labor

A Roang has a total population (2010) of 2,445 and 508 total number of households. Population density is low at 0.5 persons per hectare though average household size is

high at five persons per household. Active labor force is 1,103 persons.

Children of school age generally enter kindergarten. However, they quit school early after finishing 7th or 8th grade. Hence, most completed only up to the primary level. More males usually reach high school than women.

2.2 Ethnic Composition and main characteristics

There are three distinct ethnic groups in the commune 2,186 the Ta Oi (89.4%), Co' Tu and Kinh (10.6%).

Ta Oi people:

Customs and habits: The communal hoof the Ta Oi is called the Rong. It is built at the centre of the village and is a fairly elongated house. The children take the family name of the father and only sons have the right to inherit the family estate. The head of a lineage plays an important role in village affairs. Young Ta Oi men and women are free to choose their partners. They believe in animism and organize many ceremonies for Giang. Several years after the burial of a deceased person, the dead's lineage organizes a ceremony to exhume the dead's remains and build a funeral howith sophisticated decoration and statues around the fence of the funeral house.

Culture: The Ta Oi language belongs to the Mon-Khmer Group and is close to the Bru-Van Kieu and Co Tu languages. The Ta Oi have managed to preserve many of their proverbs, folk songs, puzzles, and stories. Popular folk songs include Ka loi, Ba boih, Ro in, and especially the romantic Cha Chap song. Gongs, string zithers, flutes, trumpets, drums, and pan-pipes are popular musical instruments of the Ta Oi.

Costumes: Women wear shirts and skirts, but the skirt is usually knotted up to cover their chests. Men wear loincloths and short vests, or leave their upper torsos naked. Ornaments made from copper, silver, glass beads, and ivory are also popular.

Economy: The Ta Oi practice a slash and burn method of cultivation and grow wet rice through this process. They are also good at horticulture and fish rearing in artificial ponds.

2.3 Gender Analysis

Approximately 50% of the population are males. As the commune is predominantly Ta Oi, families are largely patrilineal where the males are considered heads of households and that inheritance is through the male line of descent.

In terms of reproductive activities (household labor allocation), women have more tasks on hand which include child rearing / child care, cleaning and laundry work, fuel wood gathering, fetching water, and collecting animal feed. Women have more opportunities to join community and social activities. In fact, the women are more active in attendance to community meetings.

The men gather forest products, plough a field.

2.4 Dimensions of Poverty

The major sources of income are farming in gardens and hills (Upland rice, wet rice, vegetables, banana, cassava, cattle, and poultry), forest plantation development (rubber and acacia), and as government employees. Average income according to the leadership of the commune, is 5 million VND/annum/working adult (average working adult per HH = 3). Main expenditure item is on food (60%).

Based on the MOLISA poverty line criteria (average income of less than 200,000 VND per person per month) in defining poverty, there are 119 poor households (24.3%) within the commune.

Unemployment though currently not quantified is deemed high as documented from the consultation. There accordingly are minimal employment opportunities in the commune especially among the youth and women.

Reasons of poverty are (i) lacking capital for production investment, (ii) shortage of knowledge on agriculture, and (iii) unprofessional.

3. BIO-PHYSICAL CONDITIONS

3.1 Climate

A Roang Commune climate is characterized by two distinct seasons. Dry season is from February to August, with high temperature (average temperature ranging from 25°C to a maximum 38°C). Long periods of maximum temperature occur at times affecting some agricultural production activities. Rainy season is from September to January characterized by rain and cold temperature. Strong rain mostly during September and October resulting to floods and erosion.

Annual floods damage gardens, constructions, especially in 1999, 2006 and 2009.

3.2 Topography and physical features

The commune is mountainous with several streams and valleys.

3.3 Rivers and water bodies

There are three rivers namely Pilung, Khe Xanh, Tam mrung and some streams such as A Kel, A Pap, Pang Le. These streams supply the necessary water requirements for agriculture lands. 87 % Households within the commune use water from these streams for bathing, washing, and drinking.

Pong Chat waterfall is very beautiful landscape 2 km from centre of A Roang commune and hydroelectric dam is 150 met in height.

In riverhead of Khe Xanh river, there are dioxin cans (Agent Orange) remain after war. Maybe water source was polluted by dioxin and affecting people and animal. DONRE implemented activities for treatment in 2009.

Lakes and ponds are also found within the commune and the total area for these bodies of water is about 4.0 ha.

4. LAND AND FOREST RESOURCE USE

4.1 Land Cover and Present Land Use

With a total commune land area of 5,726.5, approximately **4,994.1** are agricultural lands (including forest), **144.86** ha are non-agricultural lands, and **311.6** ha are bare lands. Total forestlands amount to 1,168.2 ha (Table 2).

Table 2. Landuses in A Roang Commune

Land use types	Coverage area (ha)	Percentage (%)
Total natural area	5,726.5	100
A. Agriculture Land	4,994.1	87.2
1. Forestry land	1,168.2	78.8
B. Non agriculture land	144.86	2.53
C. Unutilized land	311.6	5.4

(Source: A Luoi FPD, 2010)

4.2 Forest Resource

Total forestry land: **1,168.2** ha

Special Use forest: 0.0 ha

Protection forest: **2,322.0** ha

Production forest: **2,189.1** ha

4.3 Biodiversity assets

The natural forest in A Roang is recognized as rich in terms of biodiversity with many wild species of flora and fauna. Sightings of big mammal species that have just been discovered such as the Saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*), Mang Lon (*Megamuntiacus vuquangensis*), Gibbon species (*Hylobates gabriellae*, *Pygathrix nemaeus*), Bear, Cobra, wild pig, Monkey, pheasant, sambar deer, etc. Flora is characterized by many kinds of wild orchid, Kien, Cho, Go, Sen, Truong, etc.

5. ECONOMIC SITUATION

5.1 Farming system

With a population density of 0.5 persons per ha, there is available agricultural lands for everyone. Aside from wet rice production, households also maintain home gardens planted to fruit trees, vegetables and animal husbandry (chicken, duck, pig, cow, buffalo, etc.).

One crop of upland rice is from May to October and two crops of wet rice is Spring-Winter crop and Autumn-Summer crop (121.6 ha) with yield of 4,600 kg/ha

Some households have hill gardens planted to Acacia and Rubber. These households generate stable and good income.

Threats to agricultural production are: (i) lacking capital for production investment, (ii) other agricultural inputs like fertilizers, seeds, (iii) lacking areas for production because of using large area for hydroelectric plant, (iv) flooding and erosion at a rate of about 3-5 times a year, (v) lacking technique for cultivation and animal husbandry.

5.2 Markets, enterprises, and industry

There is no market in A Roang Commune, so people must come to A Dot cross road (7km) or come to district market (25km) for purchase. The district market is preferred where they sell their products and purchase household and farm supplies. Their business activities are not well in A Roang Commune. Their products are also bought by middlemen but at low prices.

There are some small shop supply cakes, candy and other things.

5.3 Financial services and access to credit

Credit is available to all households for forest plantation, animal husbandry in A Roang Commune. They take loans from Social Policy Bank or Agri Bank. The Bank of Social Policy offers simple processes and requirements at low interest rates, to wit: (i) 0.65% for poor households to be utilized for employment, and reforestation WB3; (ii) 0.9% for difficult areas and clean water; (iii) 0.5% for students; (iv) 0.25% for housing; and (v) 0% for impoverished households, mostly ethnic minorities.

There is also the Agri Bank but collaterals are needed. The loanable amount is from 5 to 30 million VND.

6. PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

6.1 Physical infrastructure

The Ho Chi Minh Highway is the main road to A Roang and is good condition for cars, motor bikes and bicycles. A Roang commune spreads about 14km along Ho Chi Minh Highway . Farm to market roads are limited, they want to build 13 km of farm to market road.

Irrigation system is about 8 km providing water for wet rice field, but not enough. People need more 22 km of canal for irrigation.

Some households use water from water supply system, but In A Roang village almost people use water from streams for drinking, washing and irrigation. Water supply system should be set up in A Roang village, CPC office, Health Care centre and kindergarten.

6.2 Social Infrastructure

Table 3 provides data on availability of school facilities and Table 4 other social infrastructure found within the commune.

Table 3. School facilities in A Roang Commune

School	No. of Schools	No. of Rooms	No. of teachers
Nursery			
Schools	1	7	7
Primary			
Schools	1	12	20
Secondary			
Schools	1	7	14

Table 4. Social infrastructure in A Roang Commune

Commune infrastructures	Response / Entry
Community Meeting Hall	1
Number of Village meeting houses	9
Number of commune health clinics	1
Number of solid houses	10%
Number of semi-solid houses	80%
Number of temporary houses	10%

7. OTHER ONGOING/PLANNED PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

Several projects and programs of government and NGOs have and continue to support A Roang Commune as follows:

- (i) Program 134 - government program to allocate land and houses to ethnic minorities as well as develop agricultural production and water supply (2005-2010),
- (ii) Program 135 - government program on socioeconomic development for most vulnerable communes of ethnic minorities located in mountainous areas (first period 1997 - 2006, second period 2006-2010,
- (iii) ADB - support for poverty alleviation,
- (iv) WB
- (v) Green Corridor Project.

As a result of participation to such programs/projects, local capacities and skills have been enhanced.

PART B: VILLAGE INVESTMENT PLAN UNDER BCI PHASE II

1. Village PRIORITIES AND RANKING

Small scale infrastructure	Priority	Quantity
Inter-village road (9 villages)	1	9 km
Water supply for drinking and washing (for A Roang 1, CPC office, health clinic, nursery house)	2	1 system
Irrigation canals (A Ka, A Roang 2)	3	22 km
Electronic line	4	9 km
Small bridges (crossing streams) (A Roang 2 to CPC)	5	1 bridges

2. LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS

ITEMS	AREA (ha)	Households benefiting
Raising pig (100 pigs)		50
Raising fish	2.5 ha	50
Raising cow (30 cows)		30
rice seeds and fertilizers	11.9ha	119
Loans with interest rates 0% (1.780.000.000VND)		119
Planting Rubber (7 villages)	100 ha	100
Take care rubber (9 villages)		

3. REFORESTATION

ITEMS	AREA (ha)	Households benefiting
Enrichment planting, gap filling	50	30
Assisted natural regeneration	30	20

4. OTHERS

ITEMS	SIZE OF INVESTMENT	NO. OF JOBS
Eco tourism (A Min, A ka-A chi, Pang Chat waterfall, Saola road)	\$10,000	
Training courses on cultivation and animal husbandry techniques	4,000	

5. Cost estimates

ITEMS	US\$
a) Small scale infrastructure	500,000
b) Livelihood options	50,000
c) Forest restoration	50,000
d) others	10,400
TOTAL	610,400

Source: ADB R-PPTA 2010