

## **Supplementary Material 2**

### **Suggested pathways to integrate agro-climate service in socio-economic development planning in Dien Bien**

The possible pathways to engage stakeholders include the following multi-level perspectives. ACS innovations (a) are expected to penetrate the existing socio-technical regimes. In this case, regimes encompass reporting (b, c) and planning and policy system (d, e, f) at the village, commune, district, provincial and national levels. Meanwhile, the operation of such regimes is under the influence of the social-change processes, global issues and global agenda (g).

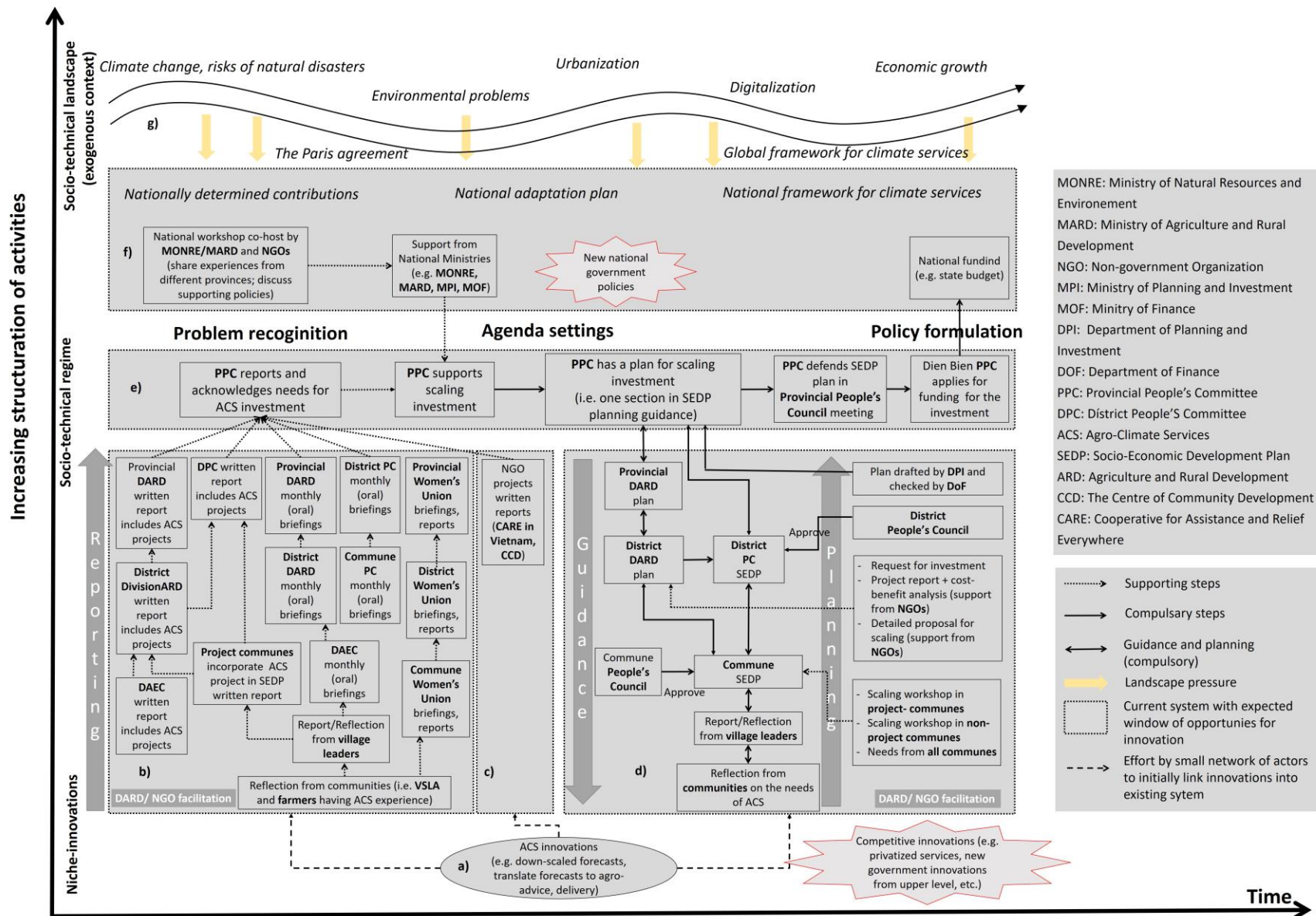
While critical decision-making is expected to happen at the provincial level (e) with PPC as the key stakeholder, efforts must be supported from the village, commune, district and national levels. The decision-making process (e) is expected to start at the recognition step. At this stage, ACS discourse and related evidence should be provided mainly in the written and oral reporting systems. This reporting process involves reflection from relevant stakeholders, including VSLA and farmers who experienced practicing ACS, village leaders, Project communes, DDARD, PDARD, DPC, WU at provincial, district and commune levels (b), and NGOs (i.e. CARE in Vietnam and CCD) (c). In addition, the province needed support from upper levels, i.e., from national ministries with a high influence and low interest. MONRE and MARD are expected to signal support for the necessity and feasibility of the interventions, and considering that ACS are well aligned with relevant policies within their thematic domains (e.g. Nationally determined contributions, National adaptation plan and National framework for climate services). MPI and MOF are expected to advise on the appropriateness of funding acquisition and the potential funding sources. With a combined basis on local needs and policy support, PPC could support the scaling plan and start the agenda settings. This support can be materialized in the SEDP planning guidance, indicating that it is possible to plan for ACS innovations. This guidance will guide the planning at DARD, DDARD, commune units and village levels.

Similarly, the guidance must support ACS integration SEDP planning at the district, commune and village levels. For SEDP development at the commune level, supporting workshops at all communes are needed to inform and increase interest from non-project communities and record

their ACS needs. For SEDP at the district level, it is necessary to have a proposal outlining the necessity to include ACS innovations in the district SEDP. This proposal should propose a detailed plan for scaling, the requested investment costs, and the justification for the benefits (d). NGOs' rich experience and interest (e.g. from CARE, CCD) are expected to contribute by providing their knowledge and evidence during the proposal development.

The communal and district People's Councils must approve the respective SEDPs before they can enter the SEDP process at the provincial level. DPI is expected to draft a provincial SEDP that includes ACS interventions. DOF should check this plan. Once the provincial SEDP plan is developed, the next step is for PPC to defend SEDP with the Provincial People's Councils before applying for funding at the national level.

Acknowledging the complexity of the process, experts also highlighted the importance of having a coordinating body/contact point for the whole process. The coordinating body is supposed to gain an overview of all processes from the community to the policy level. Experts considered DARD the most appropriate stakeholder for this role due to its relevance with its mandate and being perceived as having the least conflict of interest. Experts also suggested CVN support DARD in this process due to their rich experience, strong interest and being perceived as having the least potential conflict of interest.



Pathways to integrate agro-climate service in socio-economic development planning in Dien Bien. Adapted from Geels (2002)