

Land and forest use by local
communities and the involvement of
external stakeholders
- Case study of protected area in Laos

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Background

- The establishment of protected areas is being promoted all over the world as an effective measure to preserve biodiversity and rich ecosystems.
- In 1990s, Laos has promoted the establishment protected areas.
- There are many villages that overlap and affecting the protected areas or surrounding areas. This may cause conflict between local people and the government over land and forest use.
- The protected area management policy with less negative impacts on the livelihoods of local people is particularly necessary.
- For securing local right as well as effective forest management, **collaborative protected area management system** with government sector should be introduced.



Objective of the study and method

- To identify the livelihoods of local people caused by external stakeholders' activities, particularly government bodies.
- To examines the potential for collaborative forest governance with protected area management

Method

- Interview with relevant stakeholder including villagers and local forestry office
- Field observation

Protected area in Laos

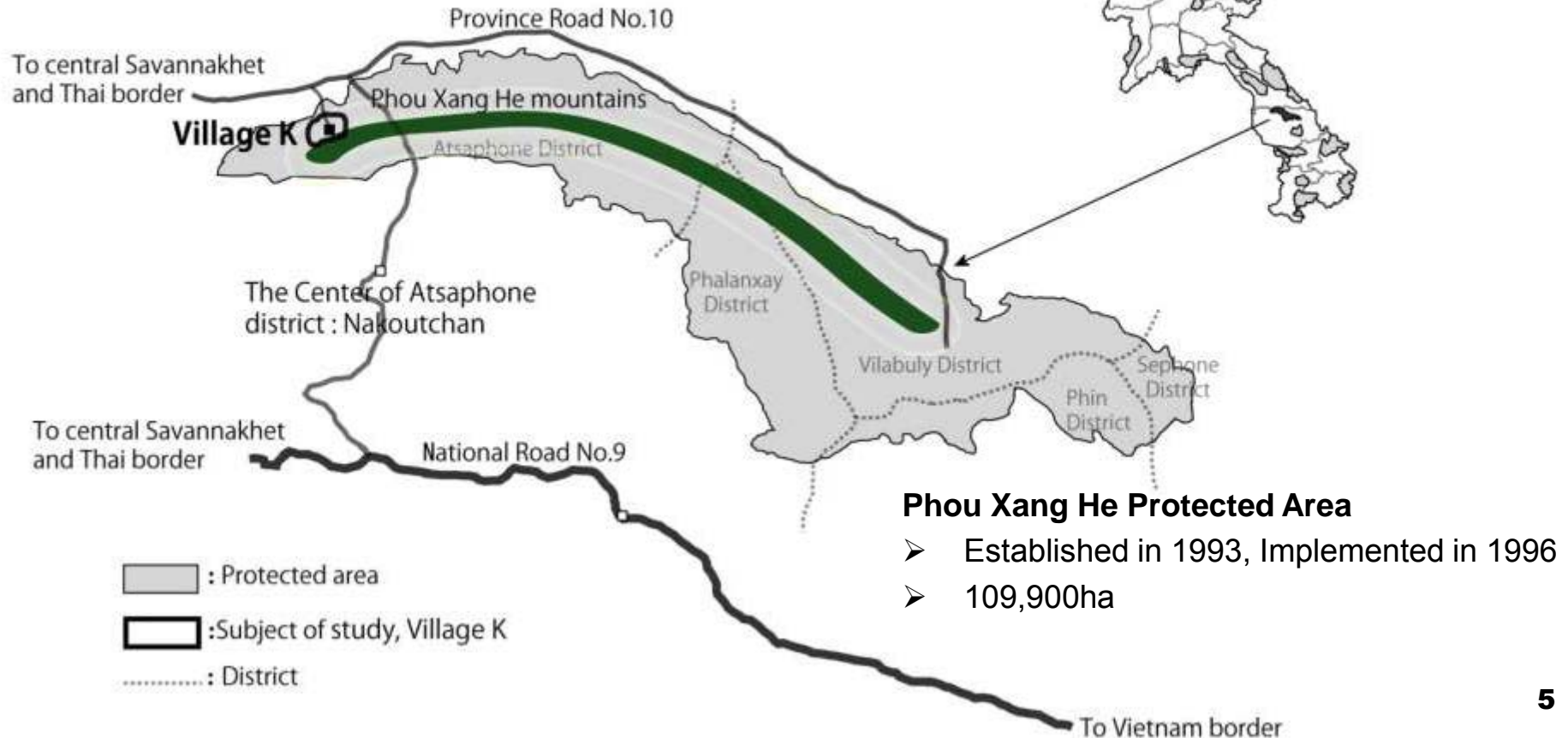


- 20 protected areas
- 330,000ha, consisting of 14% of total land.
- Village affecting protected area: 1,100 villages.(15-20% of total number of villager)

Phou Xang He protected area and study site

Village K

- 270 people (49 HH)
- Main livelihood: Paddy field and shifting cultivation
- *Bru* ethnic minority
- Located inside protected area



Mix deciduous and dry evergreen forest



Dry dipterocarp forest



Agricultural land



Rainfed paddy field



Shifting cultivation

Residential area



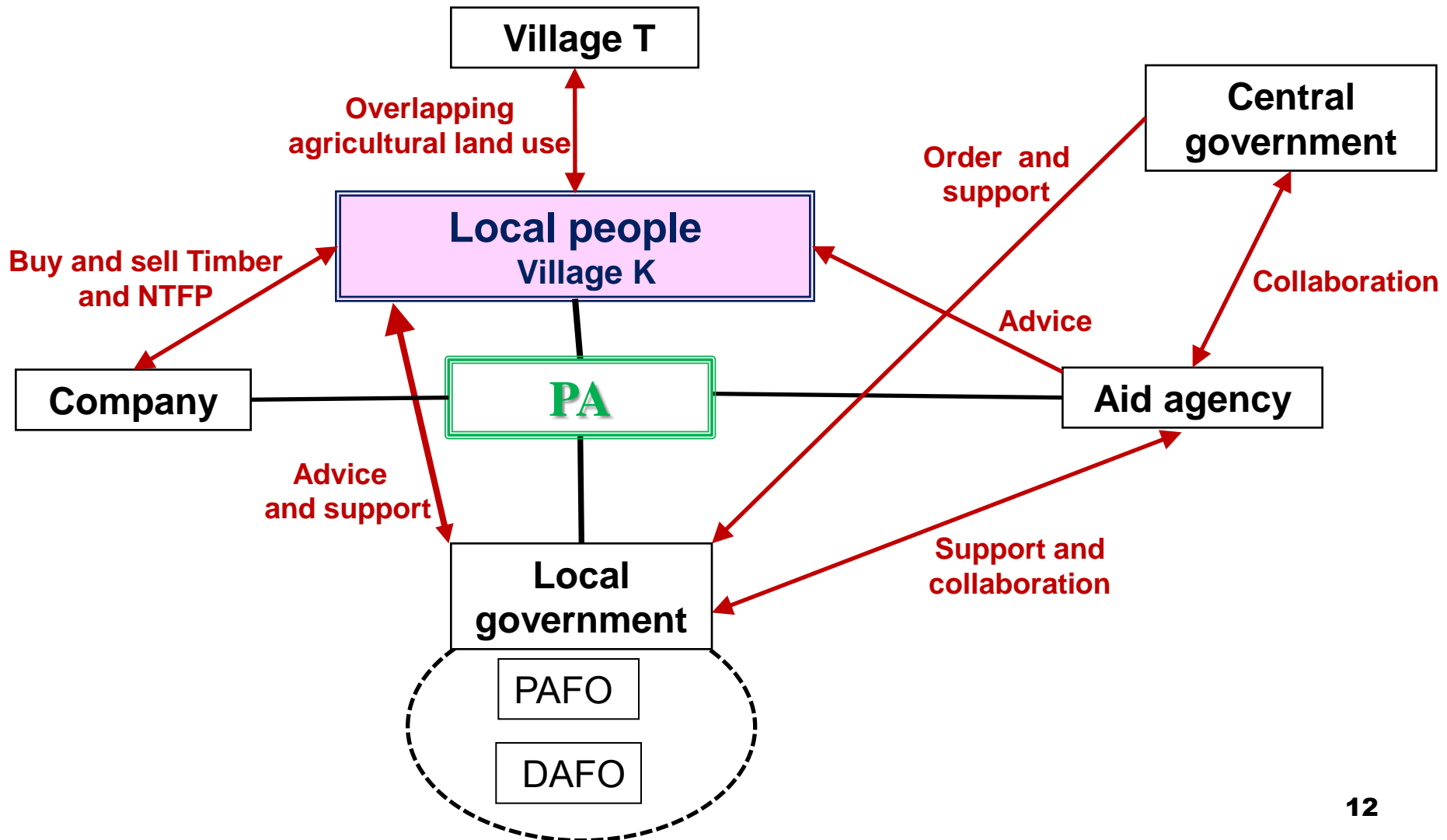
Livelihood of village K

		No. of HH (Total:49)	%	
Agriculture	Rainfed paddy field	44	90%	
	Shifting cultivation	20	41%	
Animal husbandry	Buffalo	31	63%	
NTFP	consumption	Bamboo shoot	49	100%
		Yam potato for rice shortage	48	98%
		Resin Oil	35	71%
	selling	Cardamom	1	2%
		Hard resin	18	37%

Stakeholders involved in forest management of village K

Level	Stakeholders	Role
National	➤ Central government (Department of Forestry)	Development of protected area management policies
Province / District	➤ Provincial Agricultural and Forestry Office (PAFO) ➤ District Agriculture and Forestry Office (DAFO)	Implementation of protected area management policies at the local level
	➤ Aid agency (SIDA)	Support of implementation of protected area management policies
	➤ Companies and investors	Purchasing of timber and NTFP etc
Local	➤ Villagers of Village K	Use of forest resources and land in Village K
	➤ Local people of surrounding areas	Use of forest resources and land near Village K

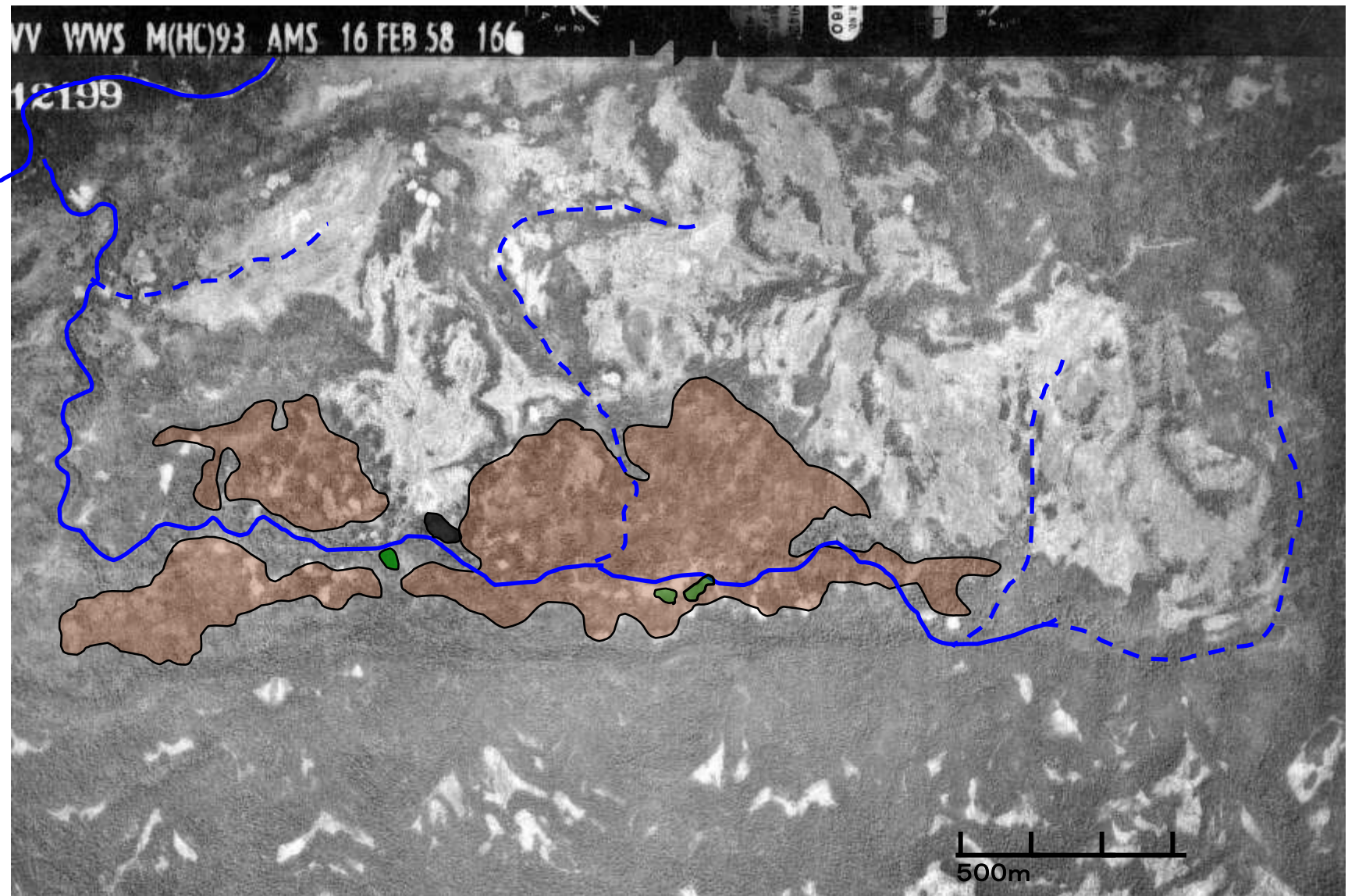
Stakeholders involved in forest management of village K



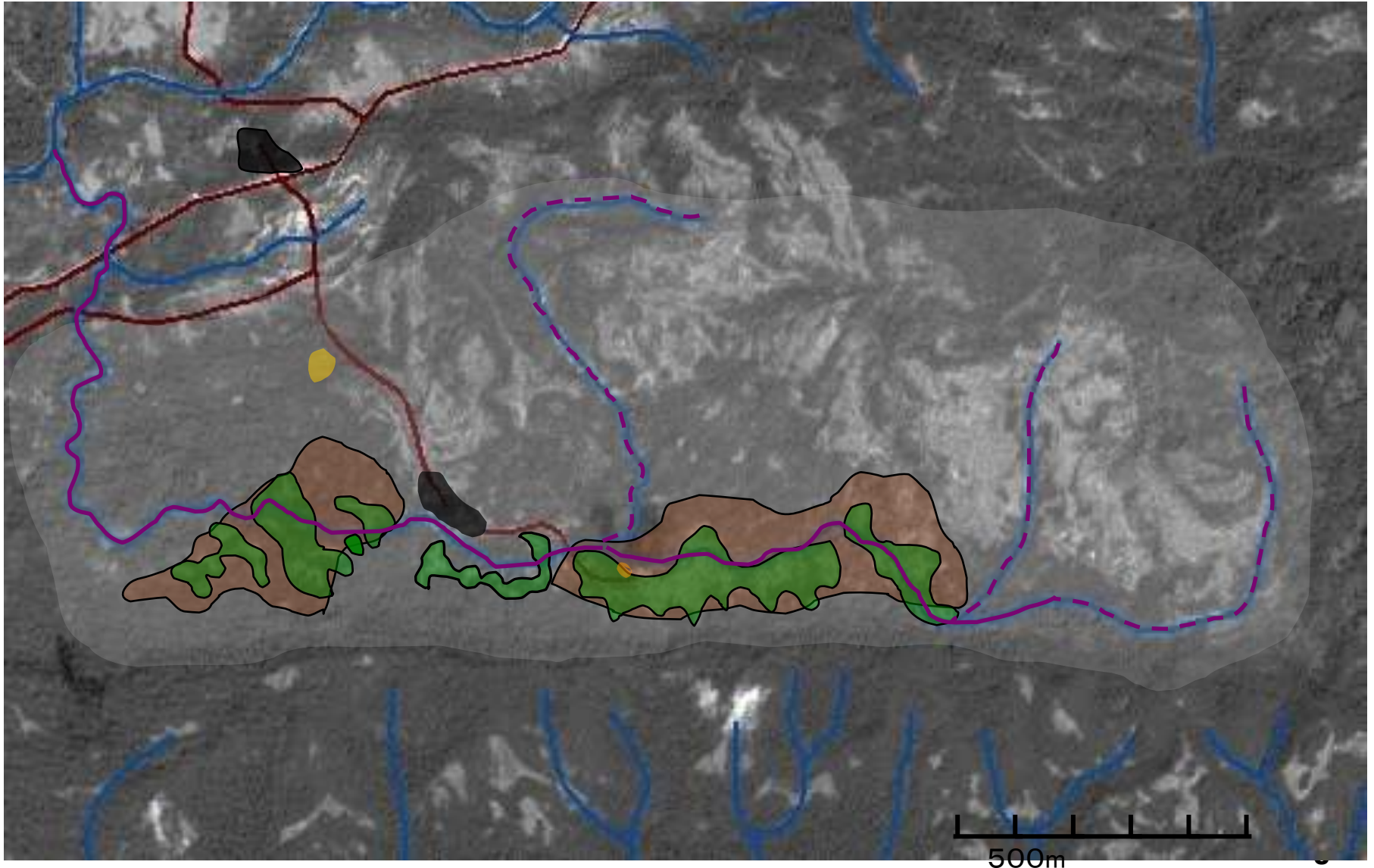
The history of village K and protected area

Year	Incidences	Actor involved
1930s	➤ Establishment of Village K (Main livelihood: Shifting cultivation)	Villagers
1950s	➤ Some HH start to cultivate paddy filed	Villagers
1975	➤ Expanding paddy field by Vietnamese soldiers	Vietnam villagers
1990s	➤ Ban on shifting cultivation	Central gov. /local officials, villagers
1993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Developed provincial road (North part of village K) ➤ Start to timber harvesting ➤ Protected area system established (PM Decree) 	Company, Villagers Central gov./local officials, villagers
1998	➤ Start protected area management and ban on timber harvest	Aid organization/ local officials, villagers
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Aid Organization completed their project ➤ Three zoning system established (MAF decree) 	Aid organization, Local officials, villagers Central gov./local officials, villagers

Land use in 1958



Land use in 1998



Land use in 2005



Right to use land and forest products

	Land owner		NTFP		Timber				
	Local traditional	PA policy	Local traditional	PA policy	Local traditional	PA policy			
Paddy field	Land user	Use right	collector	Collector	Traditional land owner	Use right			
New open paddy field	Person who clear land								
Shifting cultivation land	Land user								
Young fallow swidden	Land user	government	collector	Allow to use in buffer zone	village	Allow to use in buffer zone			
Fallow swidden (secondary forest)									
Mixed Deciduous forest (dense)	village						Prohibit in core zone	Prohibit in core zone	Prohibit
Dry dypterocarp forest									
Spirit forest (protected)									
Burial forest									



Sign Board in Village K settlement indicating rules of protected area

Summary 1/2

■ **Shifting cultivation**

- Officially, shifting cultivation was ban since 1993, but local people still has continued to cultivate them. Local forestry official did not control strictly them.
- The area of shifting cultivation gradually decreased.
 - 1) needs for paddy field increasing, instead of shifting cultivation
 - 2) following government order.

■ **NTFP**

- Importance of NTFP as livelihood (Yam potato as emergency food)
- Quantity of collected NTFP are limited, not caucused by deforestation.

Summary 2/2

■ **Protected area management policy**

- The Gap period between promulgation and implementation of the decree
- Non-implementation of zoning both core and buffer
 - Not enough instruction from central government
- The gap right to use right for local people between traditional regulation and official policy

Conclusion

- **Slipped protected area management**

- **Delay and non implementation of the PA policy**

Central government could not provide yet proper guidance and necessity budget.



Non-functioning system

- **Ban of shifting cultivation • NTFP utilization**

The limited impact to PA. Local officials show some understanding local people behavior



Toleration by local officials

(Cf. Lack of capacity of local officials)

- The realistic solution to PA management would be to allow local officials to be flexible in the implementation of national policies.
- In the future, alternative policy implementation are necessary.

