

Project Update: October 2008

This second update summarises the issues in the management of the protected areas in the North of Vietnam where the study is carried out. Within the issues recognised, practising crops on protected areas' land, exploiting protected areas' resources and arranging the participation of local people in protected area management are the major issues.

Firstly, local people are trying to keep and enlarge cropping patches in the areas already formally allocated to the Protected Areas, because (1) people have been using that land since before the Protected Areas were established, and (2) people need to have sufficient income for their livelihoods.



Secondly, exploitation of resources from protected areas by local people is occurring, because (1) local people need resources for their daily needs (e.g. firewood, timber for building houses, etc), and (2) people treat protected area resources as common properties because they used to freely access those resources for long time.

Finally, there has been participation of local people in protected area protection. However, (1) the voice of people is not equal to that of the Protected Area Authorities in the cooperation arrangements, and (2) the effectiveness of the people's participation in protected area management is still limited (e.g. people receive wage for their engagement in forest protection at the same time they still extract forest resources).