

Report of the field survey on the land and natural resource utilization by the people of Doi village, Thuong Lo commune, Nam district, Viet Nam

Participants:

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Itinerary:

- July 11 (Mon)* Leave Narita, arrive at Ha Noi
- July 12 (Tue)* Visit Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) in Viet Nam and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Leave Ha Noi, arrive at Hue
- July 13 (Wed)* Visit Bach Ma National Park (BMNP), meeting with Vice of Director BMNP Msc. Pham Quoc Linh
- July 14 (Thu)* Visit Hue Agriculture and Forestry University, meeting with Dean of Forestry Faculty Dr. Dang Thai Duong
- July 15 (Fri)* Visit Hue Agriculture and Forestry University, meeting with Head of Silviculture Department Dr. Ho Dac Thai Hoang
- July 16 (Sat)* Meeting with the Head of Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Nam Dong district, Thua Thien Hue Province, Msc. Pham Tan Son
- July 17 (Sun)* Meeting with Ms. Yoshiko TAKAGI, JICA Project Coordinator of Center for Agricultural Forestry Research Development (CARD) at Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry
- July 18 (Mon)* Visit People Committee of Thuong Lo commune, Nam Dong district
- July 19 (Tue)* Visit People Committee of Thuong Quang commune, Nam Dong district
- July 20 (Wed)* Leave Hue, arrive at Narita via Ha Noi (+ 1 day)

* Nguyen remained in Viet Nam to continue the data collection.

Findings:

1. Forests in Viet Nam

Forest cover in Viet Nam has increased from 9,363 thousand ha in 1990 to 11,725 in 2000, and 12,931 in 2005, while the area of primary forests decreased from 384 thousand ha in 1990 to 85 in 2005 (FAO, 2006). The increase of forest cover as a whole has been mainly supported by plantations.

After experiencing serious deforestation caused by the war, expansion of commercial crop cultivation, and slash and burn agriculture by ethnic minorities, the government has reallocated forest land to local farmers since 1994. Together with logging ban from natural forests, Vietnamese forestry sector has shifted to higher dependency on plantation forestry and protection of natural ecosystems. As the incentives for tree planting, the Government has created a plantation fund to provide subsidies and tax reduction. Land-use certificates have been issued to households allocated lands for tree planting activities (FAO, 2002). The dense forests stretch in the uplands along the border with Laos and Cambodia (Fig. 1).

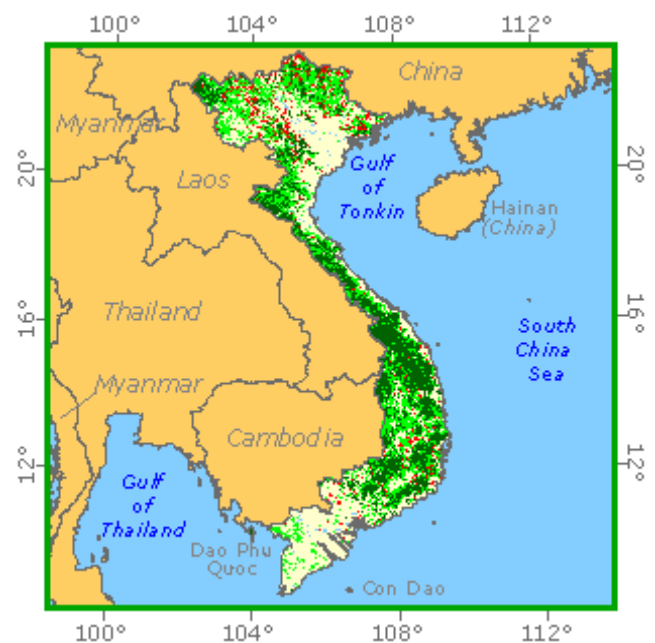


Fig. 1: Forest cover map (FAO, 2006)

2. Forest land management by local people: a case of Doi village, Thuong Lo commune, Nam Dong district, Thua Thien Hue province

Thuong Lo is a mountainous commune of upper reaches of Huong river, Thua Thien Hue province (Fig. 2). It locates in the west of Nam Dong district, 3 km far from Khe Tre town. Doi is one of 4 villages of Thuong Lo commune (Doi, Cha Mang, La Ho, Mu Nam) with 95% is K'Tu people (one of 54 minority groups of Viet Nam).



Fig. 2: Land use in Thuong Lo commune

In this village, natural forest was allocated for group of local people and planting forest was allocated for individual households. There are 7 groups were received forest and they response for protecting, managing and preventing forest from illegal logging.

3. Influence on the protected areas: a case of Bach Ma National Park

Degraded upland forest allocated to local people can naturally form a buffer zone if properly managed as forest land. Bach Ma National Park stretches out in 2 districts, Phu Loc and Nam Dong, covering 37.480 ha. Thuong Lo commune is inside of Bach Ma National Park buffer zone, and people have planted *Acacia mangium* on the upland with short rotation for cash income (Fig. 3). So is there any effect of Bach Ma National Park establishment on local livelihood in Thuong Lo commune? After interviewing some key persons who work in forestry field in this area, we found that the difference of local livelihood inside and outside is not clear because the policy and law are always implemented the same for whole district.

Bach Ma National Park has attempted various activities for income generation of the buffer zone people. One of the most successful attempts is simple resthouse management by the local people. Groups of local tourists visit the huts built on the rocky creek beds and enjoy cool weather and local food (Fig. 4). Contrary, the southern boundaries, the opposite side from the national park office where we could not visit this time, are more seriously affected by illegal logging, according to the interview to the national park staff.



Fig. 3: Bach Ma National Park and the buffer zone



Fig. 4: Local tourists in Bach Ma National Park

Reference

- FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization). 2002. *Forestry policies, institutions and programmes: Viet Nam*. <http://www.fao.org/forestry/country/57479/en/vnm> (cited on Sep. 15, 2011).
- FAO. 2006. *Global forest resources assessment 2005: progress towards sustainable forest management*. FAO, Rome.