



The role of Farmer Association in potential 'investment model' for RUPES in Ha Tinh Action site for RUPES in Vietnam

Background

Over the last two years, Payment for Environmental Services (PES) has received significantly attention and support from the government. While the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) is trying to integrate PES into the Biodiversity Law, the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) have worked on 'What percentage of the payments from electricity users should flow back to upstream people?', the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) puts a great efforts to develop decrees and guidelines for How to quantify payment for watershed protection under the Forest Protection and Development Law. Different international organisation including ICRAF, IUCN, WWF, SNV, Winrock International and CIFOR have been also active in facilitating the process and tested several case studies on the ground. Still, there is a lack of policies and investment models of direct PES between individuals, communities and organisations, which has clear conditionality, realistic and voluntary.

Objectives

To develop a policy and investment model for PES, with focus for the institutionalization of community as a legal unit in valuation of ES, negotiation for RUPES, providing of ES and monitoring ES impacts.

Research questions

- Who are the buyers for environmental services in Ha Tinh? What are the willingness to pay of buyers and sellers ?
- Can't Farmer Association act as the sellers on behalf of the community?
- How can the Farmer Association distribute the collected money amongst the community and what mechanism that helps the poor can be reached?
- How can the Farmer Association ensure that farmers will meet and maintain the conditionality section?

Activities

The activities are planned to be carried out during three years 2008-2011. 4 work packages and its interaction are illustrated in Figure 1.

Expected outcomes

- Lessons learnt for institutionalization of mass organization in Vietnam in order to reduce transaction cost for PES
- Lessons learnt on how the money can be spent, monitored amongst the community
- Propose a improved PES model for policy

Bamboo landscape for ES in Ha Tinh as a case study:

Ha Tinh province in central part of Vietnam, characterized by the following context and issues:

- High poverty rate (40-60%) 130.000 rural poor HHs in the upstream
- Governmental focus, attention and willingness of local political leaders
- Obvious environmental services and potential buyers and sellers have been potentially identified and aware by the local authorities
- Many projects on environmental protection and poverty reduction have been carried out in the area to have (i) baseline date and (ii) lessons learnt
- Coastal area significantly affected by climate change

Issues

- Biodiversity threats: livestock raising >< conservation
- Upstream and downstream conflict in water use
- Frequent storms flooding due to climate change- significant impact on the poor
- Land tenure conflict between production and conservation purpose=> High rate deforestation and illegal logging => Reallocate the land for the poor
- Bamboo plays a critical role in both poverty reduction and environmental protection and climate change adaptation

Case study: PES model applied for bamboo landscape enrichment as an instrument for sustainable environment management and improve livelihood of the poor

