



Gender roles in forest landscape management

Info brief



Western Nghe An Biosphere Reserve Viet Nam

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Context

Western Nghe An Biosphere Reserve was officially recognized by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on 18 September 2007. It is one of Viet Nam's forest landscape management initiatives. People living in this area belong mainly to minority ethnic groups and have been depending on the exploitation of natural resources for their livelihoods for generations.

This study explored the roles of local women and men and reviewed the policies that support gender equality in forest landscape management under this initiative.

Research questions

- What is the difference in knowledge, attitudes and practices related to forest landscape management at Western

Nghe An Biosphere Reserve between women and men?

- Which government policies support gender equality in forest landscape management?

Methodology

The study is based on primary data collected through personal surveys and in-depth interviews to investigate local residents' knowledge, attitudes and practices in forest landscape management in Western Nghe An Biosphere Reserve. The researcher reviewed policies issued by the Vietnamese government and other secondary documents to identify legal support for gender equality in forest landscape management.

This data was collected from core zones of the Western Nghe An Biosphere Reserve covering Pu-Mat National Park, Pu-Huong

Nature Reserve and Pu-Hoat Nature Reserve. This area includes five of nine districts belonging to Western Nghe An Biosphere Reserve: Con Cuong, Tuong Duong, Quy Hop, Quy Chau and Que Phong.

Findings and conclusions

Generally, local women residents have better knowledge about forest landscape management in Western Nghe An Biosphere Reserve than do men. There still exists gender gap issues at Western Nghe An Biosphere Reserve but their expression is context specific.

The role of local women in forest landscape management is only acknowledged when it is required in a certain circumstance or when it directly contributes money into family incomes. Local women's participation in public interactive events is low except when women's attendance is a compulsory criterion of the event. Local women carry out many activities in forests but the respondents still value men's roles in forest management activities more highly.

Gender equality is mentioned in many legal documents and policies of the Vietnamese government at all levels. However, this principle needs to be implemented more effectively in practice. The rights of women are undermined by the assignment of special use, protection and production forests and by the government practice of allocating forest land for household use far from where people live.

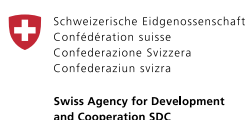
Recommendations

- Conduct further studies to investigate the diverse issues and drivers of gender gaps in forest landscape management at Western Nghe An Biosphere Reserve and whether these barriers they create for women vary among different ethnic groups.
- Conduct additional studies on reform of land allocation policies and procedures and benefit sharing mechanisms to ensure local women's rights at Western Nghe An Biosphere Reserve.

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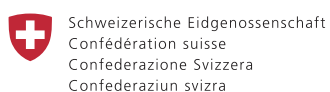
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