1. Introduction and objectives:

The limited knowledge on livelihood and importance of forest to residents in Protected Areas is the reason why forest management practice has not yet achieved conservation and development objectives. It even sometimes causes conflicts between the Protected Areas and local communities. The research on contribution of forest resources to rural livelihood of the communities living inside or around Thuong Tien Nature Reserve, Kim Boi district, Hoa Binh province bases two criteria: distance to forest (from household’s house to forest) and household economics types.

2. Study location:

Thuong Tien Nature Reserve covers an area of 7,300 hectares located in 3 communes including Thuong Tien and Kim Tien communes of Kim Boi district, Quy Hoa commune of Lac Son district. It provides water for downstream areas of Lac Thuy and Kim Boi district, Hoa Binh province. The buffer zone of Thuong Tien Nature Reserve covers 4,308 ha. A total of 8,149 people live inside the buffer zone, and a further number of 2,416 people live inside the nature reserve itself (Nguyen Hong Quan, 2003). The inhabitants of the nature reserve and buffer zone belong to the Kinh and Muong ethnic groups, and practice both wet and shifting cultivation.

3. Methodology:

The applied methods in the research include analysis of secondary data and survey using Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools: household survey (one hundred sixteen households), group discussion and expert interview.

4. Result and discussion:

The research results show that the major livelihood source of residents living inside or around the Nature Reserve is forest resources exploitation, namely timber, fuel-wood, bamboo and medicinal plants collection as well as raising animals in forest.

5. Recommendation:

Recommendation for solution packages is given with the aim of helping the Nature Reserve and local communities to promote the implementation of both conservation and livelihood development objectives in the research area.

Table 1. The Correlation equation on the dependence of the forest on the position and household economic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Position from the NR</th>
<th>R2</th>
<th>Correlative equation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Strictly protected area</td>
<td>0.787</td>
<td>Leave=3.469+0.698LnX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rehabilitation zone</td>
<td>0.719</td>
<td>Leave=4.071+0.638LnX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Buffer zone</td>
<td>0.452</td>
<td>Leave=4.453+0.605LnX</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The analysis of contribution of forest resources to total income of those households relates distance to forest and household economics types through finding out the correlative equation between total income of surveyed households and incomes from forest and forest land is from relatively strong to very strong with coefficient R2 which ranges from 0.375 to 0.787. This means from 37.5% to 78.7% of total income fluctuation of households is explained by income from forest and forest land. The research findings also reveal that the nearer people live to forest the more important forest resources are to total income, especially poor households.

References:


