



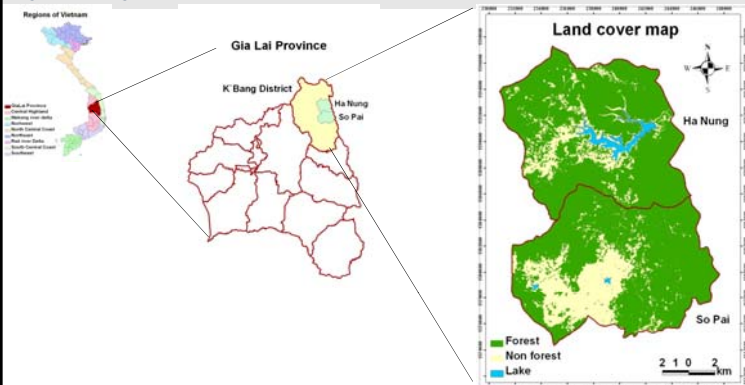
Forest management practices in Central Highlands of Vietnam: Case studies in two State Forestry Companies

INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVE:

State forestry companies (SFCs) are the main owners that manage production forests in Vietnam. During the early 1990s of *Doi moi* (market-oriented reform policy) era, SFCs had played an important role in the forestry sector and impacted the livelihood of million people living in those managed areas. However, being mainly based on natural forest harvesting, the forests under management of SFCs have been declining in term of both area and quality, unsustainable forest management is supposed to be a major problem. In order to understand forest management practices and find out problems to improve forest management, a SWOT analysis was conducted in two SFCs in Central Highland of Vietnam.

RESEARCH LOCATION:

So Pai and Ha Nung Forestry Companies, Gia Lai province, Central Highland region, Vietnam.

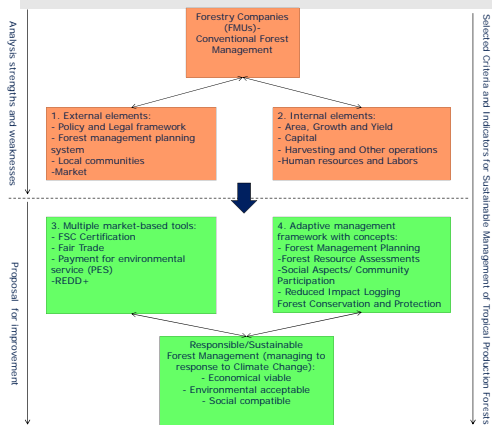


Source: WWF, 2010

Map 1 Case studies location and land cover

OUT LOOK

Future forest management needs to have a focus on the integration of adaptive forest management concepts and market-based instruments.



Source: Adapted and modified from Higman et al., 2006 and Campbell et al., 2009.

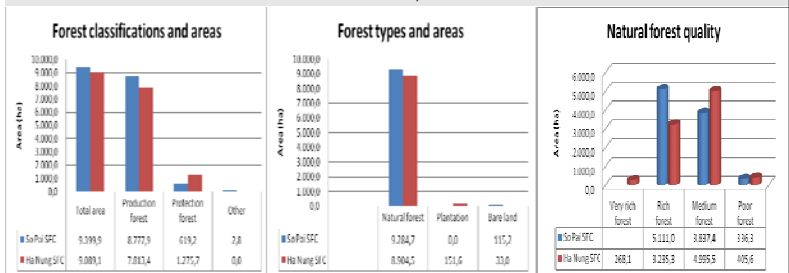
Figure 2 SFM model

METHODOLOGY

SWOT analysis was conducted with the manager and core staff of the SFC by participatory approach to lay out all strengths (S), evaluate weaknesses (W), look for opportunities (O) and learn about threats (T) the SFC are having and facing due to implementation of forest management tasks. Short semi-structured interviews with key SFC staff and literature review were also carried out to understand the current forest management system and other factors.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

So Pai and Ha Nung SFCs manage less than 10,000 ha of mainly rich natural forest, and over 85% of the total area is production forest.



Source: WWF, 2010

Figure 1 Forest resources status

SWOT Analysis has shown some key problems such as weak forest management competency of the forest owners, continuous existence of semi-autonomous entities, the lack of environmental awareness, and land-use conflicts with local communities.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large natural forest area, most of forests are rich and medium forests. - Long traditional forest management practices and experiences. - Systematic and long term stability in forestry production and service provision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weak forest management competency of the forest owner. - Lack of environmental awareness. - Not fully active in finance and human resources. - Low efficiency of working apparatus. - Lack of fund for silviculture and post-harvesting activities.
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strict forest management policy of the province - Quick revenues for the state from timber harvesting. - Maintenance of environmental services and welfare for locality. - Open for future reform. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land-use conflicts with local communities. - Often exclusion the participation of communities in operations. - Weak monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system on performance. - Slow change in terms of awareness and behavior. - Continuous existence of semi-autonomous entity.

Source: Own elaboration based on fieldwork in 2009

Table 1 SWOT Analysis Table

