ROLE OF FOREST & NATIONAL PARK
ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION
AT CAT BA ISLAND

Hoang Thi Ngoc Ha
Vietnam

PEN Workshop, 8/2008.
STRUCTURE OF THE PRESENTATION

INTRODUCTION
- Background of Cat Ba National Park (CBNP)
- Objectives and methods

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE
- Research Team
- On job training

RESEARCH QUESTIONS/RESULTS
- Research questions
- Results
INTRODUCTION

The study area - Cat Ba National Park (CBNP):

- Cat Ba island was established as a National Park in 1986, as Marine Protected Area in 1995, as a World Biosphere Reserve Area in 2004.

- Topography and geomorphic features: limestone Karst outcrops scattered with valleys.

- Biodiversity: fauna and flora inland and marine.

- Hydrology: Human settlement and economic activities
The geographic location of study area
Research

Objectives:

- Studying on the current roles of forest and national park in poverty alleviation;
- Solutions to enhance those roles through better conservation and development policy formulation and implementation.
Study area

6 communes (295 households) are divided into two groups based on the Cat Ba National Park boundary (inside and outside).

Outputs:  - Common Data Bank for PEN global analysis.
          - Research article.
Method:

Questionnaire data collection

Participatory rural appraisal (PRA), participatory observation and action research.

Questionnaire data analysis

Evaluation
Contribution of the study:

- The study listed and analyzed the main household's capitals;

- The study presented a lively and truthful picture of households' livelihood status around CBNP as well as relationship between livelihood activities and the park;

- Recommended some solutions for livelihood improvement and forest conservation.
FIELWORK EXPERIENCE

Research Team

Team director
- Meeting, guidance, final report

Team leader
- Village/focus group meetings, checking, communication.

Survey assistants (2)
- Interview, coding questionnaire, entering data.

Local assistants (7)
- Help in interview and data collection.
Group meeting/On job training

Interviewing expert of national park

Interviewing
Define key words: National park, forest, non-timber product, conservation.

On job training: training and sharing experience on implementing progress.

Cross check method: checking collected information against reality and existing document.
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Research questions:

1. What are the materials and value-added flows of non-timber products in Cat Ba Island?

2. What are the current roles of forest and national park in poverty alleviation?

3. How can those roles be enhanced through better conservation and development policy formulation and implementation?
Data collected:

- Characters of households' house in communes.
- Households' implements in communes.
- Sectors and activities for analysis of household livelihoods.
- Average subsistence and cash gross income from different crops.
- Differences among communes of average gross income.
- The contribution of forest to livelihoods
- Contribution to total gross income by different NTFPs
- Outcome of livelihood activities
- The related others.
What are the current roles of forest and national park in poverty alleviation?
Livelihood activities:

1. Crop production

2. Livestock production

3. Fishery

4. Forest-based activities (Pole, Fire wood, Medicine, Resin, Wild animal, Honey, Bamboo shoot,

5. Others (wage, business, pension…)

Non-timber forest products contributed app. 4 millions VND/year/ hh, in which 78% was cash.
Contribution of livelihood activities to net income of household

- Crop: 14.2%
- Livestock: 20.9%
- Aquaculture: 5.7%
- Forest: 20.6%
- Wage: 19.1%
- Business: 10.1%
- Other: 9.4%
Forest fruits were sold with agricultural products in market.
Products from forest/national park

Timber and non-timber forest product collection: (pole, fire wood, medicinal plant, resin, honey, wild animal, etc...).

Benefits from forest protection, tourism activity.
Contribution to total gross income by NTFPs

- Honey: 38.6%
- Wild animal: 11.2%
- Fire wood: 4.6%
- Resin: 7.8%
- Pole + bamboo: 4.4%
- Medicine: 2.3%
- Resin: 4.4%
- Wild animal: 2.3%
- Honey: 31.1%
Grazing in the edge of the forest
Collection of forest products from national park
Wild animals are sold in Cat Ba town
Shotguns and traps for hunting
Forest encroachment
The lack of land, water are the great disadvantage for farmers in Cat Ba island. The limitation of education and awareness, the lack of finance and technology are significant barriers for the household livelihoods.

Livelihood activities of households who live within or close to CBNP really diversified but their living condition are still poor.

It is necessary to implement some solutions ensuring the integrated development and conservation
Relationship between livelihood activities and Cat Ba National Park

- Timber exploitation
- NTFP collection
- Conversion of forest to agriculture
- Stone exploitation

**Impact to national park:**

- Forest land is encroached illegally for livelihood.
- Degradation of forest resources and endanger ecosystem.
- The biodiversity value of National park/forest could be loss if without protection.
1. Sustainable livelihood activities

2. Orientation and solution for livelihood improvement and forest/ Cat Ba National Park conservation.

Solution for improvement?
Finding solutions for:

- Crop production
- Livestock production
- Associated agriculture and forestry.

Development of *ecotourism* and *community tourism* were considered as the way to share benefits and reduce conflict between stakeholders.
Finding solutions for forest conservation:

1. Community education

2. Patrolling and handling violation

3. Hiring and transferring forest protection

4. ...................?
Thank you