



PES Vietnam

National 1990's

Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES)

Global/Transnational/International

Vietnam
Forestry

The project's primary subject: Forest ecosystems

Additional focus points of the project: Local communities

Main governance mechanisms that the project uses: direct payments, rules and regulation

Target market of the resource or product: The market for conservation of natural resources.

Introduction

Global conservation increasingly relies on market-based solutions to achieve forest conservation and economic development. By examining three case studies of payment for ecosystem service (PES) schemes in Vietnam, we find that the income these programs do not reach the poor due to political and economic constraints, but is captured by local elites. We argue that these schemes create a market for ecosystem services that are embedded in a socio-political and historical context to support sustainable forests and improve local livelihoods in Vietnam.

Actors involved in creating the project: government resource agency national level, local/village government administration

Actors regulated by the project: small-scale producers

Main goals of the project: maintain/improve forest ecologies, improve livelihoods

The main social objective is to reduce social inequalities and vulnerabilities, the economic objective is improve the livelihoods of local people, and the ecological objective is to provide a sustainable use of forest resources.

Scope of the project:

PES schemes operate in various places around the world. There are currently twenty PES programs operating in Vietnam in various areas. The first one examined in the article was in Ba Vi National Park, the second and third programs were Lam Dong and Son La.

History of the project:

After independence, the Vietnamese government declared 'Ba Vi Forbidden Forest' a conservation area before later changing into a national park. When the PES program was implemented in the 19990s, conflicts emerged between various actors over contrasting and overlapping claims to rights of land. The state disregarded villagers' claim on the land and conflicts arose between park officials and villagers. Villagers did not benefit from the scheme, especially recently migrated ones who were excluded from PES benefits. See paper for Lam Dong and Son La's PES implementation history.

History of the scheme:

Is the project currently active?

Yes

Regulation and compliance

Parties that were involved in creating the project:

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Vietnam are the main actors creating and implementing PES programs.

Who are being regulated by the project:

Local farmers or villagers living in protected forested or ecologically significant areas.

Means of monitoring compliance:

government inspection

Monitoring organisation:

Local authorities, or park officials.

Consequences of failing compliance:

expulsion from the scheme/decertification

Assessment of the project*

We argue that the implementation of PES could instead further exacerbate pre-existing inequalities as local elites monopolize direct income flows and state forest entities control the majority of national forestland.

Additional researcher comments:

Sources:

To, P, Dressler, W, Mahanty, S et al, 2012. 'The Prospects for Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) in Vietnam: A Look at Three Payment Schemes', Human Ecology, 40, pp. 237-249.

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*All assessments of the project are made by the researcher or the authors of the main sources.

