

Afterword

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Participatory forest management was the main topic of this workshop. To begin with, we discussed the following important issues, the information for which was based on field studies;

1) the contradiction between the legal system and local practice in degraded forest regions in Laos,

2) governmental trials to involve local people in national park management or biodiversity conservation in Vietnam,

3) NGO participation in participatory forest management in Bangladesh.

We confirmed that it was extremely important for the promotion of participatory forest management to change from a top-down approach to a bottom-up approach through cooperation among various actors, such as the local people, local and international NGOs, companies, and the local government.

Secondly, legal support systems were discussed. It was confirmed that national legal systems should be improved, in order to facilitate participatory forest management, in line with international treaties.

While we will continue our research activities in the second fiscal year or FY 1999, the fruitful discussion at the workshop has provided us with useful information.

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