

Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

CBRM Database

Date:	August 8, 2012	Entry Number:	1220
Case Study Name:	Local people's perceptions as decision support for protected area management in Wolong Biosphere Reserve, China		
Author:	Xu, J., Chen, L., Lu, Y. and Fu, B.		
Document Type:	Paper in scientific journal		
Year:	2006		
Language:	English		
Document Location:	Journal of Environmental Management 78 :362–372		
Full Citation:	Xu, J., Chen, L., Lu, Y. and Fu, B. .2006. Local people's perceptions as decision support for protected area management in Wolong Biosphere Reserve, China. Journal of Environmental Management 78 :362–372.		
Region:	Near East and Western Asia		
Country:	China		
Ecosystem Type:	Forest		
Social Characteristics:	Community inside protected area/community bordering protected area		
Scale of Study:	Protected area		
Resource Type:	Protected area		
Type of Initiative:	Research-driven project		
Community Based Work:	resource management, conservation		

Keywords:	Local people; Perceptions; Management improvement; Wolong Biosphere Reserve
Summary:	<p>This paper examines local people's knowledge, attitudes and perceptions towards Wolong Biosphere Reserve (WBR) and its management policies. Pertinent data were collected through a questionnaire survey and group discussions. This study revealed that local people's perceptions were affected by many factors, including education, gender, residence location, household size and acreage of land owned. Although most respondents had limited knowledge about WBR because of their absence in WBR management, they held a positive attitude towards WBR. An in-depth analysis of their attitudes and perceptions showed that two potential conflicts might affect biodiversity conservation and protected area management. One of them was the imbalance between the limited cropland holding and the oversupply of the labor force, and the other one was the increase in electricity price versus the decrease in economic incentives for the Natural Forest Protection Project. The study also revealed that relocation was considered unacceptable to most respondents. However, those residing far from the main road were willing to relocate more than those near the main road. Based on our studies, some recommendations are given for improvement of WBR management.</p>