Traditional forest-related knowledge and sustainable forest management in mountainous Guizhou - a case from Dong minority

Yuan Juanwen
Guizhou University of Finance and Economics

May 8, 2014
Contents

- History of people and nature
- Research methodology and Dong minority
- Traditional forest-related knowledge
- Conclusion and discussion
1. History of people and environment

- afraid of nature
- use nature
- people domination
- harmony, sustainable development

- people accumulate rich NRM knowledge, rich traditional forest-related knowledge in mountainous area because they are more forest-dependent

- rich biodiversity, rich knowledge

e.g. Shuzhang of Miao in Biasha village in Guizhou (born with tree, live with tree, die with tree)
2. Research methodology and Dong Minority

• 3 million, Southeastern Guizhou
• participant observation
• interview
• group discussion
• Secondary data
Definition:
Traditional Forest-Related Knowledge??

Local knowledge: their livelihood, production, management, life style, habit, ritual, religious, spiritual, etc. knowledge related with forest
3. Traditional forest-related knowledge

- planting direction
- agro-forestry (terrace)
- eighteen-year-fir-tree
- Planting day,
  Herbal medicine day, Harvesting day
Building and village
Landscape
fengshui
Fengshui forest/holy forest
building

- Drum tower
building

- Fengyu bridge
  (wind-and-rain-prevention bridge)
Special house?

Water grain storage,
Fire and mouse prevention
traditional paper-making
Management regulations
Management regulations
Fire-prevention

- Beating drum
- Water pond
- Fire-prevention day
Jinpingwenshu (forest management contract)
Collective action

- Cases: fire in Wanzhai village, only one wood pole for funeral in the village
- Collective action, effective enforcement
Gender issues

- Non-timber forest products (mushroom, fern, etc) and women
- Child-guard tree
- Boy-guard tree
- Women not allowed to attend some ceremonies, to go into the drum tower, etc.
- Married-women-forest
More knowledge

- Arrangement of charcoal-making stove
- Arrangement for big trees, fruit trees
- Aged-persons association
- Pine tree utilization
- Dalaogeng: Trees-planting activities for witnessing good friends
- “Fenjiabufenshan” practice
4. Conclusion and discussion

- Rich forest-related knowledge
- Harmony of people and nature
- Life style, livelihood, system, landscape, sustainable
- Effective enforcement
- Government is promoting local knowledge

But,

- Inheritance and innovation in the globalization context
Current management and innovation
Thank you!