

## **Project Update: January 2009**

This third update summarises local people's points of view about the following issues: Access of local people to protected area resources, engagements of local people in the protected area management and resettlement of people in the core zones.

Firstly, since local people have been living in the protected areas for a long time and their livelihoods depend very much on the local natural resources, they do not support the idea of totally banned using the protected area resources. They are well aware that resources need to be sustainably managed for future uses. However, they argue that before thinking to the future, there needs to be consideration to their current needs.

Secondly, even though local people are engaged in the protection of the protected areas, particularly in the Forest Patrolling Teams, their contribution is just seen as a paid work with a small wage paid by the Protected Areas. What people wish most is that they should have an equal voice in the cooperation arrangements with the protected area authorities, so that they can contribute better to the management of the protected area resources.

Finally, resettlement of residents in the core zones of the protected areas is not fully supported by people. They argue that resettlement is not simply moving houses to other places, but involves a wide range of social and cultural issues such as community relationships, ancestor assets, etc. So far, the resettlement programs in a research site in Ba Be National Park have been facing many difficulties due less support from resettled people.