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Forest-dependent communities, particularly minority ethnic groups in the Northern provinces of Vietnam, are among the poorest in the country. They have limited access to agricultural land which can produce stable food crops. They are constrained to access information, resources and physical infrastructure that reduce choices and alternative options to adapt to the impacts of climate change. They also have limited access to health facilities, markets and other services. Consequently, they are most at risk from climate extremes. Forest products sale plays an important role as a safety net for many poor households. However, the vulnerability of these people to climate extreme and variability and other stresses contributes to the vulnerability of forests in Vietnam. High levels of forest degradation and low management capabilities currently limit the income-generating potential of many forest areas in the region. There is also evidence of over-exploitation of natural resources for meeting basic needs. Vulnerability of forests to climate change and other stresses will affect many people whose livelihoods rely on forests and its ecosystem services.



Left: Bamboo pipe for moving water from stream to irrigate farms or human use - a creative method for irrigation in mountainous region. Right: Upland farming inside Ba Be National Park which is both vulnerable to drought and complicated for park management.