

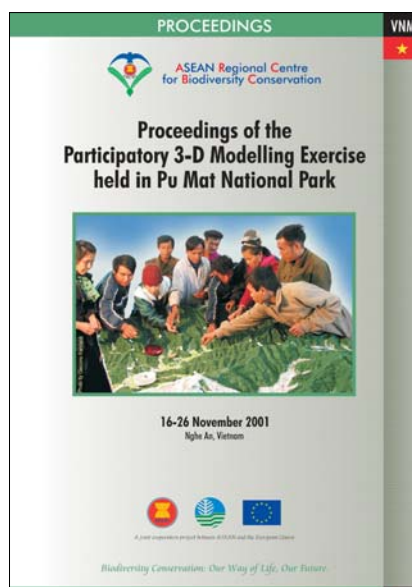
Orientation Seminar on Participatory 3-D Modelling

► By **LE VAN LANH**

The National Environment Agency (NEA) and the Vietnam National Parks and Protected Areas Association (VNPPA) organised an orientation on Participatory 3 Dimensional Modelling (P3DM) for Natural Resource Management in the afternoon of 29 October 2001 at the Nikko Hotel in Hanoi, Vietnam.

With financial support provided by the European Commission (EC) and technical input by the ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity Conservation (ARCBC), the seminar was held in view of a 3-D modelling exercise to be conducted in Pu Mat Nature Reserve (Nghe An Province) during the month of November 2001. The training aims to build the capacity of institutions and project implementers active in Vietnam and the Philippines in using P3DM in the context of collaborative natural resource management. It foresees the construction of a 1:10,000 scale model of a 700-km² portion of Pu Mat Nature Reserve. The event has been planned by ARCBC in collaboration with the Social Forestry and Nature Conservation in Nghe An project, NEA and the VNPPA and will be featured in the next issue of ASEAN Biodiversity.

Speakers in the seminar included in order of appearance: Mr. Le Van Lanh (Secretary General of the VNPPA); Mr. Nguyen Khac Kinh (Deputy Director General, NEA); Mr. Tran Lien Phong (NBRU Vietnam Coordinator, Head of the Nature Conservation Division, NEA); Mr. Hoang Hoa Que (Director, Pu Mat Nature Reserve, SFNC), and Mr. Giacomo Rambaldi, (ARCBC, P3DM resource speaker).



Senior officers representing national and international organisations involved in natural resource management, environmental protection and community development attended the seminar (see Box 1).

After the opening speech by Mr Nguyen Khac Kinh, Vice Director of NEA, and an overview on the Pu Mat Nature Reserve by its Director Hoang Hoa Que, Mr. Giacomo Rambaldi, ARCBC Information

Communication Advisor, delivered a presentation on Participatory 3-D Modelling (P3DM) for Natural Resource Management. He focused on the experiences gained by practitioners in the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam in using 3-D models as a communication means for surfacing people's "tacit knowledge" and for reproducing cognitive (mental) maps in a precise and geo-referenced cartographic format.

Community participation plays a key role in natural resource management because the management would be effective only when communities actively participate. P3DM is a method that allows communities to efficiently interact with institutions, and to manifest, in cartographic form, local knowledge, values, concerns and aspirations.

At present, Vietnam as well as many other countries advocates the full involvement of marginalised communities in the development process and in the sustainable management of natural resources.

Several organisations have been trying to develop and apply various



3-Dimensional Perspectives?

Photo by Le Van Lanh

methods to foster community participation. The cases presented by the resource speaker are evidence of the successful use of P3DM in involving different sectors of society in natural resource management and managing conflicts related to the territory. This approach helps outsiders and insiders learn from and interact with others.

An interesting open forum followed the presentation and participants had the chance to discuss possible applications of P3DM in Vietnam. Some participants expressed their concern regarding the ability of institutions and projects to sufficiently mobilise community members and stimulate participation in the prevailing Vietnamese socio-cultural context. Mr. Rambaldi recalled his personal experience, stating that 3-D modelling should only



Photo by Le Van Lam

VIP audience

be used to assist communities in dealing with spatial issues of their concern. He added that P3DM requires thorough community mobilising and that if properly facilitated, the mapping activity would

be “self-igniting” and participants would enjoy visualizing their mental maps in a tangible format.

Others questioned the cost of applying the method. Mr. Rambaldi informed them that in the Philippines the total cost of conducting a P3DM exercise involving 70 informants and dealing with the production of a 1:10,000 scale model representing an area of approximately 700 km² corresponds to 2-3 USD/km².

Mr. Hoang Lan Anh from the Mountainous Agro-Ecosystem Research Project (SAM project), informed the forum that they successfully applied the method¹ while conducting a participatory analysis of livestock management patterns in Phieng Lieng village, Cho Don District, Bac Kan province, Vietnam, and that they intend to replicate their experience.

The event ended on a high note, with participants expressing interest and support for the approach and the wish that the technique would be pilot-tested in a protected area in Vietnam. They also recommended that the exercise in Pu Mat Nature Reserve be fully documented, paying careful attention to the communication dynamics intervening in the process and to the cost involved. ■

¹ The project facilitated the manufacturing of several 1:3000 scale models using the guidelines provided in the “Manual on Participatory 3-D Modelling for NRM” distributed by ARCBC.

Box 1. List of Participating Bodies

National Government Institutions

- National Environment Agency (NEA), MOSTE
- Vietnam Forestry Association (VFA)
- Forest Protection Department (FPD), MARD
- Vietnam CITIES Management Authority
- Forest Inventory & Planning Institute (FIPI)
- Department of Science and International Relations, General Department of Land Administration

National Parks

- Bach Ma National Park
- Ba Be National Park
- Cuc Phuong National Park
- Cat Tien National Park
- Pu Mat Nature Reserve

Aid Agencies

- Environmental Disaster Mitigation, UNDP
- Netherlands Development Agency (SNV)
- Development Cooperation Office, Canadian Embassy

NGOs

- Centre for Environment, Tourism and Development (CETD), Education for Nature (EFN)
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF Indochina)
- World Conservation Union (IUCN)

Academe

- Vietnam National University – Hanoi, College of Social Sciences and Humanities
- Center for Resources and Environmental Study (CRES)
- Faculty of Biology, Hanoi University of Science
- Faculty of Geography, Hanoi University of Science
- Faculty of Economy and Municipal Environmental Management, Hanoi National Economic University
- Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR) of the National Centre for Natural Science and Technology (NCST)

Projects

- IUCN/UNESCO-Biodiversity Awareness Project
- MARD/GTZ “Song Da Social Forestry Development Project”
- MRC/GTZ “Sustainable Management of Resources in the Lower Mekong Basin (SMRP)”
- UNDP/GEF “Protected Areas Resources Conservation (PARC)” project
- IRRRI Mountainous Agro-Ecosystem Research Project (SAM project),
- MARD/EC-funded “Social Forestry and Nature Conservation in Nghe An