

# Communities, Livelihoods, and Natural Resources

## Action Research and Policy Change in Asia

Edited by Stephen R. Tyler

- Presenting cases from some of the poorest parts of Asia to illustrate how local innovations in participatory natural resource management can strengthen livelihoods, build capacity for local governance, and spark policy change.

This book synthesizes results from a seven-year programme of applied research on community-based approaches to natural resource management in Asia. By presenting field reports of innovative approaches to poverty reduction and sustainable resource use, it provides practitioners with models of good practice in participatory, community-based resource management, and it demonstrates how site-based research contributes to broader learning in the field of natural resource management and policy.

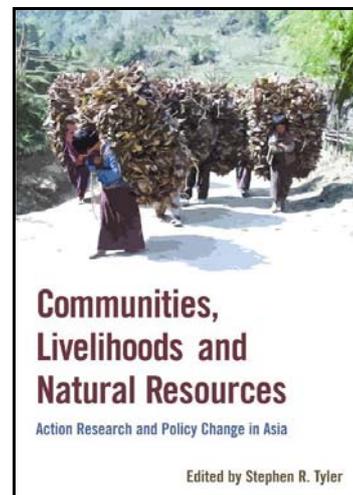
There are 11 case studies featured, from some of the most marginal areas of rural China, Mongolia, Laos, Viet Nam, Cambodia, the Philippines, and Bhutan. The cases (each one authored by local researchers) illustrate lessons derived from the application of a participatory action research framework that engaged resource users, local governments, and researchers in collaborative learning. They illustrate practical innovations to strengthen livelihoods through improved collective resource management practices and broader technology choices. These experiences point to changes in well-being and empowerment for the rural poor.

The Comparative assessment and syntheses across cases demonstrate how local successes have led to reconsideration of policy assumptions, and to new ways of approaching rural poverty reduction, resource management, and local governance.

**Readership:** Practitioners working in the Environment or Development Field, graduate students in Development Studies, applied researchers in government or private research organizations interested in Development programs and policy analysis.

### About the Editor:

**Stephen R. Tyler** is President, Adaptive Resource Management Ltd. He directed a program of action research for Community-Based Natural Resource Management in Asia for seven years, as program team leader with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and has worked with partners throughout Asia on applied research in the field of environment and development for 16 years. He served as consultant to Asian Development Bank, World Bank, CIDA, and other international organizations and has a PhD from University of California, Berkeley (City and Regional Planning, developing countries).



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