

Appendix 1. Site descriptions of the HighARCS projects.

Shaoguan, China

The site incorporates three fishing communities along the Beijiang (Pearl River catchment) river, upstream and downstream of the city of Shaoguan in Guangdong Province, southern China. The livelihoods of fishing communities are declining due to the decrease of fishing resources, and the marginalization by policies neglecting the fishing community. Aquatic resources and other ecosystem services are declining mainly due to the impacts of dams, industrial scale sand dredging of the river bed, and water pollution from industrial sources.

Buxa, West Bengal, India

The project site is in the forested hills of the Jalpaiguri District in West Bengal, India and incorporates three villages, all of which are within the Buxa Tiger Reserve (BTR) the core of which is a National Park. Most of the people living within the BTR are poor and rely upon agriculture which is supplemented by animal husbandry, manual labor and the use and selling of non-timber forest products. The site is rich in biodiversity including many globally threatened species and has more than ten rivers, which together supply important ecosystem services to the local communities. As Buxa is within a Forest Reserve (BTR) governance regarding resource use and management is strongly influenced by the Department of Forestry, which often leads to conflicts with local communities' use of natural resources.

Dakrong Highland Commune, Quang Tri, Vietnam

The site incorporates three communities along the Dakrong River, in the hills of central Vietnam in Quang Tri Province. Within the three communities it is the poorest households that are more dependent upon aquatic resources as they have more limited access to good agricultural land, and the river provides water and power through micro-generators to all in the villages. However aquatic resources at the site are declining due to the impacts of hydropower dams, deforestation, gold mining and overfishing which is impacting the livelihoods of the communities. The legal framework governing aquatic resources and biodiversity is also complex with a range of overlaps between legislation, policies and institutions, and suffers from a lack of guidance and poor capacity for implementation on the ground.

Phu Yen District, Son La, Vietnam

The site includes a number of communes along the Song Da Reservoir (dammed in 1979) in the mountains of eastern Son La province, northern Viet Nam. Many of these communities are poor whose livelihoods are highly dependent upon fishing and harvesting aquatic resources. However, the aquatic resources and other ecosystem services in this area are declining due to policies driving economic development (including historic and future dam development), intensification of agriculture in the upper catchment, illegal and destructive fishing practices, aquaculture and fisheries development in the reservoir, the introduction of non-native invasive species, and the operation of the Hoa Binh dam being principally for power generation (i.e. with little regard to its knock on affects).