This research is concerned with local perceptions of environmental equity and justice, taking Kala Tongue village, a matrilineal community in the Central Highlands of Vietnam as a case study. Specifically, it explores how local villagers mobilise various strategies to assert their resource claims as well as articulate their understandings of how a fair and transparent environmental project might look like at the local level. By doing so, it reveals the social and gender relations between local elite and lay people, and between local actors and non-local stakeholders in decision-making and benefit distribution related to resources. This research is developed from a twelve month fieldwork in Hanoi and Central Highlands of Vietnam, during which I used a set of qualitative methods such as interviews, life histories, participant observation and photovoice to collect data. Theoretically, I relied on a Feminist Political Ecology approach (Rocheleau et al 1996) and ‘everyday politics’ (Kerkvliet 2005) as an operationalising concept to analyse the data. My findings show that local villagers actively employ a wide range of everyday forms of resistance, from spreading rumours to collective protests in order to assert their customary claims over land and forest which are legally controlled by the state. These strategies also serve as a platform for local villagers to voice their concerns about how the elite or those who are involved in the village-based forest management committee and/or work in the local government, manage to appropriate certain benefit packages from the state forest protection schemes. My findings also suggest that these diverse responses to state interventions are gendered; as women tend to rely more on personal stories and everyday rumours to engage with notions of equity and justice; while men are inclined to emphasise the actions they have taken to address the perceived problems. Understanding the complex power relations within this matrilineal community and local perceptions of equity and justice is crucial in the process of designing and implementing such global environmental initiatives as REDD+ so as to improve local livelihoods and manage natural resources sustainably.