

KEEPING FOREST GREEN FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN VIETNAM

NGUYEN TAN DANH

IT Lecturer, FPT University, Hanoi, Vietnam

ABSTRACT

Determining the environment plays a decisive role in the direction of sustainable tourism development, in recent years, Vietnam has directed localities and functional agencies in tourism planning in association with prioritizing environmental protection, contribute to creating landscapes, improving the climate for sustainable green tourism development. Sustainable forestry development is one of the key tasks that Vietnam aims to reduce sustainably in poverty, socio-economic development and national defense and security. In recent years, efforts to preserve forests and exploit and promote the strength of forests have contributed to step by step developing eco-tourism, making tourism a spearhead oriented economic sector. The paper addresses the benefits of afforestation in tourism development as well as national economic development. Some backlog is also summarized and a few solutions are discussed in order to solve the problem in the most useful way.

KEYWORDS: *Forest, Environment, Tourism & Sustainable Development*

Received: May 22, 2020; **Accepted:** Jun 12, 2020; **Published:** Jun 30, 2020; **Paper Id.:** IJMPERDJUN2020154

INTRODUCTION

Currently, there are nearly 700 monuments and landscapes in the world recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a world heritage site. Vietnam boasts 5 heritage sites on this list, including Ha Long Bay, Hue Imperial Capital, My Son Monuments, Hoi An Ancient Town and PhongNha Cave. Currently, the Ancient Stone Beach in Sapa, Ba Be Lake and Huong Son and Trang An-Tam Coc scenic relics are being proposed to be considered as a world heritage site. In addition, Vietnam also has the Can Gio Mangrove Forest recognized by UNESCO as Vietnam's first Biosphere Reserve [1].

But not only that, Vietnam has thousands of other landscapes. Many national parks and protected areas with primeval forests established nationwide. These are places that preserve many typical ecosystems such as wetland ecosystems (mangrove forests, melaleuca forests, etc.), tropical forest ecosystems, marine ecosystems, alpine ecosystems, etc. and many victories. Other scenes like caves, elephant rocky mountains, rivers, lakes, sand dunes, etc. It is the residence of many rare plants and animals. Forests in Vietnam are distributed in most provinces and cities, but not uniformly. To develop sustainable tourism, we need to have a broader and deeper look [2].

TYPICAL FORESTS IN VIETNAM

The first is Can Gio Mangrove Forest on the outskirts of Ho Chi Minh City, in southern Vietnam. Can Gio mangrove forest is vast, with an area of nearly 76,000 ha, of which the core area is more than 4,700 ha, the buffer zone of 41,000 ha and the transition area of nearly 30,000 ha. The mangrove forest here includes a group of mangroves that live together with other trees such as tiger, parrot, mangrove, holly, and dates to form a group. The group has its first mangrove and mangrove trees known as the vanguard pioneers, when the mud is fixed, the water

fades, the black trees, parrots and other trees follow the last developed country [1].

With a diverse and unique flora and fauna system, Can Gio Mangrove Forest plays an important role in natural disaster prevention, is the green lung that regulates the weather for Ho Chi Minh City. Can Gio mangroves have very special environmental conditions, which are intermediate ecosystems between aquatic ecosystems and terrestrial ecosystems, freshwater ecosystems and saltwater ecosystems. With the influence of the adjacent sea and the tides, the flora here is very rich with over 150 species of plants, providing food and shelter for many aquatic species, fish and other species. Other vertebrates [3].

With its unique location and potential, Can Gio Mangrove Forest was recognized by UNESCO as the first world biosphere reserve in Vietnam in 2000. In particular, it is recognized as an important tourist area. Ho Chi Minh City and Vietnam score (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Can Gio Eco-Tourism Area, Ho Chi Minh City.

The fact has proved that Can Gio forest brings a lot of great value despite facing the threat of climate change, it contributes to a reduction of up to 50% of the energy from a variable wave. It also prevents rising sea levels as well as contributes to the protection of residents and coastal infrastructure.

Can Gio Mangrove Forest helps to reduce the height of ocean waves as it passes through the mangrove strip. The level of change is about 80% ie from 1.4m to 0.3m. According to the research, about 5-year-old plantation forest has a width of 1.5 km. and will help reduce the height of the waves from 1m offshore to only 0.05m when entering the mudflats, helping the coast from erosion. Since the restoration of forests, the production of aquatic products has been increasingly exploited. Clam and tiger shrimp farming is developing faster. Contribute very important in the restructuring of local agriculture. Hunger eradication, poverty reduction, social development as well as improvement of people's lives [4].

Besides, it can be mentioned as KonTum forest, this is a forest of high biodiversity with about 1,610 species of plants, including many valuable plants such as Ngoc Linh ginseng or “pomu” tree. The fauna includes over 100 animals, 350 species of birds and many other animals, including some rare species such as tigers, bears, hemorrhoids, etc.

KonTum's forest is also listed on the national forest map with names: Chu Mom Ray National Park, Chu Mom Ray Nature Reserve, Ngoc Linh Nature Reserve.

The potential and advantages of the forest have been exploited and developed for ecotourism by Kon Tum province. In particular, construction investment and development of Mang Den National Ecotourism Area (KonPlong District) is a highlight. Mang Den national ecotourism area planning and general planning of KonPlong urban area by 2030 have been approved by the State, initially focusing resources for implementation. With 138,116 ha of natural area, Mang Den national ecotourism area is not only an ecological and national forest conservation area, but also a key area for agriculture, forestry and small-scale industry. In particular, Mang Den National Ecotourism Area associated with KonPlong district town has been identified as one of the three dynamic economic regions of the province (Figure 2).

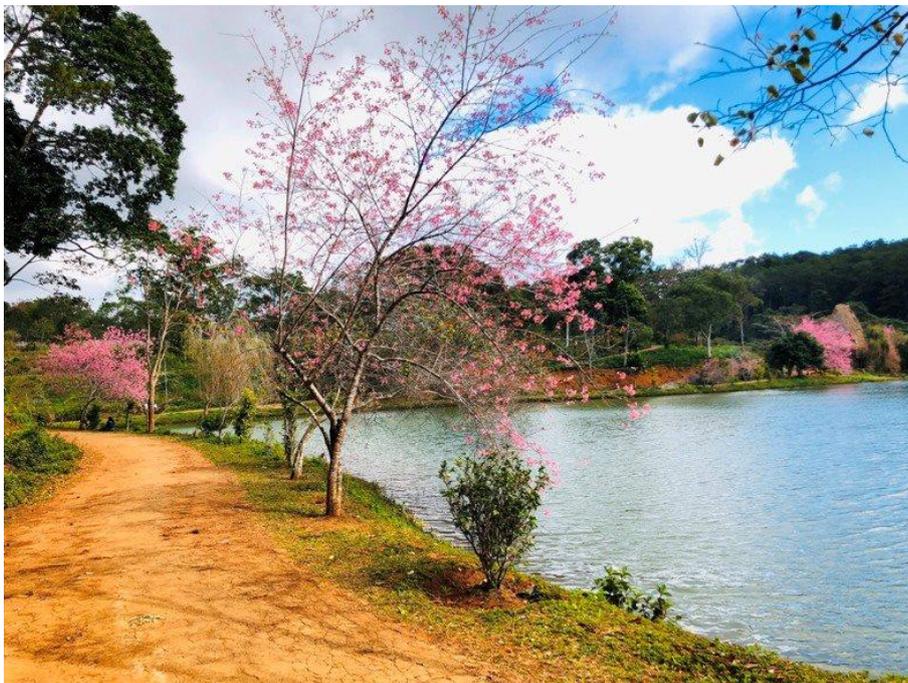


Figure 2: Mang Den National Ecotourism Area.

Thanks to the effort to build infrastructure and attract investment, so far, Mang Den National Ecotourism Area with Lake Tourist spots has become an attractive destination for tourists on the journey to explore the Green Road Highlands.

Mang Den also has Pa Sy, the first waterfall has become an attractive picnic destination. Not humming water, not majestic shape, Pa Sy is very gentle and romantic. The waterfall was like the hair of a young woman from Heaven falling to the ground. Adjacent to the Pa Sy waterfall is a garden of wooden statues with hundreds of folk wooden statues, ranging from the man who holds the machete, goes to the field, smokes, plays the piano, the woman carries the basket, carries a baby, moves, etc. to species birds, monkeys, snakes, squirrels, elephants, etc., bearing the beauty of traditional sculpture of ethnic minorities in the North Central Highlands [5].

In recent years, Kon Tum province has gradually formed and developed eco-tourism products and types of local characteristics such as organizing tours, studying typical ecosystems and biodiversity at Chu Mom Ray National Park, Ngoc Linh Nature Reserve, DakUy Special-use Forest Ecotourism Area; sightseeing, relaxation and entertainment in the landscape areas of Mang Den National Ecotourism Area, Dak To hot spring, the Yaly hydroelectric reservoir area, etc. The

project of tourism development to 2020 the province identifies the image of a destination and a tourist brand with Kon Tum's own characteristics; preserve and well exploit natural and humanistic tourism resources; building diverse and quality tourism products and services to meet the needs of domestic and international tourists. To clearly promote the role of tourism as a key economic sector, the province strives to create key tourism products by 2020. In particular, the development of Kon Tum tourism in the direction of "green tourism" is based on nature, preserving and promoting tangible and intangible cultural values, environmental protection and sustainable development. Active community involvement is focused [6].

Implementing the project, in the past time, Kon Tum's Culture, Sports and Tourism sector, in coordination with departments, branches and localities, conducted a construction survey and prepared to introduce a new tour to explore Ngoc Spirit and ecotourism of Chu Mom Ray National Park. Located to the west of Kon Tum province, Chu Mom Ray National Park has been recognized as a high biodiversity area in the national park system along with Ngoc Linh Nature Reserve and special-use forests. DakUi, Chu Mom Ray National Park - ASEAN Heritage Park contributes to the diversity, richness and character of forest ecosystems of the land rich in cultural identity and revolutionary traditions in the extreme north of the Central Highlands [1].

Among them, Chu Mom Ray National Park has 1,278 species. Of the 49 plant species in the Vietnam Red Book and the world needs protection in Chu Mom Ray National Park, there are two species, namely *Scaphium* sp and *aquiliarugosa* are local endemics that are not included in the Red Book. Regarding fauna, there have been statistics of 115 species and animal species belonging to 30 families, 11 orders. There are 44 diverse species, including bats, carnivores, clogs, primates. In particular, in the even clogs, only the lack of musk deer is the convergence of all mammals belonging to this order of Vietnam in Chu Mom Ray National Park.

Ngoc Linh Nature Reserve has a total area of over 37,485 hectares of forest. The biodiversity characteristics here are confirmed with 91 species in mammals, including 25 species in the Vietnam Red Book, 20 species in the World Red Book and 24 species under the provisions of Decree 32. In a total of 234 species in the bird fauna, there are 10 species in the Vietnam Red Book, 8 species in the world Red Book [7].

DIFFICULTIES AND CHALLENGES

In the context that Vietnam is actively participating in the globalization process such as joining the WTO, the ASEAN Economic Community, negotiating and signing free trade agreements ... Vietnam's tourism industry faces opportunities and No small challenge, requires competitiveness.

Besides the potentials, at present, Vietnam's tourism industry has faced many difficulties and challenges such as: In the first stage of development, the starting point of Vietnam's tourism is too low compared to other countries in the region. field. The competitiveness of Vietnam's tourism is also very limited due to the intense competition of tourism in the region and the world. Meanwhile, the management of natural environment and social environment in many tourist sites is weak and has not been taken into account. Destination management has not been implemented synchronously and effectively [8]. The situation of unsanitary, security and order at tourist destinations still happens frequently. The situation of taxi parachute, dragging, street vendors, scams and forced tourists is still frequent in many localities, especially in the high season, etc.

In addition, tourism resources have not been listed, evaluated, classified and ranked to manage exploitation in a sustainable and effective manner and this leads to tourism resources is much, but indiscriminate exploitation, just stopping at the surface, exploiting the available has not promoted the value of resources. Conflicts of economic interests between economic entities and industries, short-term vision and technological limitations lead to a number of tourism resources being devastated, misused, etc. and, of course, negatively affect sustainable tourism development [7].

Professionalism when building tourism products, promotion and promotion have not been improved. Vietnam's tourism products are still slow to innovate, still poor, monotonous, lacking in characteristics, less creative, still overlapping between regions, the added value contained in tourism products is low and inconsistent and lack of linkage in product development. Promotion activities are still limited, unprofessional, unprepared, ineffective; just stopping to promote the general image, not creating a resonance and a specific attraction for each tourism product and brand. State investment is limited, so it has not created a stimulus effect to travel to Vietnam in the target markets.

Infrastructure system to reach destination still lacks synchronization. The system of technical infrastructure, accommodation facilities and tourism services has developed rapidly but in general, the scale, comfort and style of small tourism products, operation is not professional, due to Therefore, the system of national tourist areas has not yet been formed with prominent brands. In addition, human resources tourism is also a major weakness. Although there have been many efforts in the development of tourism human resources in recent years, but compared with the requirements of professionalism of the modern service industry, integration and globalization, tourism human resources have not been met. keep up with professional skills, global integration and association.

It can be affirmed that keeping forests is a prerequisite for exploiting and developing tourism potential in the area with more than 80% of forests and forest land such as Kon Tum. Along with developing eco-tourism products, the field of agricultural tourism is also oriented by the province on the basis of exploiting the advantages of investing in developing hi-tech agriculture and developing medicinal plants under the forest canopy [9].

However, the forests in Vietnam are facing significant challenges in tourism resources. First of all, it is the financial resources to invest in constructing infrastructure at tourist spots and supplementing specific tourist products. In parallel with the demand for human resources sufficient in quantity and quality standards, it is a requirement to expand links and connect key economic development resources of the provinces and cities in the country and in the country. Developmental triangle area.

USEFUL TIPS FOR FOREST TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

One of the approaches to enhance the competitiveness of Vietnam's tourism industry is to study the needs of travelers to create new, attractive products that meet expectations and bring humor. crush for visitors.

We need to focus on developing local tourism products. In addition to improving the competitiveness, it is necessary to improve the quality of services of exploited zones, routes and tourist sites. Taking advantage of different advantages to create specific tourism products, thereby forming intra-regional and inter-regional tourist routes with attractive and highly competitive. We also need to promote tourism promotion, promotion and linkage. Specifically, we need to strengthen the promotion, promotion and creation of tourism products suitable for many tourist market segments. In addition, investing in infrastructure, improving the quality of tourism human resources is equally important [4].

And the most important thing is focusing on protecting the environment. In tourism, the management agencies must always emphasize on environmental protection and maintenance of the natural ecosystems inherent in the tourist destinations. We need to make environmental protection become one of the important tasks in the planning of tourism development schemes and strategies of the province and tourist areas.

Unfortunately, unorganized and unsustainable tourism activities are having negative impacts on the cultural, historical and environmental values. We are not the only tourists - the impact we cause will be multiplied millions of times by other travelers. So, how can we continue to make the trip without aggravating the negative impacts of tourism, contributing to the protection of natural resources and the environment. Each of us needs to be more responsible for the natural environment. Vietnam has a coastline of more than 3200 km, more than 2500 rivers and many lakes. In addition to being a source of water for production and living, the sea, rivers and lakes are also important for nurturing and maintaining the ecological function and service to tourism. But we are having impacts that pollute the water environment and degrade landscapes and tourism resources. Each of us can reduce our environmental impact by implementing the 3R including “reduce, reuse and recycle” principles [6].

The coral reefs in Ha Long Bay and NhaTrang beach are coral reefs with not much remaining value in Vietnam and it takes many years to get such reefs. Unfortunately, they are rapidly declining due to explosive fishing, anchoring boats in developed coral areas, exploiting corals as building materials, and selling souvenirs to tourists. . Travel should not be an added cause of losing those last coral reefs.

In fact, Vietnam is a country with great potential for cave tourism, of which more than 200 caves have been discovered, typically PhongNha cave. Total length of nearly 8km, with many beautiful landscapes. Many caves also have cultural, historical and religious significance. But, many caves are losing their values by unconscious drawings or names written on cliffs; by exploiting stalactites for souvenirs, by littering and burning too much incense in the cave. When visiting caves, always be aware that any touching of stalactites will hinder their growth and may cause them to discolour.

Forests are the climate-regulating lungs, where you come to avoid the summer heat, get the tranquility and to enjoy, learn nature. In 1943, forest used to cover about 43% of Vietnam, but until now only about 33%, of which natural forests account for a very small percentage. Many animals in our country are becoming rare and endangered due to hunting for domestic consumption and illegal trade abroad. In the 1960s, there were thousands of tigers in Vietnam, but now there are only 80 - 100 left. The number of rhinos is only 5-7. We need to be cautious when deciding to consume certain types of forest products, such as meat or traditional medicines, as they are likely made from endangered species of plants and animals. extinction should be protected. If we are invited to eat bushmeat, we will accept it only when we are sure that it is obtained from legally authorized sources. Once in doubt, the best way is to politely decline [8].

CONCLUSIONS

Due to concerns about the negative impacts that may arise from tourism, the concept of Sustainable Tourism has been conceived and developed. Sustainable Tourism Development will ensure visitors have useful tours, creating opportunities to improve the quality of life of local communities, contributing to the conservation of the natural environment and preserving values of indigenous culture for today's and future generations. The negative effects of tourism will certainly be limited by your responsible behaviors. These behaviors also contribute to increasing the awareness of the operators, tour guides and other tourists. We need to keep our forests greener than ever.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None of conflict of interest is noted in the paper

REFERENCES

1. Van Nguyen, Q., Pascoe, S., & Cogan, L. 2019. Implications of regional economic conditions on the distribution of technical efficiency: Examples from coastal trawl vessels in Vietnam. *Marine Policy*, 102, 51-60.
2. Hoi, H. T., & Danh, N. T. 2020. Creating a Green, Clean and Worth Living City in the Digital Period. *E&ES*, 442(1), 012013.
3. Sam, D. D., & Phuong, M. V. T. 2005. National action plan for protection and development of Vietnam's mangrove forests till 2015.
4. Thu, P. M., & Populus, J. 2007. Status and changes of mangrove forest in Mekong Delta: Case study in Tra Vinh, Vietnam. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, 71(1-2), 98-109.
5. Hibbard, M., & Chun Tang, C. 2004. Sustainable community development: A social approach from Vietnam. *Community Development*, 35(2), 87-104.
6. De Jong, W., & Van Hung, T. 2006. *Forest Rehabilitation in Vietnam: Histories, Realities, and Future: Histories, Realities, and Future*. CIFOR.
7. Kuenzer, C., & Tuan, V. Q. 2013. Assessing the ecosystem services value of Can Gio Mangrove Biosphere Reserve: Combining earth-observation-and household-survey-based analyses. *Applied Geography*, 45, 167-184.
8. Mosbah, A., & Saleh, A. A. 2014. A review of tourism development in Malaysia. *European Journal of Business and Management*, 6(5), 1-9.
9. Reddy, Milkuri Chiranjeeva, and B. Gupta. "Soil Organic Carbon Stocks under Different Forest Types of Himalayan Moist Temperate Forests in Shimla District, Himachal Pradesh, India." *International Journal of Agricultural Science and Research (IJASR)* 8.4 (2018):1-8.
10. Hishe, Hadgu., et al. "The influence of socioeconomic factors on deforestation: A case study of the dry Afromontane forest of Desa'a in Tigray Region, Northern Ethiopia." *International Journal of Agricultural Science and Research (IJASR)* 5.3 (2015): 339-348.
11. Khellaf, Nora, et al. "Diversity and structure of Heteroptera in chestnut plantation and Holm Oak forests in the national park of Chréa (Blida, Algeria)." *International Journal of Agricultural Science and Research (IJASR)* 4 6 (2014): 17-26.
12. Venaik, Anita. "An Impact on Sustainable Development due to Rise of the Automation and Artificial Intelligence." *International Journal of Business Management & Research (IJBMR)* 8.5 (2018):23-38
13. Niharika, Swati Shastri, and Shruti Shastri. "An Empirical Analysis of Relationship between Selected Indicators of Sustainable Development and Financial Development in India." *International Journal of Economics, Commerce and Research (IJEER)* 7.4 (2017):53-60
14. Witchayakawin, Pakin. "Community Participation in Management of Tourist Attractions in Koh Yao Yai, Phang-Nga Province, Thailand." *International Journal of Business Management & Research (IJBMR)* 6.6 (2016):7-14
15. Shukla, Pawan K., and A. A. Ansari. "A Study of Changing Scenario of Tourism Development in Gujarat." *International Journal of Environment, Ecology, Family and Urban Studies (IJEEFUS)* 3.2 (2013): 57-68.

