
STATUS OF ECOTOURISM IN PHONG NHA - KE BANG NATIONAL PARK QUANG BINH PROVINCE

Phung Thi Tuyen¹, Nguyen Thi Ngoc Anh²

^{1,2}*Vienam National University of Forestry*

SUMMARY

Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park (PNKB NP) is famous for karst systems with mysterious beauty and top value in the world. The ecosystem of evergreen tropical broad-leaved forest in limestone mountains, rich and diverse plants and animals with many rare species are the potential for developing ecotourism in this area. Results of this study indicated 15 attractive tourist sites in PNKB NP. The main kinds of tourism include adventure tourism and cave exploration, visting waterfall, and streams. Community tourism which opens chances for visistors to know about the cultures, beliefs and religions of local people, has been investigated in this area. Fauna and flora of PNKB consist of huge varieties with 7,355 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, asians and freshwater fish and 2,651 plant species of psilotophyta, lycopodiophyta, polypodiophyta, pinophyta, and magnoliophyta were recorded. These are great sources for creating ecotourism in this area. Annually, a large number of domestic and foreign tourists visist PNKB. During the period from 2015 to 2017, the average numbers of tourists visiting PNKB per year reached 500,095 visistors with the foreigner rates of 10.42 - 11.60% of total visitors. Revenue from tourism activities in the PNKB NP ranged 110 - 145 billion Vietnam dong per year. However, the development of ecotourism in PNKB has been suffered from several difficulties in expanding tourism services and products, attracting investment capital, raising community awareness of environment protection and biodiversity conservation. Based on those difficulties, six solutions have been proposed to ecotourism development in PNKB NP for the coming years.

Keywords: Caves, ecotourism potential, limestone mountains, Phong Nha - Ke Bang national park, Quảng Bình.

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