



PROTECTED AREAS



A Basis for Viet Nam Sustainable Development



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Outline

- Viet Nam - Context
- Protected Area System in Viet Nam
- PAs, Equity, Poverty, Livelihoods and Development: Issues
- Challenges and Strategies

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VIET NAM - Context

Populated and poor countries:

- SEA - Sub-tropic
- 330,000 km² - 85 mill people (2006)
- Highest population density agricultural countries
- Average GDP above 7,5%, ↑ needs for infrastructure and agriculture developments
- Good poverty reduction records



World biodiversity hot spots:

Top ten most biological diversity countries
12,000 plant species
850 bird species
Five of the world's 25 rarest primates
Since 1992: Four mammal species discovered

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Sustainable Development Policy (Viet Nam Agenda 21)



Socio-economic development closely integrated with environmental protection and improvement to ensure harmony between artificial and natural environments, and biodiversity conservation.

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Viet Nam PA System

First National Park:

- In 1962
- Cuc Phuong



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PA System - An Overview

Three main types:

- Special-use forests (164)
- Marine Protected Areas (15)
- Wetlands (68)

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Characteristics

- Many PAs (164+15+68) – Small area: few thousands ha
- Most have people (poor and forest dependent) living inside and in buffer zones
- Overlaps and gaps
- Special-use forest protected areas – the backbone of the national PA system– most decreed PAs (164 sites)
- Marine – 3 NPs: Hon Mun (First - 2001)– 12 MPAs (proposed)
- Wetlands: 68 wetland sites of Inter. & Nat. Importance
- 2003: Management Strategy for a protected Areas System in Vietnam to 2010
- No specific policy for people living in buffer zones and inside PAs

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Special - Use Forests

- Most of PAs are SUFs: Terrestrial forest sites + small amount wetland and marine sites
- Started in 1960 – First NP (forbidden forest) : Cuc Phuong
- Rapidly expanded in number and coverage
1975: 73 sites – 769.512 ha
1997: 94 sites – about 2 mill ha

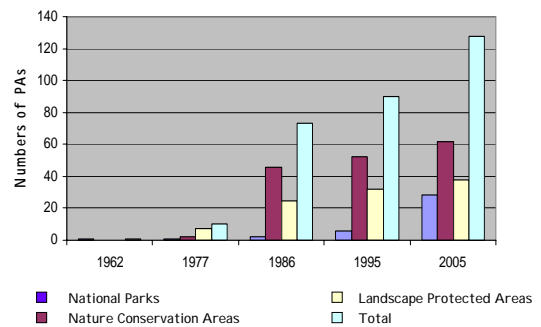
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2008 List of SUFs (proposed): 164 sites – 2.3 mill ha or about 7% of Vietnam land area.

- I. 30 *NPs* (1.08 mill ha)
- II. 69 *Nature Conservation Areas* (1.10 mill ha)
 - 58 Nature Reserves
 - 11 Species/habitat conservation areas
- III. 45 *Landscape/seascape* - cultural/historical/environmental sites (0.078 mill ha)
- IV. 20 *Scientific Experimental areas* (0.01 mill ha)

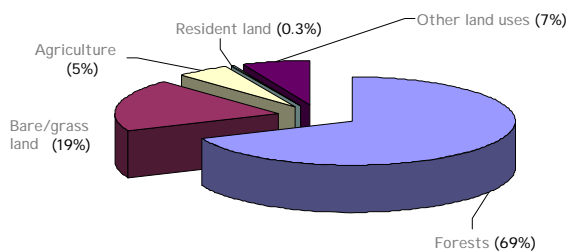
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Trends in SUFs



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Current Land Use in SUFs



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Current Management

Management policies:

- Forest Protection and Development Law (2004)
- Decision 186/2006: Forest Management
- PA Management Strategy 2006 – 2010
- Forestry Strategy 2006 - 2020

Management institutions:

Decentralization

- **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development:** Policy formulation, system planning, supervision, management of 6 inter-provincial NPs
- **Provincial Authorities:** direct management of the majority of PAs

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Key Management Constraints

- Large in number, small in area and isolated → unable to effectively conserve the nation's biodiversity adequately
- Human impacts and development pressures on PAs (illegal logging, hunting, NTFP collection, infrastructure development,...)
- Critical natural systems are under-represented in the national PA system, particularly low land forests, wetlands.
- Much of the biodiversity of international importance in Vietnam lies outside protected areas

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PAs and Local People

High density and rapid population growth country

- 76 mill (2001) - 85 mill (2006)
- Many people leaving inside most SUFs - PAs (80%) and in buffer zones: in 2001 - about 24 mill (about 30%) living in mountainous areas.

Achieved remarkable and steady progress in economic growth (7.5%) and poverty reduction (58% in 1998 to 16% in 2006)

- Still high poverty rate in remote areas (BZ and PAs)

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PAs are located in remote areas with people belong to various ethnic groups:

- Limited development opportunities and capacities (infrastructure, access to markets, low education level, limited arable land...)
- Livelihood depends on natural resources: Most poor families still rely on natural resources for their livelihoods
- Higher than national average poverty rate



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Phong Nha - Ke Bang NP Quang Binh Province

*The nation's poorest provinces:
49% living under the poverty line*

In areas adjacent to the national park: about 56,000 inhabitants in 13 hamlets: > 64% (National Average 16%) under the poverty line



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Conservation Costs and Benefits: Who pays? Who gains ?

A strong correlation between PA location and poverty



Many PAs are in ethnic minority areas. Their poverty mainly due to living in remote areas and lack of access to markets and arable land ---→ *High dependency* of ethnic minority communities upon natural resource in protected areas for their well-being.

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Issue 1

Unequal cost and benefit sharing from the establishment and management of PAs

Costs:

- High opportunity costs: Access to land and resources is limited: Local people are often restricted from the use of or no longer have access to natural resources inside PAs.
- Have no formal voice in PA management (the current management board regulations for SUF do not include representative from the local community).
- For the purpose of biodiversity conservation, communities within (especially) and near PAs are sometimes restricted from carrying out their development activities.
- Participate and spend resources for conservation

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Benefits

Local people receive few of the benefits

- Forest protection contracts: The government's five million hectares reforestation programme provides money to households living in BZ and PAs to protect forests.
- Capacity building/income generation and livelihoods activities from Government and international funded projects
- Water supply for cultivation (e.g. Tam Dao NP), transportation, fish (e.g. UMT NP)
- Employment opportunity: local people are recruited as PA forest rangers



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Issue 2

*High potential, but..
Limited contribution to
local poverty reduction and livelihoods*



- PAs provide a number of important benefits: medicinal plants, "food banks", NTFPs, timber, etc.: *restriction or no-use of PAs resources.*
- Eco Tourism in PAs – sustainable livelihoods: Often benefits are not retained locally; *negative impacts on and benefits are not shared equally with local communities*

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Issue 3

Ecosystem services provided by PAs are largely free or less than their market values

- Those who benefit from the natural water management services of PAs usually do not pay for them.
- When they do pay, often pay less and revenues are not reinvest to safeguard the continuity of these goods and services.

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CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES

Challenge 1: Ensuring the communities living in PAs and BZ receive appropriate benefits from PAs

Strategies:

- Appropriate mechanisms for all stakeholders in the conservation and management activities.
- Pilot co-management: provide local people with rights and benefits in managing PAs.

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CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES

Challenge 2: Increased contribution of PAs to local poverty reduction and livelihoods

Strategies:

- Consider sustainable use of resources in some PAs, PAs zones and expand the categories of PAs.
- Identify innovative approaches and increased role of local communities in eco-tourism to ensure local communities benefit from PA tourism.

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CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES

- Appropriate mechanisms and policies for people living in the BZ and especially those living inside PAs to ensure equally cost and benefit sharing in conservation activities.

→ Introducing national policy for communities living within PAs: A Government Decree ??



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CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES

Challenge 3: Ensuring the users of PA goods and services equally share the conservation costs and development benefits. - implementing the "user pays" approach for industrial inputs provided by protected areas. → ensuring good maintenance of PAs – as basis for sustainable development

Strategies:

- Raise awareness about environmental services and benefits from PAs to development, industries
- Pilot levies for PAs goods and services used by industries

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CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES

- Pilot PES to hydropower plants/producers
- Establish appropriate mechanisms and policies to enable the application of Payment for Environmental Services (PES) at local, national and global level.
- Identify appropriate mechanisms and policies to ensure local people benefits from PES (pro-poor PES).
- Prime Minister Decision on pilot PES of forests -- PES in Biodiversity Law

Pilot PES → PES Policy documents and guidelines

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Thank You!

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