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Natural Resources Management (Advanced Curriculum)



REPORT

Topic 10: Management of Ben En National Park

Course: Protected Areas Managament
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I. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Overview

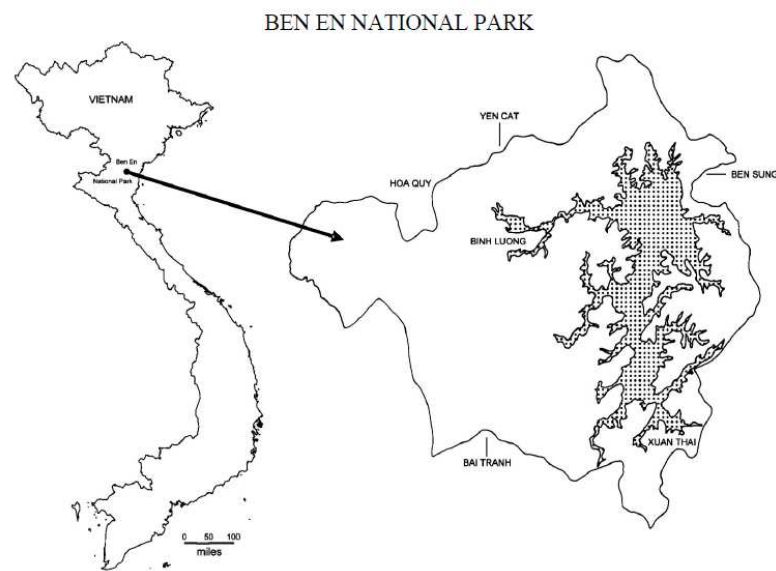
Ben En National Park is a national park in Thanh Hoa Province, Vietnam. The Ben En national park was founded by the decision 33 (27th January 1992) of the Prime Minister of Vietnam. It is one of the famous scenic with beautiful natural landscapes and ecosystems is rich and diverse. Fauna and flora in here represent for lowland ecosystems in North central Vietnam. Ben En is the destination of the Viet Nam and foreign scientist, international tourists and domestic tourists with the huge value in many fields.

1.2. Natural conditions

1.2.1 Geography conditions

Ben En National Park located in the Nhu Thanh and Nhu Xuan district of the Thanh Hoa province in Vietnam. It's far from Thanh Hoa city about 46 km in the Southwest.

Geographic coordinate: 19° 30'–19° 40' N, 105° 21'–105° 35' E



It is bounded by:

- North : Xuan Khang and Hoa Quy villages, Nhu Xuan districts

- South : Xuan Binh and Xuan Thai villages, Nhu Thanh and Nhu Xuan districts
- East : Xuan Phuc, Xuan Thai, Hai Van villages Nhu Xuan districts
- West : Xuan Quy villages, Nhu Xuan districts

Total Area: The core zone of the National Park covers 15 800 ha, while the buffer zone covers about 12 000 ha.

1.2.2. Topography

Park is situated in a region of low hills surrounding an artificial lake. Altitude ranges from 20 to 497 m, with most areas being below 200 m. The lake is 50 m above sea level and covers 2281 ha. Small areas of limestone are also present.

1.2.3. Soil

Soils in Ben En National Park are mainly ferralitic, while a small area around Lake Muc has alluvial soils.

1.2.4. Climate

Climate type of Ben En National Park is the tropical monsoon with an average annual temperature of about 23⁰ C.

1.3. Social conditions

The park is inhabited by 18 000 local people belonging to five ethnic groups, namely, Kinh, Muong, Thai, Tay and Tho. Their life still depends on forest resources, Non Timber Forest Products, as well as timber. The vegetation of Ben En National Park has been strongly influenced by human exploitation (Khoi 1996; Hoang et al. 2008 a). The forests were commercially logged as late as 1992, and small-scale, illegal logging and harvesting of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) by both local people and people from outside the National Park continues.

II. ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

2.1. From 1990 - 1991 (Establishment of Ben En Specialized using forest).

Implementing the policy of the Provincial People's Committees Forest Protection Department associate with the Research Centre, Institute of Forestry planning; scientists conduct investigations, project survey, submit provincial People's Committee and the Ministry of Forestry to establish Ben En specialized-usin forest management boards.

On 03.22.1990 Chairman of Thanh Hoa Provincial People's Committees has issued a decision No. 307 / QD-UBTH on the establishment of Ben En specialized using forest management boards in Thanh Hoa Forest Protection Department, with an area of 16.634ha. In first period, the national park has 17 staff, public servants.

2.2. From 1992-1996 (Establishing Ben En National Park directly under the People's Committee of Thanh Hoa province

Chairman of the Council of Ministers (now is Prime Minister) has issued Decision No 33 / CT dated 27/01/1992 on approving the feasibility study - established technique of Ben En National Park - Thanh Hoa, entrust Thanh Hoa Provincial People's Committee with directly managed and investment management.

Organizational apparatus of Ben En National Park in this period: including 1 directors and deputy directors, 3 bureaus, 1 forest ranger station and 7 Ranger District forest protection station. Park staffing is defined is 45 persons.

2.3. From 1997 to 10/2008: Ben En National Park directly under MARD.

Implementing the policy of the unified state management of national parks by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Management. November 8, 2006 the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 830 / TTg on the transfer of Ben En National Park is located in Thanh Hoa Provincial People's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development Ministry management. This time the agency has 75 staffs.

Organizational apparatus comprises: 05 department, office Forest Protection Department; 11 forest protection stations and 1 mobile ranger teams.

2.4. From 10/2008 to 7/2012: Ben En National Park was transferred to the PPC and PPC transferred to FPD for direct management

Implementing decision No. 2244 / QĐ - BNN - TCCB dated 25/7/2008, the MARD transfer Ben En National Park for the management of Thanh Hoa province. Decision No. 2843 / QĐ - People's Committee dated 15/9/2008 of the President of the People's Committee of Thanh Hoa province received Ben En National Park under MARD and transfer to FPD directly under DARD for management.

2.5. From 7/2012 until now

Over many changes in every different stage, leader of Ben En National Park always operate units to fulfill the mission assigned. Now, Ben En National Park has gradually developed in positive trend, increasing organizational system is strengthened and stabilized.

III. ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

3.1. Leaders of the Management Board

Decided by the Director of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Thanh Hoa province. The bureaus, departments include :

- Office of Organization and Administrative
- Office of Science and International Cooperation
- Office of Planning – Finance
- Ecotourism Board

Currently, the Management Board Ben En National Park is assigned 74 staff; the number of officials entitled to the salary fund budget is 70 people, including 52 officers, 18 long-term contracts.

Leaders of Ben En national park

No.	Name	Position
1	Đặng Hữu Nghị	Director and Head of FPU
2	Lê Đình Phương	Vice Director
3	Lê Bá Thọ	Vice Director
4	Phạm Văn Hùng	Deputy Head
5	Lê Thanh Hải	Head of Planning and Finance
6	Nguyễn Đức Hoàn	Head of Organization and Administrative
7	Nguyễn Quang Sỹ	Head of Science and International Cooperation
8	Tổng Văn Hoàng	Vice director of Centre for Development of organisms and environmental services of forests

3.2. Forest rangers

The agency directly under: Ben En National Park has 8 Ranger Stations and 1 mobile team directly under.

Ben En Forest ranger unit, rangers manage the area, identified sub regional security key areas of forests, key fire risk, management of mining activities and trade, transportation, trading and processing of forest products, hunting and trapping wild animals illegally to coordinate the forces raids, timely treatment, finish, not to hot spots of instability security of the province bordering forest.

IV. BIODIVERSITY STATUS

4.1. Flora

There are plentiful of 462 species and 125 orders of flora in Ben En National Park. “Ben En National Park is the allocation center of *Erythrophloeum fordii*, of which some hundred year old trees has the diameter of 3 meters”, said Le Duc Giang, the Director of this National Park. Some other trees can be listed as: *Parashorea Chinesis*, *Cinamomum Balanse*, *Magnolia conifer*, *Peltophorum pterocarpum*, *Chukaria Tobularis*, etc. and more than 300 species of rare medicinal herbs.

4.2. Fauna

The national park is a favorable habitat for lots of groups of insects, birds, rodents, animals with hooves and carnivore. The results of many surveys and investigations point out that the Park possesses 50 orders, 177 families, 216 varieties and more than 1,000 species of animals, including 91 species of mammals, 201 species of birds, 54 species of reptiles, 31 species of amphibians, 68 species of fish and 499 species of insects. Many of them are identified in the Red Book, for example, elephants, gavals, Leopard , *Macaca arctoides*, *Hylobates concolor leucogienis*, etc. It is the large biodiversity of flora and fauna of Ben En National Park that inspires hundreds of domestic and foreign researches and scientists to implement their scientific researches on “Preserving the gene source of some rare and precious plants in Ben En National Park”.