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## THE 1<sup>ST</sup> CONFERENCE

### BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE CENTRAL AND HIGHLANDS

#### “Lesson learnt on tourism development at National Parks and Nature Reserves”

##### Context

Central Coasts and Central Highlands include 19 provinces and direct-controlled municipalities (from Thanh Hoa to Binh Thuan). The West is surrounded by high mountains bordering with Laos, Cambodia; the East is adjacent to the South China Sea encompasses most of the coastal provinces. This geographic characteristic has contributed to the creation of the typical biodiversity hotspot of Vietnam that is storing unique and significant natural values, supporting large-scale, distinctive and highly biodiverse ecosystems, and providing and critical habitats of many endangered, precious and rare species that must be prioritized for conservation at national and global level.

Central Vietnam and the Central Highlands now have 59 out of 88 National Parks, Nature Reserves, Species and Habitats Conservation Areas, and National Landscape Protection Areas (*No. 45/QĐ-TTg dated January 8, 2014, approving the master plan on nationwide biodiversity conservation by 2020, with a vision toward 2030*). In which, there are many critical natural ecosystems such as Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park, which is set up to protect one of the two largest karst regions in the world with approximately 300 caves, and to preserve the Northern Annamites ecosystem. Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park was recognized by UNESCO as a World Natural Heritage following geological, geomorphological and biodiversity criteria; Kon Ka Kinh National Park is a priority area for the protection of biodiversity in Vietnam and South East Asia. Here we have an invaluable treasure of endemic and precious fauna, flora and typical ecosystem of the Central Highlands. In addition, there are many ecosystems which play an essential role in both terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity of the region, such as the Cu Lao Cham Biosphere Reserve (Hoi An), Son Tra Nature Reserve (Da Nang) and other remarkable ecological systems i.e. Song Thanh Nature Reserve (Quang Nam), Bach Ma National Park (Hue), Chu Mom Ray National Park (Kon Tum), Chu Yang Sin (Dak Lak), etc. In particular, the Central Annamites ecosystem is one of the most critical ecosystems that contain biodiversity values - one of the 200 global distinctive ecosystems recognized by WWF.

Nonetheless, biodiversity conservation mission in this region faces multiple challenges at regional level due to a number of impacts such as hydropower development, the pressure of wildlife hunting, forest conversion, population growth, nomadic practices. Besides, the expansion in uncontrolled tourism activities has given birth to challenges that put the conservation of natural resources in jeopardy. On the one hand, it is impossible to deny the growth of local economies that has partly stemmed from ecotourism activities in National Parks such as Cu Lao Cham Biosphere Reserve (Hoi An), Yok Don National Park (Dak Lak), Bidoup - Nui Ba National Park (Lam Dong). But on the other hand, an ecotourism model that can balance economic benefits and long-term natural resources and biodiversity conservation is yet to be in sight. Therefore, the first international workshop on **"Biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the Central and Highlands"**, with the 2018 topic is *"Lesson learnt on tourism development in National Parks and Nature Reserves"*, will discuss with different perspectives and lessons learnt from international and Vietnamese experts, share and seek solutions for ecotourism development model; solutions for management, conservation and sustainable development of ecosystems in the National Parks and Nature Reserves in this area.

#### **Target:**

- Create a forum for sharing lessons learnt about tourism in National Parks and Nature Reserves;
- Discuss issues related to the pressure created by tourism on biodiversity conservation in National Parks and Nature Reserves;
- Multi-stakeholder consultations to propose appropriate ecotourism models for National Parks and Nature Reserves to achieve sustainable development goal;

#### **The host institutions**

1. Da Nang Union of Science & Technology Associations
2. GreenViet Biodiversity Conservation Centre (GreenViet)
3. Environment & Biological Resource Teaching Research Team (DN-EBR)
4. People and Nature Reconciliation (PanNature)

#### **Time and Location:**

- Time: 8:00 - 17:00, Saturday, July 21th, 2018
- Location: Saigon Tourane Hotel, No. 5 Dong Da Street, Hai Chau District, Da Nang City.

#### **Representatives:**

- 150 delegates, including 06 external and 60 internal delegates outside Da Nang.

- Delegates representing all stakeholders include state management agencies, Scientists, Universities, Colleges, Enterprises and Communities.

## Tentative Program

Timeline	Activities
7:30 – 8:00	<b>Registration of delegates</b> <i>GreenViet, LHH, DN-EBR</i>
8:00 – 8:10	<b>Opening and Welcome Speech</b> <i>Mr. Huynh Phuoc – Vice Chairman of Da Nang Union Association</i>
8:10 – 8:20	<b>Keynote Speech</b> <i>Assoc. Prof. Vo Van Minh – DN-EBR (Da Nang University)</i>
8:20 – 8:35	<b>Ecotourism at National Parks and Nature Reserve – Potentials, challenges, and solutions</b> <i>Le Van Lanh &amp; Bui Xuan Truong, Vietnam National Park and Nature Conservation Association</i>
8:35 – 8:55	<b>Sustainable Tourism and Nature Conservation in Japan- Ecotourism Promotion Act</b> <i>Assoc. Prof. Yoshika Yamamoto, St.Agnes' University, Japan</i>
8:55 – 9:15	<b>Balearic Ecotax in Spain toward sustainable tourism</b> <i>Assoc. Prof. Miki Yoshizumi, Ritsumeikan University, Japan</i>
9:15 – 9:30	<b>Recommendations for the development of ecotourism in National Parks and Nature Reserves</b> <i>Mr. Huynh Van Keo, Former Director of Bach Ma National Park, Chairman of Thua Thien Hue Forestry Science and Technology Association</i>
9:30 – 9:45	Break
9:45 – 11:30	<b>Discussion session 01: Challenges and solutions of tourism development to biodiversity conservation and local community Culture</b> Moderators: <i>Mr. Huynh Phuoc - Vice Chairman of Danang Union Association</i> <i>Assoc. Prof. Vo Van Minh - Head of DN-EBR (Danang University)</i> <i>Ph.D. Ha Thang Long - Chairman of GreenViet</i> <i>Mr. Trinh Le Nguyen - Director of PanNature</i>
11:30 - 13:30	Have lunch and take a break
13:30 – 13:45	<b>Event Arrangement</b> <i>GreenViet, DN_EBR</i>
13:45 – 14:00	<b>Ecotourism in the Central and Highlands - Theory and Practice</b> <i>Mr. Nguyen Minh Dao - Vietnam National Forestry University</i>

14:00 – 14:15	<b>Ecotourism model at Yok Don National Park - Experience with elephants</b> <i>Mr. Vu Duc Gioi, deputy director of the Center for Environmental Education and Services.</i>
14:15 – 14:30	<b>Oxalis Company with sustainable tourism development in Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park, Quang Binh</b> <i>Pham Hong Long, Faculty of Tourism, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University Hanoi</i>
14:30 – 14:45	<b>Cu Lao Cham World Biosphere Reserve - Lessons of tourism development to biodiversity conservation missions and indigenous cultural values.</b> <i>Mr. Le Ngoc Thao – Head of the Secretariat of the Biosphere Reserve</i>
14:45 - 15:00	<b>Initial assessments of financial opportunities from sustainable ecotourism development associated sustainable nature conservation in Son Tra Peninsula</b> <i>Mr. Nguyen Viet Dung – Vice president of PanNature</i>
15:00 - 15:15	Break
15:00 – 16:45	<b>Discussion session 02: Ecotourism solutions/models for National Parks, Nature Reserves in the Central and Highlands.</b> Moderators: <i>Mr. Huynh Phuoc - Vice Chairman of Danang Union Association</i> <i>Assoc. Prof. Vo Van Minh - Head of DN-EBR (Danang University)</i> <i>Ph.D. Ha Thang Long - Chairman of GreenViet</i> <i>Mr. Trinh Le Nguyen - Director of PanNature</i>
16:45 – 17:00	<b>Conclusions and Closing Remarks</b> <i>Assoc. Prof. Vo Van Minh - Head of DN-EBR (Danang University)</i>

Da Nang, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**