

## ECO-TOURISM DEVELOPMENT POLICIES ON NATURAL CONSERVATION AREAS IN VIET NAM



## RATIONALE FOR ISSUING THE POLICY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ECO-TOURISM

Viet Nam has 176 special-use forests (with 34 national parks); With 54 ethnic groups, each with its own unique cultural identity, Viet Nam has rich eco-tourism resources, high biodiversity, many endemic species that need to be preserved, and cultural identity. This is a valuable resource for the development of Eco-tourism

However, the policy system for eco-tourism development in NRs is incomplete, mainly oriented; Tourism development without planning has affected sustainable development in NRs

**Therefore, the promulgation of policies to develop eco-tourism has high practical significance, contributing to the conservation of eco-systems while creating a brand and enhancing the attractiveness of Viet Nam's tourism.**

The strategy has identified "Eco-tourism is one of the main, competitive tourism product lines of Viet Nam that is focused on development"

Eco-tourism activities in NRs are developing, contributing to the diversification of tourism products, improving income for the community; contribute to the conservation of eco-systems, cultural identities and environmental protection



## CONTENTS OF PRESENTATION



**1. Overview of the potential and current status of eco-tourism development in NRs in Viet Nam**



**2. Policies on eco-tourism development in NRs in Viet Nam and its implementation**



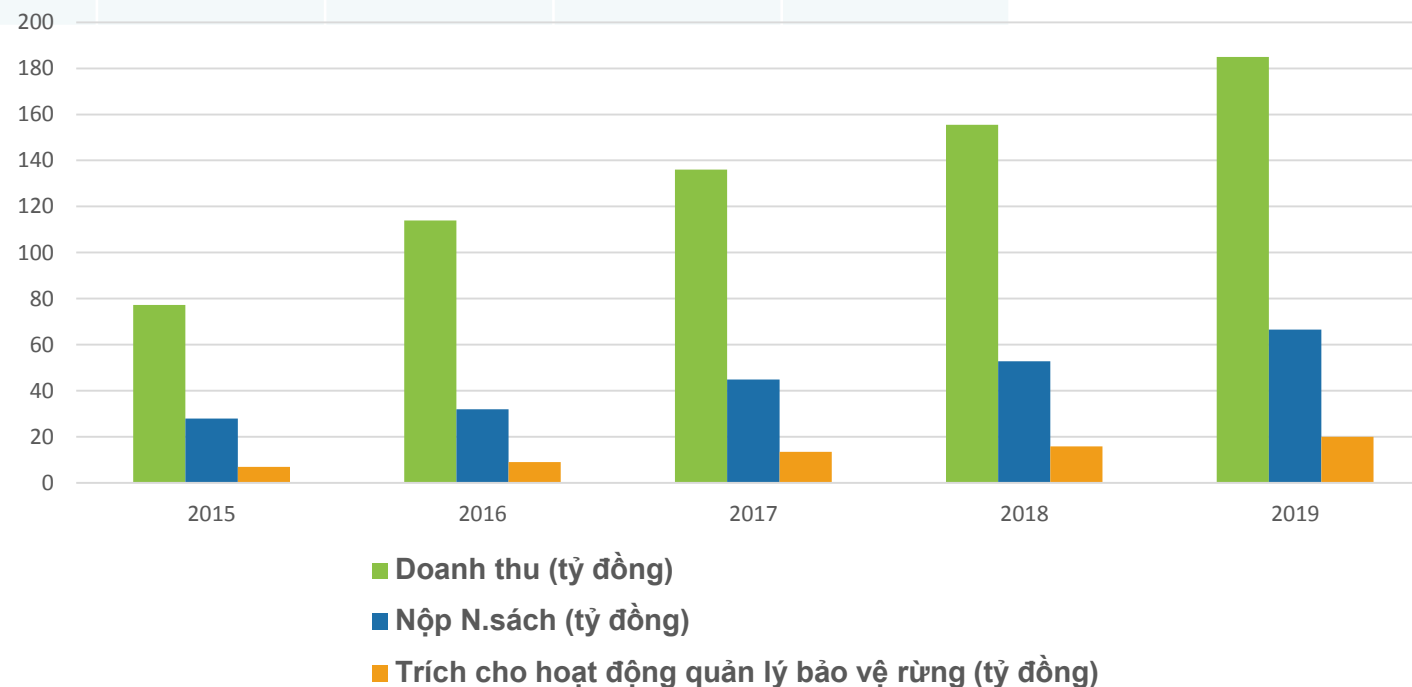
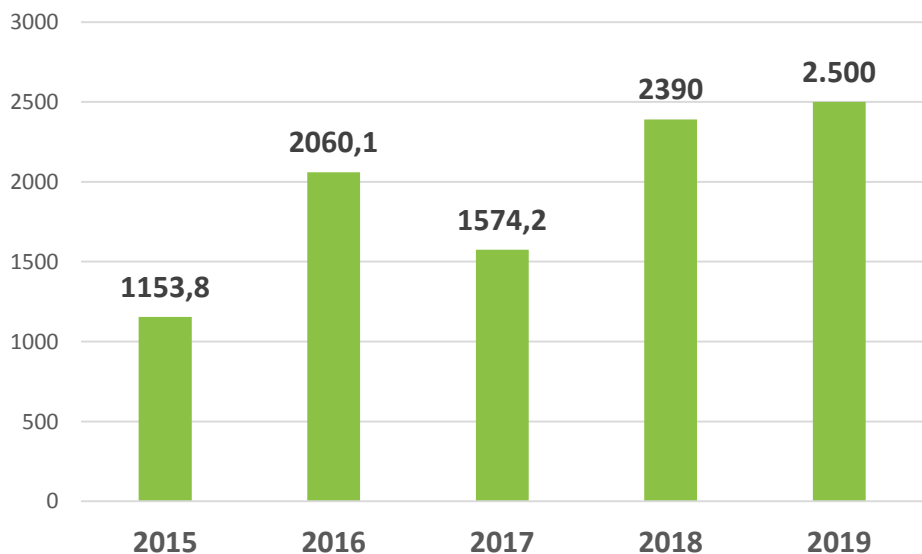
**3. General evaluation of eco-tourism development policies in NRs in Viet Nam**

## CURRENT SITUATION OF ECO-TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN NRs IN VIET NAM

In 2020, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of tourists and the total revenue from tourists to Viet Nam in general and to NRs decreased sharply.

TT	Main indicators	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Average Gain(%)
1	Total number of visitors (thousand)	1.153,8	2.060,1	1.574,2	2.390	2.500	21,3
2	Revenue (VND billion)	77,3	114,0	136,0	155,5	185,0	24,4
3	Contribution to public budget (VND billion)	28,0	32,0	44,9	52,8	66,6	24,1
4	Deduction for forest management and protection (VND billion)	7,0	9,0	13,5	15,8	20,0	30,0

**Number of visitors to protected areas in the period 2015 - 2019**



### Overall of eco-tourism development in NRs in Viet Nam

In general, eco-tourism in national parks and protected areas of eco-tourism has made certain developments over the years and achieved positive results.

The development is not commensurate with the potential

Tourism to Viet Nam's natural protected areas is still popular, not really eco-tourism.

Activities in the NRs tourism are still spontaneous. There is no specific attractive tourism product

There is no specific strategy for eco-tourism development, so planning and zoning for eco-tourism development are still limited and inadequate.



In Viet Nam, the development of eco-tourism in nature reserves is regulated by many legal documents, issued by different levels and line agencies.

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Ministry of Finance

Eco-tourism activities in nature reserves are specific and interdisciplinary, and are governed by relevant specialized laws.

Law on Forestry

Biodiversity Law

Tourism Laws

Environmental Protection law

Sub-law documents (Decree, Decision, Circular...)

### Policies related to eco-tourism development issued by the tourism industry

Resolution 08-NQ/TW of the Politburo (2017)  
“Concentrating on developing marine and island tourism products, cultural and spiritual tourism, Eco-tourism and community-based tourism with attractiveness and competitiveness high”.

The Law on Tourism (2017) defines: “Eco-tourism is a type of tourism based on nature, associated with local cultural identity, with the participation of the local community, combined with education on environmental protection.”

Strategy for Viet Nam's tourism development to 2030: developing tourism products with strong orientations for eco-tourism development

The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism has also conducted a number of studies on eco-tourism in some NRs

**Policies are put in place to encourage eco-tourism development activities associated with eco-system conservation and biodiversity in Vietnam's National Parks and Nature Reserves.**

## Policies related to eco-tourism development promulgated by relevant agencies

### Law on Forestry and guiding documents

Clearly define specific types of forests and spaces for organizing or combining eco-tourism;

Form of eco-tourism business; To guide the formulation of projects to develop eco-tourism and resorts in NRs;

Construction management of works serving eco-tourism; convalescence and entertainment;

Guide to eco-tourism and activities, recreation...in NRs

### Law on Biodiversity and guiding documents

Regulations on eco-tourism development associated with hunger eradication and poverty reduction, ensuring stable life of households and individuals lawfully living in the conservation area;

Sustainable development of the buffer zone of the reserves, the national strategy on biodiversity...

### Decree No. 60/2021/ND-CP, stipulating the autonomy mechanism of management boards of NRs

The Management Board of NRs also promulgates regulations on functions, tasks, regulations, financial mechanisms, etc.



## General assessment

1. Eco-tourism activities in national parks and nature reserves have had initial successes and made significant contributions to the development of the tourism industry in general, as well as to forest protection and conservation.  
Biodiversity...

2. The policies have initially created a legal corridor for the organization of eco-tourism activities in NRs

3. The tourism development management policy has not focused on eco-tourism development resources; infrastructure, technical facilities are still limited, the quality of tourism services is unprofessional...



### General assessment

4. There have been regulations on a number of standards and regulations on the construction of tourism technical facilities within national parks and nature reserves. However, more policies and tools are needed to manage the development of eco-tourism and other related types of tourism in nature reserves...

5. Need more specific regulations and guidelines to carry out activities of organizing joint ventures, tourism business association or leasing forest environment, avoiding difficulties, obstacles, affecting the environment and ecology system in national parks and nature reserves.

6. There should be specific regulations and sanctions to handle violations in tourism development in national parks and protected areas, leading to negative impacts on natural resources and local culture.

7. There should be an overall strategy for tourism development in national parks and nature reserves according to the market orientation; strategy to promote biodiversity conservation based on eco-tourism development.

## CONCLUSION



Eco-tourism in Viet Nam has made certain development and achieved results that contribute to the branding and attractiveness of Viet Nam's tourism.



“Eco-tourism - the key to poverty alleviation and environmental protection”



Eco-tourism is identified as a priority orientation in the development strategy, especially in the context of tourism development after controlling the COVID-19 pandemic and developing tourism towards a model of green growth - green tourism, contributing to active part in sustainable development.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**