



World Heritage Research

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Abstract

This dissertation is a case study of Phong Nha- Ke Bang (PNKB) National Park at Vietnam, which aims to examine to what extent the life of the residents is affected by tourism after its nomination as a World Heritage site, and how to address the associated sanitation problems, while keeping the residents in the core zone. It also discusses whether the local government management policies work sufficiently in dealing with the above two issues.

This study describes the core zone of PNKB National Park, which is managed as buffer zone. Therefore certain theories for buffer zone management are applied to the core zone. There are the top-down management policy, sustainable tourism, and community participation. By using a semi-structured interview and participation observation methods at the site, the researcher has found: (1) certain local jobs are indicating commercialization, the attitude of the government toward tourism development decides the commercialization standard of the site; (2) the poor litter process and unsolved water usage issue, with the low awareness of the locals and several wrong decisions of the government on environment protection and (3) the bureaucratic top-down government policy, which is not suitable for tourism development and environment protection at the site, should be changed to bridge the communication gap between the local government and residents.

The researcher recommends that in the short term, the government should remove the litter pool outside the core zone and rebuild the tap-water supply project. However, in the long term, an official policy has to be set up with the clear aim to educate the local population on how to protect the environment and culture. Most importantly, the government has to set up a proper community participation system with a 'little but often' principle. Further research should concentrate on the relationship of water usage and the cause of local diseases.

Table of contents

Title	
Abstract	
Acknowledgements	
List of tables	
List of figures	
Chapter 1 Introduction	
1.1 Justification for research	
1.2 Aims	
1.3 Objectives	
1.4 Structure of this dissertation	
Chapter 2 Literature review	
2.1 The relationship between core zone and buffer zone at Vietnam	
2.2 A brief description of Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park	
2.3 Tourism Commercialization Issues	
2.3.1 Current tourism exploitation of PNKB National Park	
2.3.2 Tourism development and commercialization issues	
2.4 Local community with environment protection and the idea of ecotourism	
2.5 Sustainable tourism with community participation in the national park	
Chapter 3 Methodology	
3.1 Introduction	
3.2 Research strategy	
3.3 Research tools	
3.3.1 Semi-structured interview method	
3.3.2 Participant observation method	
3.4 Sample selection	
3.5 Justification of interview questions	
3.6 Research procedures, coding and data analysis	
3.6.1 Research procedures	
3.6.2 Coding and data analysis	
Chapter 4 Analysis of data and discussion	
4.1 Introduction	
4.2 Tourism exploitation and commercialization issues of the local community	
4.2.1 Tourism service management at PNKB National Park	
4.2.2 Local community attitudes toward tourism development	
4.2.3 Local government attitudes toward tourism development	
4.3 The sanitation issues and the idea of environment protection	
4.3.1 Litter processing issues	
4.3.2 Daily water using issue	
4.3.3 The idea of environment protection of the local government	
4.4 The meaning of sustainable tourism and community participant	
Chapter 5 Conclusions and recommendations	
5.1 Introduction	
5.2 Conclusions	
5.3 Recommendations	
5.4 Limitations	
References	
Appendices	
Appendix I-Tourist arrivals at PNKB National Park, 1995-2007	
Appendix II- Information Sheet & Consent Form	
Appendix III- Interview schedules (planning)	
Appendix IV- Interview questions for all groups	
Appendix V- Interview record board	

Appendix VI- An example of interview transcription in Vietnamese
Appendix VII- PNKB National Park's well-water sample test result