



VAN LONG WETLAND NATURE RESERVE





INTRODUCTION



Van Long Wetland Nature Reserve was established pursuant to Decision No. 2888/QĐ-UB dated December 18, 2001 issued by the People's Committee of Ninh Binh province. Two primary ecosystems present in Van Long include the limestone mountain ecosystem and the wetland ecosystem. Despite the modest size in area, Van Long is endowed with high levels of biodiversity, with many rare flora and fauna species recorded in the Vietnam Red Book, especially the Delacour's Langur - an endemic animal to Vietnam.



GENERAL INFORMATION



1. Natural conditions

2. Socio-economic conditions



THE NATURAL CONDITIONS

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

SIZE

TOPOGRAPHY

CLIMATE

- **Geographic coordinates:** From 20⁰20'55" to 20⁰25'45" B.
From 105⁰48'00" to 105⁰54'30" D
 - **Boundary:** Located in the administrative area of 07 communes including: Gia Hung, Lien Son, Gia Hoa, Gia Van, Gia Lap, Gia Tan and Gia Thanh communes of Gia Vien district, Ninh Binh province.
 - **Headquarters of the NR:** The office is located in Tap Ninh village, Gia Van commune, Gia Vien district, Ninh Binh province.
-●
- **Total area:** 2,484.3 ha; of which 2,016.7 ha is special-use forests, 425.5 hectares is wetland, and other land types
-●
- **Topography:** Quite diverse and complex, mainly Karst terrain, surrounded by swamps, flooded all year round. There are many caves, funnels and sinkholes in the area.
-●
- **Climate:** Typical tropical monsoon, the average annual rainfall 1800 – 1900 mm; humidity 84 - 85%; evaporation less than 1,000 mm/year. The rainy season mainly from July, August and September.



ECONOMIC - CULTURAL - SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Population

Van Long Nature Reserve spans across the area of 7 communes (77 villages, 19 bordering villages). According to 2019 population statistics, there are 15,708 households with 55,271 people. The average household income/year in the area is quite high at 135 million VND.

Occupation

Mainly agricultural production. Tourism has recently been on the rise, but it is still unpredictable and only developed around the area of Tap Ninh Village - Gia Van commune, handicrafts and others are on the rise. The lives of people in the vicinity of the Nature Reserve are gradually improving.

Sociocultural

Local people's educational level is quite homogenous, and awareness of the role of forests and biodiversity for good human life has gradually been improved. The rural infrastructure system is relatively complete. Many villages and communes have achieved the title of "Advanced new rural areas".



BIODIVERSITY VALUES

Biodiversity

*Eco-
systems*

*Biodiversity of
species*

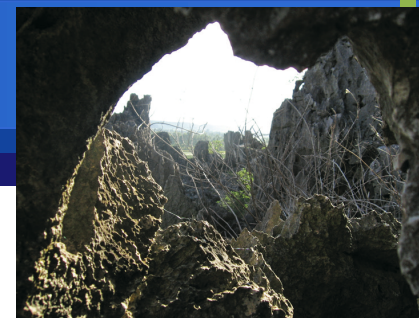
*Rare and
endemic
species of
plants and
animals*

*Delacour's
langur*

Van Long Wetland Nature Reserve



ECOSYSTEMS



1. Terrestrial ecosystems

- 1.1. Secondary forest on limestone mountains
- 1.2. "Bare" limestone mountains
- 1.3. Grasslands and shrubs on limestone mountains
- 1.4. Planted forests (Acacia, Dalbergia odorifera, Chukrasia tabularis, Pine)
- 1.5. Upland areas planted with crops and fruit trees
- 1.6. Terrestrial caves



2. Submerged/riverine ecosystems

- 2.1. Swamp
- 2.2. Wet rice fields
- 2.3. Rivers and streams
- 2.4. Underground caves



3. The local residential ecosystem





BIODIVERSITY OF SPECIES

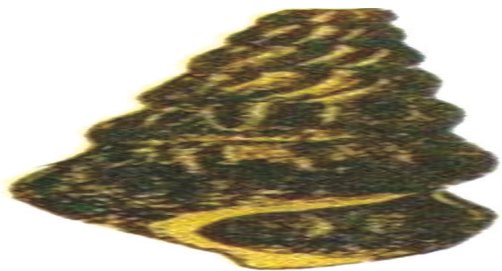
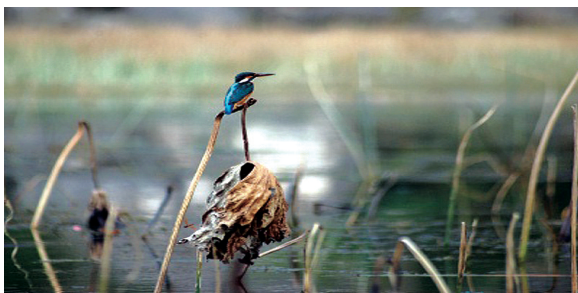
1. Terrestrial flora on limestone mountains:
687 species, belonging to 451 genera, 144 families

2. Aquatic plants in the lagoon:
With nearly 1000 ha of lagoon area: currently having 35 species of aquatic plants.

3. Microalgae species in the lagoon: quite rich with 258 species-level taxa belonging to 5 phyla.

4. Terrestrial animals: diverse species of insects and frogs - reptiles, birds, mammals, etc.

5. Aquatic animals: very diverse with about 108 species belonging to 61 families.





BIODIVERSITY OF SPECIES



By 2020, Van Long had recorded 39 animal species, 100 bird species, 38 reptile species, 44 fish species, 39 fisheries species and 79 insect species.

Of these species, many are on the IUCN Red List such as tiger snakes, Asian monitor lizard and limestone mountain goat.

Simultaneously, the NR possesses a diverse bird sanctuary. Some notable species include the pygmy stork, gray heron, white stork, *A. oscitans* stock, and most notably the migratory species of Eurasian coot (*Fulica atra*).



Rare and endemic species of plants and animals

Psilotum nudum
whisk fern



Aglaomorpha fortunei
basket fern



Dalbergia odorifera
fragrant rosewood



Lamprotula leai
mollusc





Rare and endemic species of plants and animals

***Naja naja* Cobra**



***Belostoma indica* Vitalis**



**Rare and
endemic species
of plants and
animals**

Sinilabeo lemassoni



***Nycticebus coucang*
Sunda slow loris**



**Silver pheasant:
*Lophura nychymera***



Chameleon





Delacour's Langur

The Delacour's Langur (White-rumped Langur) is one of 25 endemic langur species in Vietnam. *Trachypithecus francoisi delacouri* (Primates: Cercopithecidae). In 2001 the population was 40 individuals. In 2018, it reached 180 individuals. Up to now, according to the latest data, there are about more than 200 individuals in Van Long. Every year, herds with young individuals in nature can be observed with plain eyes.





HISTORICAL - CULTURAL - TOURISM VALUES

Established right on a land with a long history - the place where the Dinh and Tien Le dynasties were founded and chosen as the capital, Van Long at that time belonged to Dai Hoang province (during 10th century).

Some famous landmarks:

- **Hoa Lu Cave in Thung Lau** (Gia Hung commune), was the training ground of Dinh Bo Linh before pacifying the warlords to ascend to the throne.
- **Thung La Temple** (Gia Hung commune) is a place of worship to King Dinh Tien Hoang's mother.
- **Temple of the Four Ladies** (Gia Van commune), a place of worship to the 4 female generals who fought in the army led by the historic heroines of the two Trung sisters – or Hai Ba Trung, during the 1st century.



Cave System:

- **Thoi Tho Cave:** It is a place with traces of ancient human living in Hoa Binh archaeological cultural area. In particular, there are drawings that only becomes visible when in contact with water.
- In addition, there are many beautiful caves with tourism and archaeological value such as: Bong Cave, Fish Cave, Painting Cave,...



OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES



3.1 Opportunities



3.2 Challenges



Van Long Wetland Nature Reserve



OPPORTUNITIES

1

There is regular and timely attention and direction from the People's Committee of Ninh Binh province, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ninh Binh Forest Protection Department and the Gia Vien People's Committee.

2

There is state funding investment through the sustainable forest protection and development plan program. Forest conservation according to Decree 168. Land use rights granted and landmarks set.

3

There is attention and support from all levels of Party Committees, local authorities and people of communes belonging to and adjacent to Van Long Wetland Nature Reserve.

4

With the cooperation and assistance of the Frankfurt Zoological Society - Federal Republic of Germany in Vietnam (FZS), IUCN, UNDP... There is interest from scientists and organizations at home and abroad.



CHALLENGES

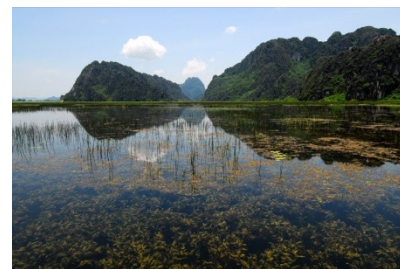
- Lack of investment funds.



- Organizational structure has not been completed according to the approved Scheme

- State policies (Payment for Forest Ecosystem Service policy, policy to support the development of special-use forests according to Decision No. 24/2012), have not been implemented.

- The ecotourism development project has not been approved



- Local socio-economic development policies conflict with conservation work.





CONCLUSION

*Van Long Wetland Nature Reserve is the place that simultaneously owns 02 records of the Vietnam Record Book Center "**Place with the highest individuals of Delacour's Langur**" and "**Place with the largest natural picture**".*

In 2018, Van Long was recognized as the 9th Ramsar area in Vietnam and 2063 in the world.

In 2020, Van Long received the Green List title.

It is the site of scientific research by many domestic and foreign scientists, and is a place with great tourism potential in the future...

However, to preserve and promote those values and potential, requires the authorities, management agencies at all levels, domestic and foreign organizations interested in Van Long need to take specific actions to maintain and develop natural resources that are extremely valuable mentioned above and for Van Long Wetland Nature Reserve to promote its strengths and limit its current weaknesses.






Thank
you!