

Project Update: February 2016

Report objective: *Brief report of data collection in Ben En National Park and plans for the next field trips.*

Time conducting the first data collection: from February 10th to 29th 2016.

- **Works completed in the field**

1. Gathering information about location, natural areas, population, and forest resources of the park.
2. Identifying the ages of agricultural fallows and the history of the secondary forest sites was determined by interviewing long-term residents of the study areas and several technical key officers of Ben En National Park who had knowledge of local land use.
3. 20 circular plots with an area of 500 m² and 20 plots of 100 m² were established at an early secondary forest with a recovery age of 14-15 years since abandonment (from 1997 to 1998); an intermediate phase, 19-20 years after fallow (from 1991 to 1992), and a late one after 25-26 years (from 1986 to 1987). Consequently, a total of 60 plots of 500 m² and 60 plots of 100 m² were collected were sampled at the three forest sites.
4. All tree species with a DBH \geq 5 cm were recorded and measured in the 500 m² circular plots. All trees within the plots, regardless of size, had their botanical name recorded, and, where possible, their local names. The DBH was measured.
5. The various parameters for regenerated tree species, including total tree height, tree name, and original regeneration, were recorded in smaller 100 m² circular sample plots with radius of 5.6 m.

- **2. Plan and works in the following time**

1. Sampling design and data collection will be sampled in untouched forests (about a week in February 2016, expected in the last week of this month).
2. In March 2016, a small meeting with local people who living near the park and park rangers will be organised in order to ask them about which tree species (scientific and common name) producing non-timber forest products and gather their native knowledge on parts extracted and uses of NTFP species, life form/habit, harvesting methods and management, economic values, species used for medicinal purposes.



Left: Lunchtime with park rangers and local people. Middle: In the field. Right: Sampling design with park ranger. ©Nguyen Van Thinh.