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**Background information on Khe Tre State Forest Enterprise (SFE) in Thua Thien Hue province, Vietnam** (from research proposal, March 2005)

Established in 1991, Khe Tre SFE is one of the pioneer institutions in carrying out the provincial policies on forest management and utilization.

Khe Tre SFE is located in the South West of Nam Dong district, Thua Thien Hue province, with the Forest Sub-enterprise III (under Nam Dong Enterprise) in the North, Forest Sub-enterprise IV (under Nam Dong enterprise) in the South, Bach Ma National Park (BMNP) in the East, and A Luoi district in the West.

The total forestry lands managed by Khe Tre SFE is around 10 322 ha, mainly allocated in Huong Son, Huong Phu, Thuong Long and Thuong Nhat communes. The area belongs to the Southern part of Northern Truong Son range with most of the terrain are low mountains. Transportation has faced a lot of difficulties as the infrastructure has become degraded. The dominant climate for this region is tropical monsoon with great influences from Eastern Truong Son range.

Population in the area under the management of Khe Tre SFE is approximately 20,000 people, largely comprised by the ethnic groups of Kinh and Ka Tu. Population is unevenly distributed. Most of local people are living along the roads and nearby the town, with very few living in the watershed areas.

Agricultural activities are considered the main income source of people, however their production techniques are quite backward, and with shifting cultivation practices are commonly used. Most of the local communities are forest-dependant people. According to the results of a survey conducted in Nam Dong District, the average income is around VND 1,5-2,0 million/year/annum, which is 30% of the average income of people in Thua Thien Hue province. Consequently, the negative impacts created by local people on forests are an inevitable fact.

Khe Tre SFE was established in 1991 with the main tasks of forest protection, timber logging and forest product processing. Since 1993, it joined the programme on re-greening bare lands and hills (Programme 327) and presently known as Project 661 as the Governmental requirements on limitation of timber exploitation from natural forests.

However, the forests under the management of Khe Tre SFE are constantly suffering the negative impacts from local communities, caused by collection of timber, fuel wood and other forest products and forest burning for their shifting cultivation. As a result, the area, yield and quality of forests are continually deteriorated

During the past few years, under the spirit of socialization for forestry activities, Khe Tre SFE has allocated forests and forestland to local communities for care and protection.

Yet, the obtained results have still been modest. The residents are continuing their detrimental activities to the forests.

There has been no research on impacts from forestry policies undertaken in Khe Tre SFE. In order for a more effective and sustainable management and utilization of forest estates in Khe Tre SFE, this research proposal has been developed with an at providing inputs and recommendations for formulation of policies, which should be appropriate and be in line with each specific period of time.

(Information from research proposal)

**Table 6: Forest and forest land management of SFEs**

	SFEs	Forestry land area	Forests and land planned as protection				Planted forests and production land
			Natural Forests	Planted forests	Total area	In %	
1	Phong Dien	3,976	6	743	749	19	3,227
2	Tien Phong	6,955	694	620	1,314	19	5,641
3	A Luoi	30,984	22,203	6,644	28,847	93	2,137
4	Phu Loc	5,258	1,876	966	2,842	54	2,416
5	Khe Tre	8,070	3,383	1,186	4,569	57	3,501
6	Huong Giang	8,137	4,439	1,808	6,247	77	1,890
7	Huong Thuy	10,791	5,341	3,449	8,790	81	2,001
8	Nam Dong	33,133	23,072	9,787	32,859	99	274
9	Nam Hoa	12,193	8,393	915	9,308	76	2,885
	Total	119,497	69,407	26,118	95,525	80	23,972

*Note: As for Tien Phong SFE, the area for special use forests and land is totaled in the area for protection planning*  
(Source: SFE Reform Master Plan from Thua Thien Hue province, English version, 2003)

\* Units in ha