

# A Vuong Proposed Nature Reserve

## Alternative site name(s)

Sao La

## Province(s)

Quang Nam

## Status

Proposed

## Management board established

No

## Latitude

16°00'N

## Longitude

107°30'E

## Bio-unit

Ma - Central Annam Mountains



## Conservation status

Following a biodiversity survey of western Quang Nam province in 1997, the WWF Indochina Programme, FIPI, the FPD of MARD, and Quang Nam Provincial FPD proposed establishing a nature reserve in northern Hien district (Wikramanayake *et al.* 1997). This proposed nature reserve is situated to the north of the A Vuong river, from which it takes its name. Since this proposal was made, however, the process of establishing a protected area at A Vuong has not progressed. A feasibility study has not been conducted, and an investment plan has not been prepared. Also, A Vuong is not included on the 2010 list (FPD 1998).

The exact location for A Vuong proposed nature reserve has yet to be determined, and the boundary has yet to be defined. A very general boundary was proposed by Wikramanayake *et al.* (1997), which included areas in southern A Luoi and Nam Dong districts, Thua Thien Hue province, as well as northern Hien district, Quang Nam province. Indeed, there exists a proposal to establish a nature reserve, with the name Sao La, in south-western Thua Thien Hue province. No further information about this proposal exists, however, and it is assumed that this site is located in the same forest block as A Vuong proposed nature reserve but on the other side of the provincial

border. Due to the lack of information, a separate site card has not been prepared for this site.

## Topography and hydrology

A Vuong proposed nature reserve is located in northern Hien district, and borders Thua Thien Hue province to the north, and Laos to the west. The proposed nature reserve is situated in the Annamite mountains, and the topography is steep and mountainous, with elevations ranging from under 600 m to around 1,500 m. All streams in the proposed nature reserve originate close to the borders with Thua Thien Hue province and Laos, and flow south and west into the A Vuong river, which, in turn, feeds the Con river.

## Biodiversity value

The proposed nature reserve supports two natural forest types: lowland evergreen forest and lower montane evergreen forest. The forest is reported to be intact, with a high species richness: during the 1997 biodiversity survey, 402 species of vascular plant were recorded in northern Hien district. The fauna of the proposed nature reserve is poorly surveyed but the site is known to support two recently described mammal species: Saola *Pseudoryx nghetinhensis* and Truong

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Son Muntjac *Muntiacus truongsoneis* (Wikramanayake *et al.* 1997).

A Vuong proposed nature reserve is contiguous with Xe Sap National Biodiversity Conservation Area in the west, and linked by intervening forest areas to Bach Ma National Park in the east. At the regional scale, A Vuong proposed nature reserve is an important link in a transboundary conservation landscape from Xe Sap in Laos to the coast of Vietnam. This landscape, which has been termed the "Green Corridor" is the last chain of contiguous natural forest between the Annamite mountains and the East Sea.

## Conservation issues

The population density in the area is one of the lowest in Vietnam. In A Vuong commune, for instance, the population density is only nine persons per square kilometre. The majority of the inhabitants of Hien district belong to the Ca Tu ethnic group. The socio-economic situation of these people is generally poor: shifting cultivation is the main agricultural practice and agricultural productivity is low. Many households suffer three or four months of food shortages per year, during which time they hunt and exploit forest products in order to supplement their diet (Wikramanayake *et al.* 1997). Clearance of forest for shifting cultivation, and hunting are believed to be the biggest threats to conservation at A Vuong proposed nature reserve (Vu Van Dung pers. comm.). Indiscriminate trapping may be threatening the populations of Saola and Truong Son Muntjac at the site.

## Other documented values

The forest at the proposed nature reserve protects the watershed of the Con river, an important source of water for irrigation and domestic use in north-western Quang Nam province.

## Related projects

A medium-sized Global Environment Facility (GEF) project to protect the so-called "Green Corridor" of natural forest that links the Annamite mountains with the East Sea is currently being prepared by the WWF Indochina Programme. If this landscape-level

conservation project is implemented, it may include activities at A Vuong proposed nature reserve.

## Literature sources

Wikramanayake, E., Vu Van Dung and Pham Mong Giao (1997) A biological and socio-economic survey of west Quang Nam province with recommendations for a nature reserve. Hanoi: WWF Indochina Programme, the Forest Inventory and Planning Institute and the Forest Protection Department.

Wikramanayake, E., Vu Van Dung and Pham Mong Giao (1997) [A biological and socio-economic survey of west Quang Nam province with recommendations for a nature reserve]. Hanoi: WWF Indochina Programme, the Forest Inventory and Planning Institute and the Forest Protection Department. In Vietnamese.