

Ba Na-Nui Chua Nature Reserve

Alternative site name(s)

Ba Na

Province(s)

Da Nang city

Status

Decreed

Management board established

Yes

Latitude

15°57' - 16°08'N

Longitude

107°49' - 108°04'E

Bio-unit

05b - South Annam



Conservation status

Ba Na-Nui Chua was included on Decision No.194/CT of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, dated 9 August 1986, which decreed the establishment of a 5,217 ha nature reserve in former Quang Nam-Da Nang province (MARD 1997).

In 1994, an investment plan for Ba Na-Nui Chua Nature Reserve was prepared by Quang Nam-Da Nang Provincial Department of Forestry. This investment plan proposed establishing a 43,327 ha nature reserve in what are now Hien district, Quang Nam province and Da Nang city. This investment plan was approved by Decision No. 2294/TT-UB of Quang Nam-Da Nang Provincial People's Committee, dated 21 December 1994 (Anon. 1994).

After Quang Nam-Da Nang province was divided into Quang Nam province and Da Nang city in 1997, Ba Na-Nui Chua Nature Reserve was divided into two areas. The area in Da Nang city is currently managed as a nature reserve, with a total area of 8,838 ha, comprising a strict protection area of 3,589 ha, a forest rehabilitation area of 5,189 ha and an administration and services area of 70 ha. In addition, a buffer zone of 8,803 ha has been defined (Mr. Dung, Forest Management and Protection Department, Da Nang City FPD pers. comm.). The area in Quang Nam

province, however, has not been managed as a nature reserve since 1997 (Mr. Nguyen, Forest Management and Protection Department, Quang Nam Provincial FPD pers. comm.).

Topography and hydrology

Ba Na-Nui Chua Nature Reserve is centred on Mount Ba Na, a 1,487 metre-high mountain on the border between Da Nang city and Quang Nam province. Mount Ba Na is situated to the south-east of the mountain ridge that stretches across central Vietnam, from the Annamite mountains to the Hai Van pass. However, Mount Ban Na and the montane habitats it supports are isolated from this ridge by intervening areas of lower elevation.

Streams and rivers originating in the north-west of the nature reserve feed the Ca De river, which flows into the north of Da Nang bay, while those originating in the south and east of the nature reserve feed the Yen river, which flows into the south of the bay.

Biodiversity value

The main natural vegetation types present at Ba Na-Nui Chua Nature Reserve are lowland evergreen forest and lower montane evergreen forest. The lowland evergreen forest is characterised by the presence of tree species in the Dipterocarpaceae, which are absent from

the lower montane forest. The lower montane evergreen forest is dominated by species in the Lauraceae, Fagaceae and Podocarpaceae families. Areas which have been cleared of forest support scrub or *Eucalyptus* plantations. The summit of Mount Ba Na was cleared of forest by the use of herbicides during the Second Indochina War and now supports grassland (Hill *et al.* 1996).

According to the investment plan, 543 species of vascular plant have been recorded at Ba Na-Nui Chua Nature Reserve. These include 12 species listed in the *Red Data Book of Vietnam*: including *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*, *Decussocarpus fleuryi*, *Melanorrhoea usitata* and *Dipterocarpus grandiflorus* (Anon. 1994).

According to the investment plan, 61 mammal species, 178 bird species and 17 reptile species have been recorded at Ba Na-Nui Chua. These include a number of species of conservation concern, including Hog Deer *Axis porcinus* and Crested Argus *Rheinardia ocellata* (Anon. 1994). Many of the species listed in the investment plan were also recorded during surveys by Frontier-Vietnam in 1994 and 1995, who recorded 472 vascular plant species, 29 mammal species, 106 bird species, 20 reptile species, six amphibian species, 33 fish species and 126 butterfly species (Hill *et al.* 1996). Further survey work is required, however, to determine the current status of the species of conservation concern at the site

Conservation issues

Ba Na-Nui Chua Nature Reserve is situated close to the major population centre of Da Nang city and access to the site is good. Exploitation of forest resources is widespread and occurring at unsustainable levels. Hunting directly threatens populations of a number of globally threatened mammal and bird species, such as Asiatic Black Bear *Ursus thibetanus* and Crested Argus (Hill *et al.* 1996).

In the past, the forest at Ba Na-Nui Chua was logged by forest enterprises. While commercial logging has now ceased, small-scale, illegal timber extraction by local people continues. Rattan collection also takes place at unsustainable levels. In the past, gold mining and exploitation of other minerals have taken place in the nature reserve, and tungsten was

reportedly still being exploited in 1995 (Hill *et al.* 1996).

Other documented values

The forest at Ba Na-Nui Chua Nature Reserve protects the watersheds of the Ca De and Yen rivers. These rivers are an important source of water for irrigation, and domestic and industrial use in Da Nang city.

In 1919, the French colonists established a hill station at the summit of Mount Ba Na (Hill *et al.* 1996). In recent years, a tourism resort has been re-established at the site, and there are plans for further developments, in the form of a three-star hotel, 20 guesthouses and other recreational facilities (Vietnam News 2000). Hill *et al.* (1996) warn that tourism development represents a potential threat to the biodiversity of the nature reserve.

Related projects

No information.

Literature sources

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