

Ba To Cultural and Historical Site

Alternative site name(s)

Cao Muon

Province(s)

Quang Ngai

Status

Decreed

Management board established

No

Latitude

14°45' - 14°49'N

Longitude

108°38' - 108°45'E

Bio-unit

05b - South Annam



Conservation status

Ba To was included on Decision No. 194/CT of the Chairman of the Council Ministers, dated 9 August 1986, as a 500 ha cultural and historical site (MARD 1997). Subsequently, on 27 August 1996, the establishment of a 6,770 ha cultural and historical site was approved by Quang Ngai Provincial People's Committee, following Decision No. 2356/QD-UB. To date, however, an investment plan for Ba To has not been prepared, a management board has not been formed and the site is currently unmanaged (Quang Ngai Provincial FPD 2000).

Ba To is not included on the 2010 list (FPD 1998), and the site can be considered to have been recommended for removal from the national system of Special-use Forests.

Topography and hydrology

Ba To Cultural and Historical Site is located in Ba Vinh, Ba Dinh, Ba Chua and Ba Cung communes, Ba To district. The site is centred on Mount Cao Muon, an 829 m high mountain, situated immediately north-west of Ba To town. Streams originating in the east of the site flow into the Ve river, streams originating in the north flow into the Ne river, streams originating in the west flow into the Lo river and streams originating in

the south flow into the Tra No river. The latter three rivers feed the Ve river, which flows north through Quang Ngai province to meet the East Sea south of Quang Ngai town.

Biodiversity value

Remote sensing data indicate that the site supports a significant amount of lowland evergreen forest. According to Quang Ngai Provincial FPD (2000), a survey in 1986 recorded the occurrence of Sambar *Cervus concolor*, Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*, muntjac *Muntiacus* sp., bear *Ursus* sp. and pangolin *Manis* sp. at Ba To. However, there is little recent information on the biodiversity of the site.

Nadler (1997) reported that a Grey-shanked Douc Langur *Pygathrix nemaeus cinereus* held at the Endangered Primate Rescue Centre at Cuc Phuong National Park was collected in Ba To district in 1996 or 1997, indicating that this recently described subspecies may occur at Ba To Cultural and Historical Site. Further survey work is, however, required to confirm this.

Conservation issues

A total of 9,891 people inhabit the buffer zone of Ba To Cultural and Historical Site. These people belong mainly to the H're ethnic group and practice

both wet rice and shifting cultivation. The households in the buffer zone experience, on average, six months of hunger per year (Quang Ngai Provincial FPD 2000). Quang Ngai Provincial FPD (2000) identify clearance of forest land for shifting cultivation as the biggest threat to biodiversity in the buffer zone.

Other documented values

Ba To protects part of the watershed of the Ve river, one of the main rivers in Quang Ngai province

Related projects

No information.

Literature sources

Nadler, T. (1997) A new subspecies of Douc Langur, *Pygathrix nemaeus cinereus* ssp. nov. Zool. Garten N. F. 67(4): 165-167.

Quang Ngai Provincial FPD (2000) [FPD questionnaire]. Quang Ngai: Quang Ngai Provincial Forest Protection Department. In Vietnamese.