

# Bac Plei Ku Proposed Nature Reserve

## Alternative site name(s)

Bien Ho

## Province(s)

Gia Lai

## Status

Proposed

## Management board established

No

## Latitude

14<sup>0</sup>05' - 14<sup>0</sup>23'N

## Longitude

107<sup>0</sup>58' - 108<sup>0</sup>05'E

## Bio-unit

Ma - Central Annam Mountains



## Conservation status

Bac Plei Ku is situated in Chu Pah district in northern Gia Lai province, between Plei Ku and Kon Tum towns. Very little information is available about this site, which currently has no investment plan and is not listed on any national decrees or proposals. The total area of the site is given as 12,941 ha (Gia Lai Provincial FPD 2000), although it is unclear whether the exact boundaries have been delineated yet. The site has been proposed as a nature reserve by Gia Lai Provincial FPD, who are currently responsible for its management.

## Topography and hydrology

Based on the coordinates provided by Gia Lai Provincial FPD (2000), it appears that the site comprises two areas of low mountains, separated by the valley of the Ia Tower river. The maximum altitude of the northernmost area is 1,152 m, while the southernmost area reaches 1,478 m at the peak of Dang Roia mountain. The lowest point at the site is around 700 m, in the valley of the Ia Tower river. Bac Plei Ku is situated in the catchment of the Mekong River. It is not clear whether or not the proposed nature reserve includes Bien Ho lake, a natural freshwater lake

formed by three or four extinct volcanic craters. The total area of this lake is 600 ha.

## Biodiversity value

Bien Ho lake is known to support a rich freshwater fish fauna, including three endemic species of fish, and a variety of waterfowl (Scott 1989, Government of SRV/GEF 1994). According to 1995 satellite data, Bac Plei Ku proposed nature reserve supports two non-contiguous blocks of evergreen forest, separated by an area of cultivation and scrub along the Ia Tower river. However, further information on the biodiversity values of the site is not available.

## Conservation issues

A total of 2,294 people live inside the proposed nature reserve, all of whom belong to the Ba Na ethnic group. A further 12,266 people live in the buffer zone, most of whom belong to the Kinh and Gia Rai ethnic groups (Gia Lai Provincial FPD 2000).

Gia Lai Provincial FPD consider the biggest threats to biodiversity at the site to be hunting and other illegal exploitation of forest resources, and clearance of land for agriculture. In the buffer zone, cash crop cultivation is also considered a problem (Gia Lai Provincial FPD 2000). To the west, Bac Plei Ku proposed nature reserve is bordered by National Highway 14, which is

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soon to be upgraded to National Highway 2. This road is, and may continue to be, a focus for human settlement, which could lead to an increase in human pressure on the site.

## Other documented values

Bien Ho lake provides drinking water for local communities and irrigation water for wet rice and cash crop production (Scott 1989).

## Related projects

No information.

## Literature sources

Gia Lai Provincial FPD (2000) [FPD questionnaire]. Plei Ku: Gia Lai Provincial Forest Protection Department. In Vietnamese.

Scott, D. A. (1989) A directory of Asian wetlands. Gland: IUCN.