Bat Dai Son Proposed Nature Reserve

Alternative site name(s)
None
Province(s)
Ha Giang
Status
Proposed
Management board established
No
Latitude
$23^0$04' - $23^0$11'N
Longitude
$104^0$54' - $105^0$02'E
Bio-unit
06a - Tropical South China

Conservation status

Bat Dai Son is not listed on any government decision regarding the Special-use Forests system. However, the 2010 list included a proposal to establish a 10,000 ha nature reserve at the site, including 7,500 ha of forest (FPD 1998). This proposal was reiterated by Vu Van Dung and Nguyen Huy Thang (1999). An investment plan for Bat Dai Son was prepared by FIPI in 1999, and approved by Official Letter No. 1437/BNN-KH of MARD, dated 28 April 2000 (Ha Giang Provincial FPD 2000).

The current area of the proposed nature reserve is 10,648 ha, comprising a strict protection area of 6,298 ha, a forest rehabilitation area of 4,071 ha and an administration and services area of 315 ha. In addition, a buffer zone of 5,194 ha has been proposed (Mrs. Van, Forest Management and Protection Section, Ha Giang Provincial FPD pers. comm.).

Topography and hydrology

Bat Dai Son proposed nature reserve is located in Bat Dai Son, Can Ty and Thanh Van communes, Quan Ba district. The proposed nature reserve is centred on a ridge of limestone karst, which runs in a south-easterly direction from the Chinese border. Most of the proposed nature reserve is higher than 1,000 m in elevation, and the highest point is 1,645 m. The proposed nature reserve is situated in the watershed of the Gam river.

Biodiversity value

Bat Dai Son proposed nature reserve supports 6,558 ha of forest, equivalent to 62% of the total area; the remaining area is comprised of agricultural land and scrub (Mrs. Van, Forest Management and Protection Section, Ha Giang Provincial FPD pers. comm.). The natural forest at Bat Dai Son comprises mainly limestone forest. Because Bat Dai Son is the most northerly protected area in Vietnam, the composition of the flora is quite unique, with a high proportion of Sino-Himalayan elements. In particular, Bat Dai Son supports a high diversity of conifer species, including *Pseudotsuga brevifolia*, *Calocedrus macrolepis*, *Taxus chinensis* and *Podocarpus brevifolius* (Vu Van Can *et al.* 1999a). In addition, in 1999, a new species of conifer, *Thuja quanbaensis*, was discovered at the site; this species is currently known from nowhere else in the world (Vu Van Can *et al.* 1999b). Regarding the fauna of Bat Dai Son proposed nature reserve, Vu Van Dung and Nguyen Huy Thang (1999) report that the site supports populations of Southern Serow *Naemorhedus sumatraensis* and Asiatic Black Bear *Ursus thibetanus*.

Conservation issues

A total of 7,072 people from the Hmong, Dao, Tay and Nung ethnic groups live in the proposed nature reserve and buffer zone. These people experience, on average, four months of food shortages per year. The underlying causes of biodiversity loss at the site are reported to be the low socio-economic level of the local people, in particular, food shortages stemming from a lack of suitable agricultural land (Ha Giang Provincial FPD 2000).

Other documented values

The proposed nature reserve has watershed protection value for the Gam river catchment.

Related projects

No information.

Literature sources

Ha Giang Provincial FPD (2000) [FPD questionnaire]. Ha Giang: Ha Giang Provincial Forest Protection Department. In Vietnamese.

Vu Van Can, Vu Van Dung and Le Van Cham (1999a) [The gymnosperms of Bat Dai Son Nature Reserve, Ha Giang province]. Pp 21-24 in: Le Sau ed. [Protection and sustainable development of forest and biodiversity in limestone areas of Vietnam] Hanoi: Forest Inventory and Planning Institute. In Vietnamese.

Vu Van Can, Vu Van Dung and Le Van Cham (1999b) [Discovery of a new species of Cupressaceae, *Thuja quanbaensis* sp. nov., from a limestone area in Ha Giang province]. Pp 12-13 in: Le Sau ed. [Protection and sustainable development of forest and biodiversity in limestone areas of Vietnam] Hanoi: Forest Inventory and Planning Institute. In Vietnamese.

Vu Van Dung and Nguyen Huy Thang (1999) [Proposal for a number of new nature reserves in limestone areas in Vietnam]. Pp 110-117 in: Le Sau ed. [Protection and sustainable development of forest and biodiversity in limestone areas of Vietnam] Hanoi: Forest Inventory and Planning Institute. In Vietnamese.