

Cam Son Cultural and Historical Site

Alternative site name(s)

Ho Cam Son [Cam Son reservoir]

Province(s)

Bac Giang

Status

Decreed

Management board established

No

Latitude

21°32'N

Longitude

106°34'E

Bio-unit

06a - Tropical South China



Conservation status

Cam Son 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 15,000 ha cultural and historical site (MARD 1997). Cam Son was 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

Cam Son Cultural and Historical Site is located in Luc Ngan district. The cultural and historical site is centred on a water storage reservoir with a capacity of 250 million cubic metres, which was created in 1960, following the construction of a dam on the Hoa river. Cam Son reservoir is 25 to 30 km long and 8 to 15 km wide. The reservoir is nestled in an area of low hills, which rise to elevations of c.300 m (Scott 1989).

Biodiversity value

Until the 1970s, the hills surrounding Cam Son reservoir were densely forested but most of the forest had been cleared by 1989, leaving only scrub and patches of secondary forest. Cam Son reservoir is

reportedly an important staging and wintering area for migratory waterfowl (Scott 1989).

Conservation issues

Scott (1989) identified destructive fishing methods, namely poison and explosives, as the most serious threat to the aquatic resources of Cam Son reservoir. In addition, Scott (1989) listed the main causes of forest loss at the site as shifting cultivation and timber and fuelwood extraction. However, Scott (1989) also reported that reforestation was being conducted in the water catchment of the reservoir, presumably with the principal objective of watershed protection. Emery and Tran Thi Lanh (1993) reported that, in 1993, illegal exploitation of both natural and plantation forest was widespread at the site, despite the implementation of forest protection activities.

Other documented values

Cam Son Cultural and Historical Site has an important role in protecting the watershed of Cam Son reservoir. The reservoir has several economic values, including hydro-electricity generation, provision of water for irrigation and domestic use, and fisheries production (Scott 1989). In addition, the Cam Son Cultural and Historical Site has tourism value because of its scenic landscape.

Related projects

During the 1990s, CARE International in Vietnam implemented the *Cam Son Lake Community Forestry Project*, which supported community management of the forest around Cam Son reservoir (Emery and Tran Thi Lanh 1993).

Literature sources

Emery, L. and Tran Thi Lanh (1993) Consultants report on village protection and management of natural forest surrounding Cam Son lake, Luc Ngan district, Ha Bac province. Unpublished report to CARE International in Vietnam.

Nguyen Van Hao (1979) [Results of a fishery survey and study of reservoirs in north Vietnam]. Fishery Scientific and Technical Journal No. 1. In Vietnamese.

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