

Cham Chu Proposed Nature Reserve

Alternative site name(s)

None

Province(s)

Tuyen Quang

Status

Proposed

Management board established

No

Latitude

22°12'N

Longitude

105°06'E

Bio-unit

06a - Tropical South China



Conservation status

An investment plan for Cham Chu proposed nature reserve has been prepared by Tuyen Quang Provincial FPD. The area of the proposed nature reserve given in this investment plan is 58,187 ha, comprising a strict protection area of 17,904 ha and a forest rehabilitation area of 40,283 ha. The investment plan has not yet been approved at the provincial or national level, and the site is not listed on any government decree (Tuyen Quang Provincial FPD 2000). Following the discovery of a population of Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey *Pygathrix avunculus* at the site, however, Cham Chu was included on a proposed list of protected areas currently being prepared by FPD and FIPI (FPD and FIPI in prep.).

Topography and hydrology

Cham Chu proposed nature reserve is located in Chiem Hoa and Ham Yen districts, Tuyen Quang province. The proposed nature reserve is centred on Mount Cham Chu, which, at 1,587 m, is the highest point in Tuyen Quang province. Near Mount Cham Chu, there are several other peaks above 1,000 m, although most of the proposed nature reserve is below 800 m in elevation. In the south-west of the proposed nature reserve, about 8 km from Mount Cham Chu,

there is a large area of limestone karst, which is bisected by the Lo river.

The west of the proposed nature reserve is drained by the Lo river, while the east is drained by the Gam river, which joins the Lo river upstream of Tuyen Quang town. The Lo river joins the Red River at Viet Tri town.

Biodiversity value

In November 1999, Fauna and Flora International (FFI) and the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR) conducted a rapid survey in Trung Ha and Ha Lang communes, Chiem Hoa district (Dang Ngoc Can and Nguyen Truong Son 1999). This survey concentrated on the endemic and critically endangered Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey, which, prior to the survey, was only known to survive at Na Hang proposed nature reserve. Based on interview data and the remains of recently hunted animals, the authors estimated that the Cham Chu area may support five groups of Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey, totalling 75 to 89 animals. If these preliminary results are confirmed, Cham Chu proposed nature reserve would become the second most important site in the world for the conservation of this species.

Cham Chu proposed nature reserve supports lowland evergreen forest, lower montane evergreen

forest and limestone forest. Dang Ngoc Can and Nguyen Truong Son (1999) note that, below 500 to 600 m in altitude, only secondary forest remains.

Conservation issues

A total of 44,519 people in 8,198 households live inside Cham Chu proposed nature reserve. These people belong to the Kinh, Tay, Hmong, Cao Lan, Nung and Hoa ethnic groups. Tuyen Quang Provincial FPD (2000) identify the main threats to biodiversity at the site as illegal exploitation of forest products, clearance of forest for agriculture, forest fire and hunting. Hunting is, potentially, the biggest threat to the continued survival of Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey at the site. Indeed, Dang Ngoc Can and Nguyen Truong Son (1999) received reports of five animals being hunted there between 1998 and 1999.

Remote sensing data indicates that Cham Chu proposed nature reserve may be linked to Na Hang proposed nature reserve by contiguous natural forest areas, or, at least, the potential to create habitat corridors between the two sites exists. A high priority is to conduct a ground survey of land-use in the area to identify areas which can be protected or reforested as part of the national 5 Million Hectare Reforestation Programme in order to maintain or establish links between the two sites, and, thereby, increase the long-term viability of the sites' Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey populations.

Other documented values

No information.

Related projects

The FFI-Indochina Programme is currently developing a community-based education project to help raise awareness of the importance of and threats to Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey at Cham Chu proposed nature reserve. This project will also include a biological survey component to expand knowledge of this little-known primate.

Literature sources

Dang Ngoc Can and Nguyen Truong Son (1999) Field report of survey on Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey *Rhinopithecus avunculus* in Bac Can, Thai Nguyen and Tuyen Quang provinces (October and November 1999). Unpublished report to the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources and the Fauna and Flora International-Indochina Programme.

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