

Chu Hoa Proposed Nature Reserve

Alternative site name(s)

None

Province(s)

Dak Lak

Status

Proposed

Management board established

Unknown

Latitude

12°30' - 12°45'N

Longitude

108°35' - 108°47'E

Bio-unit

05b - South Annam



Conservation status

Chu Hoa is not listed on any government decree or official set of proposals regarding the Special-use Forests system. However, a proposal to establish a nature reserve at Chu Hoa was contained in Official Document No. 157/QD-UB of Dak Lak Provincial People's Committee, dated 5 March 1994. Following this, the provincial people's committee assigned the provincial DARD to prepare a nature reserve investment plan, in collaboration with the regional FIPI office and experts from the forestry college. The ensuing investment plan was approved by the provincial people's committee on 19 December 1994, following Decision No. 1697/UB. The investment plan gave the total area of the nature reserve as 17,360 ha (Anon. 1994).

Topography and hydrology

Chu Hoa proposed nature reserve is located in M'Drac, Ea Kar and Krong Bong districts in the Central Highlands. The proposed nature reserve is situated in the transition zone between the high mountains of the Da Lat plateau and the lower plateau of central Dak Lak province. The topography of the proposed nature reserve is characterised by medium-sized mountains. Several of these mountains, including

Mount Chu Hoa, after which the proposed nature reserve is named, reach elevations of over 900 m. However, the average elevation of within the proposed nature reserve is around 500 m. The proposed nature reserve is drained by the Krong Pach river and its tributaries. This river forms part of the catchment of the Srepok river.

Biodiversity value

Below 600 m, forest at Chu Hoa proposed nature reserve is dominated by tree species in the Dipterocarpaceae family, including *Dipterocarpus alatus*, *D. turbinatus*, *D. obtusifolius*, *Hopea odorata* and *Shorea siamensis*, although *Ormosia balansae* and *Pterocarpus macrocarpus* are also present. At higher elevations, the forest is dominated by *Sindora* sp., *Ormosia* sp., *Cassia siamea* and *Garcinia* sp. In areas that have been logged or cleared for shifting cultivation, regenerating forest is present. While scrub and grassland are found on abandoned agricultural land and in areas where the forest has been totally cleared (Anon. 1994).

A field survey of Chu Hoa proposed nature reserve, conducted during the preparation of the investment plan, documented a total of 353 species of plant belonging to 110 families. Eight of these plant species are listed in the *Red Data Book of Vietnam*. In addition, this survey recorded a total of 53 species of mammal,

135 species of bird, and 41 species of amphibian and reptile. Of these species, 17 species of mammal, seven species of bird and 11 species of amphibian and reptile are listed in the *Red Data Book of Vietnam*. Several species are also listed in the *1996 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals*, including Asiatic Black Bear *Ursus thibetanus* and Siamese Fireback *Lophura diardi* (Anon. 1994). In April 1998, Brickle *et al.* (1998) recorded the globally vulnerable restricted-range species Germain's Peacock Pheasant *Polyplectron germaini* in Ea Trang commune, M'Drak district, just outside of Chu Hoa proposed nature reserve. This record indicates that Chu Hoa is situated in the South Vietnamese Lowlands Endemic Bird Areas (Stattersfield *et al.* 1998).

Conservation issues

The principal threats to biodiversity at Chu Hoa proposed nature reserve are logging and conversion of forest to coffee plantations. Other pressures include hunting and over-exploitation of forest resources by local communities, which are themselves expanding due to high levels of in-migration. The original inhabitants of the Chu Hoa area were the Ede ethnic group. Now, however, the Ede only comprise 15% of the human population, which has been swelled by members of the Kinh, Nung and San Chi ethnic groups, who have migrated from provinces in northern Vietnam (Anon. 1994).

A 6,300 ha buffer zone has been defined, comprising Krong commune, M'Drac district and Cu Pui commune, Ea Kar district. Also, three forest guard stations have been established on the boundary of the proposed nature reserve.

Other documented values

The forest within the proposed nature reserve has an important role in protecting the watershed of the Krong Pach river. This river and the Krong Ana river, of which it is a tributary, are the main sources of irrigation water for a large area of coffee and pepper plantations in southern Dak Lak province.

Related projects

No information.

Literature sources

Anon. (1994) [Investment plan for Chu Hoa Nature Reserve, Dak Lak province]. Buon Me Thuot: Dak Lak Provincial People's Committee. In Vietnamese.

Brickle, N., Nguyen Cu, Ha Quy Quynh, Nguyen Thai Tu Cuong and Hoang Van San (1998) [The status and distribution of Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus* in Dak Lak province, Vietnam](#). Hanoi: BirdLife International Vietnam Programme.