

Con Son Cultural and Historical Site

Alternative site name(s)

Con Son-Kiep Bac

Province(s)

Hai Duong

Status

Decreed

Management board established

Yes

Latitude

21°09'N

Longitude

106°22'E

Bio-unit

06a - Tropical South China



Conservation status

Con Son Cultural and Historical Site is located in Cong Hoa, Le Loi and Hung Dao communes, Chi Linh district, Hai Duong province. Con Son was included on Decision No. 194/CT of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, dated 9 August 1986 (MARD 1997). This decision decreed the establishment of a 282 ha cultural and historical site for the purpose of conserving "pine forest for historical relic conservation" (Cao Van Sung 1995).

An investment plan for the site was approved on 15 October 1990 by Decision No. 584 of Hai Duong Provincial People's Committee, and on 2 October 1992 by Decision No. 445 of the then Ministry of Forestry (now Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development). The area given in the investment plan was 1,477 ha (Hai Duong Provincial FPD 2000).

On 12 August 1993, Con Son Cultural and Historical Site management board was established under the provincial department of agriculture and rural development. The management board has four members of staff. Con Son is zoned into a strict protection area of 419 ha and a forest rehabilitation area of 1,058 ha (Hai Duong Provincial FPD 2000).

Topography and hydrology

Con Son Cultural and Historical Site is situated in an area of low hills at the northern edge of the plain of the Red River. The site has a gently undulating topography, and ranges in elevation from c.100 to 238 m.

Biodiversity value

Con Son Cultural and Historical Site is covered by pine plantation. The site supports no natural vegetation and has little biodiversity value. In July 2000, Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* was recorded at this site, the first record of this species from northern Vietnam (R. Hughes and A. Tordoff pers. comm.).

Conservation issues

From a watershed protection and soil erosion control perspective, the plantation of pines at the site appears to have been ineffective: soil erosion is severe and appears to have been exacerbated by pine plantations, which have eliminated understorey vegetation.

Other documented values

Con Son Cultural and Historical Site was established to mark the birthplace of the national hero Nguyen Trai, one of Vietnam's most famous poets and writers, who lived from 1380 to 1442. His home town was Con Son and he lived there until 1400 when he went to work for the Ho dynasty. He often mentioned Con Son in his poems and stories, and returned there from 1437 to 1438. The main pagoda at the site was built to commemorate him, and includes a visitors' centre.

There is a second pagoda at the site, the Sinh pagoda, which marks the birthplace of the national hero Uy Cong, who died fighting the Chinese. The Sinh pagoda was built in the 11th Century by King Ly Thai Tong, and was restored in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, when its name was changed to Mau pagoda in commemoration of Uy Cong's mother, Hoang Thi Ba.

Con Son Cultural and Historical Site is easily accessible from Hanoi and is popular with domestic tourists. The site incorporates a small lake, on the shore of which is a guesthouse.

Related projects

No information.

Literature sources

Hai Duong Provincial FPD (2000) [FPD questionnaire]. Hai Duong: Hai Duong Provincial Forest Protection Department. In Vietnamese.