

Cu Lao Cham Nature Reserve

Alternative site name(s)

None

Province(s)

Quang Nam

Status

Decreed

Management board established

Yes

Latitude

15°52' - 16°00'N

Longitude

108°22' - 108°44'E

Bio-unit

05b - South Annam



Conservation status

Cu Lao Cham was included on Decision No. 194/CT of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, dated 9 August 1986, as a 1,535 ha nature reserve (MARD 1997). An investment plan was prepared by Hoi An Town People's Committee in 1994. This investment plan defined a 1,544 ha nature reserve, comprising a strict protection area of 799 ha and a forest rehabilitation area of 745 ha. On 11 July 1994, the investment plan was approved by the then Quang Nam-Da Nang Provincial People's Committee, by Decision No. 1272/QD-UB (Quang Nam Provincial FPD 2000).

The nature reserve is under the management of Quang Nam Provincial FPD. The nature reserve has seven members of staff based at the headquarters and a single guard station (Quang Nam Provincial FPD 2000). Cu Lao Cham is not included on the 2010 list (FPD 1998).

Topography and hydrology

Cu Lao Cham Nature Reserve is situated in Tan Hiep commune, Hoi An town. The nature reserve comprises an archipelago of one large island and several smaller islands, lying about 12 km off the coast of central Vietnam. The largest island, Cu Lao Cham,

covers 1,317 ha. The topography of Cu Lao Cham island is dominated by two peaks: a 517 m peak in the centre of the island and a 326 m peak at the western end.

Biodiversity value

Little information is available on the biodiversity value of the nature reserve. The natural vegetation of the islands is lowland evergreen forest, although forest at lower elevations has been heavily degraded and has lost considerable biodiversity. To date, 265 vascular plant species have been reported from the nature reserve. Swiftlets *Collocalia* sp. are also reported to occur on the islands (ADB 1999).

Conservation issues

The main threat to the terrestrial biodiversity of the nature reserve is reported by ADB (1999) to be continual degradation of the forest. This degradation is largely a result of over-exploitation of timber and fuelwood (Quang Nam Provincial FPD 2000). These problems are compounded by the lack of effective management of the protected area, and limited awareness of conservation issues among local communities (ADB 1999). Typhoons are also believed to have negative impacts on the biodiversity of the nature reserve (Quang Nam Provincial FPD 2000).

Over-exploitation of swiftlet nests is a potential threat to the population of this species at the nature reserve. ADB (1999) report that two members of Tan Hiep commune are responsible for managing the swiftlet nesting area.

Other documented values

Forest on Cu Lao Cham island protects the catchments of four streams that represent the only source of freshwater on the archipelago. Thus, forest protection is essential if the conditions required for permanent habitation on the islands are to be maintained. Because of their situation close to Da Nang city and Hoi An town, the islands have high potential for tourism development (ADB 1999). In fact, the islands are already designated for tourism development in the National Tourism Master Plan (ADB 1999).

Related projects

Since 1994, Tan Hiep Commune People's Committee, together with Hoi An Town FPD and DARD, have been implementing a project to establish a nature reserve at Cu Lao Cham. The funding for this project originally came from the national 327 Programme, although this was replaced by the national 661 Programme as the main source of funding in 1999.

Literature sources

ADB (1999) Draft coastal and marine protected areas plan. Hanoi: Asian Development Bank.

Nguyen Chu Hoi, Nguyen Huy Yet and Dang Ngoc Thanh eds. (1998) [Scientific basis for marine protected areas planning]. Hai Phong: Hai Phong Institute of Oceanography. In Vietnamese.

Nguyen Huy Yet and Vo Si Tuan (1995) [Information on proposed marine protected areas on the coast of Vietnam]. Hai Phong: Hai Phong Institute of Oceanography. In Vietnamese.

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