

# Dam Doi Bird Sanctuary Nature Reserve

## Alternative site name(s)

Cac San Chim, Ngoc Hien, San Chim Ca Mau

## Province(s)

Ca Mau

## Status

Decreed

## Management board established

Yes

## Latitude

8°56'N

## Longitude

105°13'E

## Bio-unit

05a - Mekong Delta



## Conservation status

Dam Doi bird sanctuary, together with Cha La and Bac Lieu bird sanctuaries (see separate site cards), was included on Decision 194/CT of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, dated 9 August 1986, as a 500 ha nature reserve with the name Cac San Chim (MARD 1997). Since 1978, responsibility for managing the site has been with the provincial FPD. A survey of Dam Doi conducted by FIPI in 1992 (Do Tuoc *et al.* 1992) recommended that a management plan for a 132 ha nature reserve should be prepared for the period up to 2000.

Dam Doi bird sanctuary, together with Cha La bird sanctuary, is included on the 2010 list as a single nature reserve with a total area of 500 ha, under the name San Chim Ca Mau. Bac Lieu bird sanctuary is listed as a separated nature reserve, under the name San Chim Bac Lieu (FPD 1998).

## Topography and hydrology

Dam Doi bird sanctuary is an intertidal area located alongside the Dam Doi river. Previously, the site comprised mangrove and mudflat, drained by an extensive network of canals. Since 1994-1995, all the mudflats and many of the canals have been converted into shrimp ponds. These ponds have prevented

brackish water entering the site, so that now only freshwater is present, and water levels in the canals are reduced.

## Biodiversity value

The total area of the nature reserve is 132 ha, comprising 43 ha of mangrove plantation, 21 ha of natural mangrove forest and 12 ha of scrub. Canals and shrimp ponds comprise a further 38 ha. The natural mangrove forest is dominated by *Stenochloena palustris*, *Excoecaria agallocha*, *Xylocarpus sessilis*, *Derris trifolia*, *Sonneratia ovata*, *S. caseolaris* and *Avicennia alba*. A total of 61 plant species have been recorded at the nature reserve.

The known fauna of the nature reserve includes 16 species of mammal and 116 species of bird. Fifteen of the bird species listed in the *Red Data Book of Vietnam* or *Birds to Watch 2* have been recorded at Dam Doi in the past. These include Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus*, White-shouldered Ibis *Pseudibis davisoni* and Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala* (Hoang Cuong 1993). The bird population at Dam Doi has declined severely during the past two decades: in 1981, 100,000 birds were recorded at Dam Doi but that number had crashed to only 200 by 1995. In 1999, only one nationally threatened bird species was recorded at Dam Doi by a BirdLife/IEBR survey team: Cotton

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Pygmy-goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*. Only two or three nesting pairs of this species were observed (Nguyen Cu pers. comm.).

## Conservation issues

Twenty years ago, Dam Doi bird sanctuary was the largest, in terms of numbers of birds, in the Mekong Delta. In recent years, however, the number of birds at the site has declined greatly as a result of dramatic changes to the natural habitats of the reserve (Dang Trung Tan 1998). The formation of a network of shrimp ponds, resulting in the drainage of mudflats and a drop in water salinity, coupled with the impact of a major typhoon in 1995, has degraded the natural mangrove forest, killing all the large trees (Dang Trung Tan 1998). This site no longer provides suitable habitat for most species of waterbirds that once inhabited the area. Currently, however, the staff of the nature reserve are trying to implement reforestation and protection activities with the support of the district authorities and the provincial FPD.

## Other documented values

Dam Doi has economic importance as a site for aquaculture production, particularly shrimps.

## Related projects

In 1992, with funding from the government of Vietnam, FIPI and IEBR conducted a survey of the site and made management recommendations for the period up to 2000.

In 1998, with financial support from Ca Mau Provincial People's Committee, Ca Mau Wetland Centre implemented a project to monitor bird colonies in Ca Mau province.

A coastal wetland development and protection project, funded by the World Bank and implemented by MARD, is being conducted in four provinces in the Mekong Delta, including Ca Mau. It is not yet clear, however, whether any project activities will affect Dam Doi bird sanctuary.

## Literature sources

Buckton, S. T., Nguyen Cu, Ha Quy Quynh and Nguyen Duc Tu (1999) [The conservation of key wetland sites in the Mekong Delta](#). Hanoi: BirdLife International Vietnam Programme.

Buckton, S. T., Nguyen Cu, Ha Quy Quynh and Nguyen Duc Tu (2000) [\[The conservation of key wetland sites in the Mekong Delta\]](#). Hanoi: BirdLife International Vietnam Programme. In Vietnamese.

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Dang Trung Tan (1998) [Report on monitoring bird colonies in Ca Mau province. Unpublished report to Ca Mau Provincial Department of Science, Technology and the Environment]. In Vietnamese.

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Hoang Cuong (1993) [Bird survey in Dam Doi (Ngoc Hien) bird colony]. Unpublished report. In Vietnamese.

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