

Dao Ly Son Proposed Marine Protected Area

Alternative site name(s)

Ly Son island

Province(s)

Quang Ngai

Status

Proposed

Management board established

No

Latitude

15°21' - 15°27'N

Longitude

109°04' - 109°10'E

Bio-unit

05b - South Annam



Conservation status

The original proposal to establish a marine protected area at Dao Ly Son was made by Hai Phong Institute of Oceanography in 1995 (Nguyen Huy Yet and Vo Si Tuan 1995). Consequently, Dao Ly Son was included on a list of 16 proposed marine protected areas compiled on behalf of MOSTE (Nguyen Chu Hoi *et al.* eds. 1998). The proposed area given in this proposal was 812 ha, comprising Ly Son island, while the area of the marine component was not defined.

The proposal to establish a marine protected area at Dao Ly Son was reiterated by the Asian Development Bank (ADB 1999) in their marine and coastal protected areas systems plan for Vietnam. In the ADB proposal, the area of the site is given as 7,925 ha, comprising a marine component of 7,113 ha and a terrestrial component of 812 ha. Currently, management responsibility for the marine resources of the waters around Ly Son island rests with Quang Ngai Provincial Department of Fisheries (ADB 1999).

Topography and hydrology

Dao Ly Son proposed marine protected area is centred on Ly Son island, a volcanic island lying 30 km off the coast of Vietnam. The topography of the island is rather flat, and the maximum elevation is only

105 m. To the north-west of Ly Son island, there is a series of submerged banks, which support coral reefs (ADB 1999).

Biodiversity value

Little biological survey work has been carried out in the area. However, an initial inventory recorded 92 coral species and 45 mollusc species, including some species listed in the Red Data Book of Vietnam, such as *Calpurnus verrucosus*, *Trochus niloticus* and *T. pyramis* (Nguyen Huy Yet and Vo Si Tuan 1995).

Conservation issues

The marine ecosystem of Dao Ly Son proposed marine protected area has been degraded over a long period of time due to intensive and destructive fishing practices. At present, fishing regulations are weakly enforced. The forests on Ly Son island have been almost completely cleared as a result of over-exploitation of timber for construction and agricultural expansion. A major port development is planned for the island, which may have additional negative impacts on both the terrestrial and marine ecosystems (ADB 1999).

Other documented values

Fishing is the main economic activity for the most of the 17,000 inhabitants of Ly Son island, and annual fisheries production is around 2,500 tonnes. The forest on the island has an important role in protecting the drinking water supplies of the island's inhabitants. However, ADB (1999) report that, as a result of forest loss, drinking water supplies have been threatened.

Related projects

No information.

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