

Dao Tran Proposed Marine Protected Area

Alternative site name(s)

Tran island

Province(s)

Quang Ninh

Status

Proposed

Management board established

No

Latitude

21°12' - 21°16'N

Longitude

107°56' - 108°00'E

Bio-unit

06a - Tropical South China



Conservation status

Dao Tran was included on a list of 16 proposed marine protected areas compiled on behalf of MOSTE. A precise area for the proposed marine protected area was not given in this proposal (Nguyen Chu Hoi *et al.* eds. 1998). The proposal has yet to be approved by the government of Vietnam (ADB 1999).

The proposal to establish a marine protected area at Dao Tran 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 was given as 4,200 ha, comprising a marine component of 3,900 ha and a terrestrial component of 300 ha.

Topography and hydrology

Dao Tran proposed marine protected area is centred on Tran island, a small island, 300 ha in area, which lies about 30 km off the coast of Quang Ninh province. The highest point on the island is 188 m and deepest point of the surrounding waters is around 10 m. The topography is characterised by mountains in the south of the island falling away to lower elevations in the north. The coastline of the island consists of a combination of sandy beaches and rocky littoral coast.

There are coral reefs in the marine waters off the island.

Biodiversity value

The principal reason for proposing a marine protected area at Dao Tran is to protect the coral reef and seagrass ecosystems around Tran island. A total of 41 hard coral species have been recorded in the coral reefs, which are distributed in a patch-reef form around the island. The seagrass flora is dominated by two species: *Halophila ovalis* and *Cymodocea rotunda*. There is little information available about the terrestrial biodiversity of Tran island, except that the forest is reported to support complete floristic diversity (ADB 1999).

Conservation issues

The major threats to biodiversity at Dao Tran proposed marine protected area are over-exploitation of marine products, destructive fishing methods, including dynamite fishing, and timber extraction from forests on the island. The site is not currently under conservation management.

Other documented values

The waters off Tran island are an important nursery area for the fishery of the north-eastern coastal zone of Vietnam.

Related projects

ADB are currently supporting a regional technical assistance called *Coastal and Marine Environment Management in the South China Sea (East Sea)*, partly supported by a grant from the Swedish Development Cooperation Agency. This project aims to promote improved management of coastal and marine resources in the region, and is being implemented by MOSTE. Under this project, a draft coastal and marine protected area systems plan for Vietnam has been compiled, which reviews a number of candidate sites for inclusion within a revised national system of 30 marine and coastal protected areas. Dao Tran is included in this plan.

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.