

# Den Hung Cultural and Historical Site

## **Alternative site name(s)**

Hung Kings' temples

## **Province(s)**

Phu Tho

## **Status**

Decreed

## **Management board established**

Yes

## **Latitude**

21°21' - 21°22'N

## **Longitude**

105°16' - 105°20'E

## **Bio-unit**

06a - Tropical South China



## **Conservation status**

Den Hung was decreed as a cultural and historical site by Decision No. 41/TTg of the Prime Minister, dated 24 January 1977, with an area of 285 ha (MARD 1997). A management board for the site was established on 21 November 1989 by the former Vinh Phu Provincial People's Committee. An investment plan for the site was prepared in 1997, and approved by the provincial people's committee. This investment plan gave the total area of the site as 285 ha, comprising a strict protection area of 32 ha and a forest rehabilitation area of 253 ha (Phu Tho Provincial FPD 2000). Den Hung is included on the 2010 list with an area of 285 ha (FPD 1998).

## **Topography and hydrology**

Den Hung Cultural and Historical Site is located in Hi Cuong commune, Lam Thao district. The site is situated in an area of low hills between the Lo and Red Rivers. Elevations at the site range from 50 to 160 m.

## **Biodiversity value**

There is very little information available about the biodiversity value of the site. According to Anon. (2000), there are only 13 ha of natural forest at the site,

with the other forest being plantations of non-native species. Based on the extremely small area of natural forest, the presumed high levels of disturbance and the high degree of isolation from areas of natural habitat, the cultural and historical site can be considered to have of little or no biodiversity value.

## **Conservation issues**

The major threats to the forest at Den Hung Cultural and Historical Site identified by Phu Tho Provincial FPD (2000) are firewood collection, uncontrolled grazing of cattle, pests and lightning strikes. The management board of Den Hung Cultural and Historical Site has 62 members, including 18 forest guards (Phu Tho Provincial FPD 2000). Most of the remaining staff are presumably involved in visitor reception.

## **Other documented values**

Den Hung Cultural and Historical Site was established to protect a complex of temples built to commemorate the Hung Kings. The Hung Kings were the legendary founders of Van Lang, an ancient kingdom that existed 4,000 years ago in what is now Vietnam. Den Hung Cultural and Historical Site is situated close to Viet Tri town, and access is good from

Hanoi. Consequently, the site attracts a large number of visitors each year.

## Related projects

A project to rehabilitate the tropical forest ecosystem at Den Hung was implemented in 1997. This project was funded by the government of Switzerland (Phu Tho Provincial FPD 2000).

## Literature sources

Anon. (2000) [Outline of investment plan for Den Hung Cultural and Historical Site, Phu Tho province]. Hanoi: Forest Inventory and Planning Institute. In Vietnamese.

Phu Tho Provincial FPD (2000) [FPD questionnaire]. Viet Tri: Phu Tho Provincial Forest Protection Department. In Vietnamese.