

Deo Ca-Hon Nua Cultural and Historical Site

Alternative site name(s)

Deo Ca-Hon Ron

Province(s)

Phu Yen

Status

Decreed

Management board established

Yes

Latitude

12°49' - 12°56'N

Longitude

109°19' - 109°28'E

Bio-unit

05b - South Annam



Conservation status

Deo Ca-Hon Nua was included on Decision No. 194/CT of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, dated 9 August 1986, which decreed the establishment of a 10,000 ha cultural and historical site, under the name Deo Ca-Hon Ron (MARD 1997). A management board for the cultural and historical site was established by the former Phu Khanh Provincial People's Committee on 26 July 1989. Although, it was not until 1996 that an investment plan for the cultural and historical site was prepared (Phu Yen Provincial FPD 2000).

Deo Ca-Hon Nua Cultural and Historical Site has a total area of 8,876 ha, and is under the management of the provincial FPD (Phu Yen Provincial FPD 2000). Deo Ca-Hon Nua is included on the 2010 list as an 8,876 ha cultural and historical site, including 2,136 ha of forest (FPD 1998).

In 1999, the Asian Development Bank (ADB 1999) proposed extending the site to include a 2,925 ha marine component, thus forming a marine protected area.

Topography and hydrology

Deo Ca-Hon Nua Cultural and Historical Site is located in Tuy Hoa district, in the coastal zone of central Vietnam. The site ranges in elevation from sea level to 706 m at the summit of Mount Da Bia in the north of the site. Bien Ho lake, a freshwater lake, is situated in the north of the cultural and historical site.

Biodiversity value

According to ADB (1999), Deo Ca-Hon Nua Cultural and Historical Site supports 2,157 ha of natural forest, and populations of Douc Langur *Pygathrix nemaeus* subsp., Asiatic Black Bear *Ursus thibetanus*, Sun Bear *U. malayanus* and Leopard *Panthera pardus*. However, given the high human pressure and degraded nature of the habitats at the site, it is highly unlikely that the site supports anything other than remnant populations of any of these species (A. Tordoff pers. comm.).

ADB (1999) report that the marine waters off the coast of Deo Ca-Hon Nua support diverse coral reefs. However, detailed information about the marine biodiversity of the area is unavailable.

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Conservation issues

The management board of Deo Ca-Hon Nua Cultural and Historical Site has eight members of staff, based at the headquarters and one guard station (Phu Yen Provincial FPD 2000). However, according to ADB (1999), there are too few forest guards to adequately protect the forest at the site. The major threats to biodiversity identified by Phu Yen Provincial FPD (2000) are timber extraction and charcoal production.

Other documented values

The main reason for establishing a cultural and historical site at Deo Ca-Hon Nua was to protect the scenic landscape of the Ca pass, through which National Highway 1 passes between Tuy Hoa and Van Ninh towns. Vung Ro bay, in the south of the cultural and historical site also has historical value as the site of a battle during the French colonial period. In addition, during the Second Indochina War, Vung Ro bay was used as a landing point for supplies shipped from North Vietnam (ADB 1999).

Related projects

The management board of Deo Ca-Hon Nua Cultural and Historical Site are currently implementing forest protection and reforestation activities, with funding from the national 661 Programme. Prior to 1999, funding for these activities came from the national 327 Programme.

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. Deo Ca-Hon Nua is included in this plan.

Literature sources

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

Phu Yen Provincial FPD (2000) [FPD questionnaire]. Tuy Hoa: Phu Yen Provincial Forest Protection Department. In Vietnamese.