

# Deo Ngoan Muc Nature Reserve

## Alternative site name(s)

Bellevue pass, Ngoan Muc pass

## Province(s)

Ninh Thuan and Lam Dong

## Status

Decreed

## Management board established

Unknown

## Latitude

11°50'N

## Longitude

108°40'E

## Bio-unit

05b - South Annam



## Conservation status

Deo Ngoan Muc 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 2,000 ha nature reserve (MARD 1997). Deo Ngoan Muc is not included on the 2010 list (FPD 1998).

## Topography and hydrology

Deo Ngoan Muc is a pass on the road between Phan Rang town and Da Lat city. Elevations range from under 200 m at the bottom of the pass to 980 m at the top. The nature reserve is located on a steep, east-facing slope. Two water pipes pass through Deo Ngoan Muc, carrying water from Da Nhim reservoir to the hydro-electric power station at the bottom of the pass.

## Biodiversity value

Deo Ngoan Muc is located in the transition zone between the coastal plain of southern Vietnam and the Da Lat plateau. At lower elevations, the nature reserve supports lowland evergreen forest. While, at higher elevations, towards the top of the pass, the nature reserve supports lower montane evergreen forest. The forest at Deo Ngoan Muc is heavily degraded, and it is

unlikely that the site supports populations of many mammal and bird species of high conservation importance.

## Conservation issues

Except at low elevations, Deo Ngoan Muc is too steep to be suitable for agriculture. However, the forest has been heavily disturbed as a result of human activity (A. Tordoff pers. comm.). It is probable that much of this disturbance was associated with the construction of the road and two water pipes through the site. Also, the presence of the road facilitates continued exploitation of forest resources. The site is of relatively low conservation importance, and is probably best managed as a cultural and historical site on the basis of its scenic landscape.

## Other documented values

The only road between Phan Rang and Da Lat passes through Deo Ngoan Muc. Given the steepness of the pass, loss of forest cover would lead to increased risk of landslides blocking the road. The forest at Deo Ngoan Muc has, therefore, an important role in soil erosion control.

The site has potential for tourism because it has great scenic beauty and many domestic tourists pass through the site en route to or from Da Lat. On a clear

day, it is possible to see the East Sea, 50 km to the south-east (Storey and Robinson 1995).

### Related projects

No information.

### Literature sources

Storey, R. and Robinson, D. (1995) Lonely planet travel survival kit: Vietnam. Third edition.. Hawthorn: Lonely Planet Publications.