

Du Gia Proposed Nature Reserve

Alternative site name(s)

None

Province(s)

Ha Giang

Status

Proposed

Management board established

Yes

Latitude

22°49' - 22°58'N

Longitude

105°03' - 105°21'E

Bio-unit

06a - Tropical South China



Conservation status

Du Gia proposed nature reserve is located in Du Gia commune, Yen Minh district, Minh Son commune, Bac Me district and Tung Ba commune, Vi Xuyen district, Ha Giang province. Du Gia is not listed on any government decree. However, on 27 March 1993, Ha Giang Provincial People's Committee issued Decision No. 137/UB-QD to establish and develop four Special-use Forests, including Du Gia (Dinh Van Manh 1994).

An investment plan for Du Gia was prepared by North-western Sub-FIPI in early 1994. This investment plan was approved by Ha Giang Provincial People's Committee on 8 March 1994, by Official Letter No. 96/TT/UB, and by MARD on 31 March 1994. Subsequently, on 24 November 1994, a nature reserve management board was established following Decision No. 647 of Ha Giang Provincial People's Committee (Dinh Van Manh 1994, Ha Giang Provincial FPD 2000).

Du Gia proposed nature reserve is currently under the management of Ha Giang Provincial FPD (Ha Giang Provincial FPD 2000). According to the investment plan, the total area of the proposed nature reserve is 24,293 ha, comprising a strict protection area of 7,652 ha, a forest rehabilitation area of 14,294 ha and an administration and services area of 2,347 ha. In

addition, the investment plan defines a buffer zone of 19,700 ha (Dinh Van Manh 1994).

Du Gia is included on the 2010 list as a nature reserve (FPD 1998). The area given in the 2010 list is 24,293 ha, the same as that given in the investment plan, and includes 12,876 ha of forest.

Topography and hydrology

The topography of the proposed nature reserve is steep and mountainous. Altitudes range from around 400 m in south of the reserve to 2,275 m at the summit of Mount Pu Tha Ca. The nature reserve is bisected by a valley, which runs from north to south and contains provincial road 176. The highest areas in the proposed nature reserve are to the west of this valley, around Mount Pu Tha Ca. Elevations to the east of the valley are generally lower, although they increase towards the border with Cao Bang province, which forms the eastern boundary of the proposed nature reserve. The geology of the proposed nature reserve is predominantly sandstone, with smaller areas of limestone in the centre and the east.

The proposed nature reserve is drained by numerous small streams flowing through steep-sided valleys. Most of the proposed nature reserve is situated in the watershed of the Gam river, although a small area in the north-west is situated in the watershed of

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the Lo river. These two rivers meet near Tuyen Quang town, from where they flow into the Red River at Viet Tri town.

Ha Giang Provincial FPD (2000) [FPD questionnaire]. Ha Giang: Ha Giang Provincial Forest Protection Department. In Vietnamese.

Biodiversity value

Du Gia proposed nature reserve supports lowland evergreen forest, montane evergreen forest and limestone forest. On the higher peaks, there are some patches of forest characterised by the conifer *Fokienia hodginsii*. The investment plan mentions that 289 plant, 57 mammal, 82 bird, 18 reptile and 14 amphibian species occur at the nature reserve, although the source of this data is not clear (Dinh Van Manh 1994).

Conservation issues

The population of the proposed nature reserve is 7,310 people, comprising members of the Hmong, Tay, Dao and Kinh ethnic groups. On average, households in the proposed nature reserve experience three months of food shortages per year. These food shortages, coupled with low levels of education and socio-economic development, are considered to be responsible for illegal exploitation of forest resources by local people (Ha Giang Provincial FPD 2000).

Other documented values

The forest at Du Gia proposed nature reserve has a role in protecting the watersheds of the Gam and, to a lesser degree, Lo rivers.

Related projects

No information.

Literature sources

Anon. (undated) [Du Gia Nature Reserve, Ha Giang province]. Unpublished report. In Vietnamese.

Dinh Van Manh (1994) [Investment plan for Du Gia Nature Reserve, Ha Giang province]. Hanoi: Forest Inventory and Planning Institute. In Vietnamese.