

Kim Hy Proposed Nature Reserve

Alternative site name(s)

None

Province(s)

Bac Can

Status

Proposed

Management board established

No

Latitude

22°11' - 22°18'N

Longitude

105°54' - 106°08'E

Bio-unit

06a - Tropical South China



Conservation status

The 2010 list includes a proposal to establish an 18,555 ha nature reserve at Kim Hy (FPD 1998). An investment plan prepared by North-western Sub-FIPI proposed establishing a 18,555 ha nature reserve, comprising all of Kim Hy, Luong Thuong, Lang San and An Tinh communes, Na Ri district, Bac Can province (Pham Xuan Xuong 1997). This investment plan was approved by Official Letter No. 247/BNN-KH of MARD, dated 12 January 1998, and by Decision No. 811/QD-UB of Bac Can Provincial People's Committee, dated 21 October 1998 (Bac Can Provincial FPD 2000).

Previously, in 1997, the Forest Resources and Environment Centre (FREC) of FIPI defined an approximate boundary for Kim Hy, covering 17,154 ha, including 9,795 ha of natural forest (Tordoff *et al.* 2000).

Topography and hydrology

In the south-west of Kim Hy, there is a large area of limestone karst. The limestone karst, which extends beyond the proposed nature reserve to the south and east, occupies less than 50% of the proposed nature reserve. In the north and east of Kim Hy, the topography is characterised by low mountains.

Elevations in the proposed nature reserve range from c.250 to 938 m (Tordoff *et al.* 2000).

Biodiversity value

The vegetation in the north and east of the proposed nature reserve is characterised by a mosaic of swidden fields, secondary vegetation and remnant patches of lowland evergreen forest. This landscape is a result of shifting cultivation. In the south-west of the proposed nature reserve, there is a large area of limestone karst, which is almost entirely forested, except in a few small areas close to habitation (Tordoff *et al.* 2000). According to the investment plan, Kim Hy proposed nature reserve contains 9,409 ha of natural forest, including 7,104 ha of limestone forest (Pham Xuan Xuong 1997).

The results of a recent rapid field survey indicate that Kim Hy proposed nature reserve may support globally important populations of two primates: Black Gibbon *Hylobates concolor* and Francois' Leaf Monkey *Semnopithecus francoisi francoisi*. Additionally, the rapid field survey confirmed the presence of several other species of global or national conservation importance, including Chinese Forest Musk Deer *Moschus berezovskii*, Southern Serow *Naemorhedus sumatraensis*, and the conifers

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Keteleeria davidiana, *Pseudotsuga brevifolia* and *Tsuga chinensis* var. *chinensis* (Tordoff *et al.* 2000).

Conservation issues

In the past, gold mining was a significant threat to biodiversity at Kim Hy. During the 1980s and 1990s, a large group of gold miners lived in the area (Geissmann and Vu Ngoc Thanh 1998). It is likely that, by living in the forest, these people caused increased levels of disturbance, hunting, forest clearance and firewood collection (Tordoff *et al.* 2000).

Presently, the activities with the greatest impact on forest resources are timber extraction and hunting. Timber extraction is focused on the valuable tree species *Burretiodendron tonkinensis*. Hunting is reportedly widespread throughout the proposed nature reserve, and primate species of global conservation importance are being hunted at unsustainable levels, which threatens to eradicate these species from the area (Tordoff *et al.* 2000).

Kim Hy proposed nature reserve is currently managed by Na Ri District Forest Protection Department. There is one forest guard station at Kim Hy, manned by four forest guards. The forest guards are responsible for managing all forest areas in the proposed nature reserve, monitoring exploitation of forest products, and issuing forest protection contracts (Tordoff *et al.* 2000).

The boundary of the proposed nature reserve defined in the investment plan contains 9,146 ha of non-forest land and 5,674 people (Pham Xuan Xuong 1997). Furthermore, there are contiguous areas of limestone forest that are not included within the boundary. Consequently, Tordoff *et al.* (2000) recommended that the boundary of Kim Hy proposed nature reserve be revised so as to exclude, wherever possible, villages and areas of agricultural land, scrub and degraded forest, and to include contiguous areas of limestone forest.

Other documented values

Kim Hy proposed nature reserve protects part of the watershed of the Bac Giang river, which flows east to

join the Ky Cung river, which, in turn, flows through Lang Son province and into China.

Related projects

No information.

Literature sources

Bac Can Provincial FPD (2000) [FPD questionnaire]. Bac Can: Bac Can Provincial Forest Protection Department. In Vietnamese.

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Phan Ke Loc, Nguyen Tien Hiep and Averyanov, L. V. (1999) [*Keteleeria davidiana* (Bertrand) Beissn. var. *davidiana*: one gymnosperm species newly recorded in northern Vietnam]. Pp 25-28 in: Le Sau ed. [Protection and sustainable development of forest and biodiversity in limestone areas of Vietnam] Hanoi: Forest Inventory and Planning Institute. In Vietnamese.

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