

Ky Thuong Proposed Nature Reserve

Alternative site name(s)

Dong Son-Ky Thuong

Province(s)

Quang Ninh

Status

Proposed

Management board established

No

Latitude

21°05' - 21°12'N

Longitude

106°56' - 107°13'E

Bio-unit

06a - Tropical South China



Conservation status

Ky Thuong proposed nature reserve is located in Dong Son, Dong Lam and Ky Thuong communes, Hoanh Bo district, Quang Ninh province (Tordoff *et al.* 2000). The 2010 list includes a proposal to establish a 17,640 ha nature reserve at Ky Thuong (FPD 1998). This proposal was supported by Wege *et al.* (1999), who proposed establishing a protected area at Ky Thuong in order to increase the proportion of evergreen forest in the Northern Indochina Subtropical Forests Ecoregion with protected area status.

An investment plan for Ky Thuong proposed nature reserve was prepared by North-eastern Sub-FIPI in 1993 (Anon. 1993). The head of the forest protection section of Quang Ninh Provincial FPD reported that the investment plan had been approved by MARD but a management board had not yet been established (Tordoff *et al.* 2000). Currently, the site is managed by Hoanh Bo District FPD.

Topography and hydrology

Ky Thuong proposed nature reserve is situated on a mountain ridge, which runs from west to east. Streams in the north of the proposed nature reserve flow north, into the Ba Che river, while streams in the south of the nature reserve flow south, into the Gulf of Tonkin at

Hong Gai. Ky Thuong proposed nature reserve ranges in elevation from c.150 to c.1,120 m.

Biodiversity value

The natural vegetation types at Ky Thuong proposed nature reserve are lowland evergreen forest and lower montane evergreen forest. The primary forest is dominated by *Hopea chinensis*, *Canarium album*, *Cinnamomum obtusa*, *Madhuca pasquieri*, *Lithocarpus ducampii*, *Englehardia roxburghiana*, *Syzygium* spp. and *Schefflera octophylla*. The proposed nature reserve also contains significant areas of secondary forest, characterised by *Liquidambar formosana*, *Cratoxylon* sp., *Vernonia arborea* and *Mallotus* spp. (Tordoff *et al.* 2000).

Ky Thuong proposed nature reserve supports viable populations of few mammal and bird species of conservation importance. However, Ky Thuong may be one of the few places in Vietnam to support a viable population of Raccoon-dog *Nyctereutes procyonoides* (Tordoff *et al.* 2000).

Although, in places, the forest has been cleared or degraded, Ky Thuong supports one of the largest remaining areas of evergreen forest in north-eastern Vietnam (Tordoff *et al.* 2000). According to the investment plan (Anon. 1993), Ky Thuong proposed nature reserve supports 10,549 ha of natural forest,

Ky Thuong Proposed Nature Reserve

equivalent to 60% of the total area. This is consistent with 1993 land-use data provided by Quang Ninh Provincial FPD, which indicate that the proposed nature reserve supports 10,501 ha of natural forest (Tordoff *et al.* 2000).

Conservation issues

It would appear that hunting represents a serious threat to biodiversity at Ky Thuong proposed nature reserve. The presence of logging roads through the proposed nature reserve mean that most areas of forest are easily accessible. Additionally, groups of loggers living in camps in the forest may be contributing to the hunting pressure on animal populations (Tordoff *et al.* 2000).

Another major threat to biodiversity at Ky Thuong proposed nature reserve is timber extraction, which is causing a steady decline in forest quality and extent in the area. Currently, the activities of Hoanh Bo Forest Enterprise are contributing greatly to this decline, both directly, by extracting forest products, and indirectly, by constructing logging roads, which facilitate illegal logging (Tordoff *et al.* 2000).

The boundary of the proposed nature reserve defined in the investment plan (Anon. 1993) includes five villages: Khe Luong and Khe Phuong in Ky Thuong commune, Tan Oc and Phu Lien in Dong Son commune, and Dong Tra in Dong Lam commune. These villages have a total population of 1,700 people in 260 households. The presence of so many people within Ky Thuong proposed nature reserve present serious problems for its management, and, consequently, Tordoff *et al.* (2000) recommended that these villages should be excluded from the nature reserve.

Other documented values

Ky Thuong proposed nature reserve and the surrounding area are currently the focus of commercial forestry activities. At present, 16,827 ha of forest land in Hoanh Bo district are under the management of Hoanh Bo Forest Enterprise, including 4,516 ha of production forest. The main duty of Hoanh Bo Forest Enterprise is to supply wood to coal mining companies in Quang Ninh province. While Hoanh Bo Forest

Enterprise manages a total of 2,804 ha of plantation forest and is actively replanting bare land with *Acacia mangium* and *Pinus kesiya*, it continues to exploit natural forest: of the 1,449 m³ of timber extracted during 1999, only 348 m³ (24% of the total) were extracted from plantation forest. If this trend continues, natural forest will gradually be replaced by plantation forest (Tordoff *et al.* 2000).

Ky Thuong proposed nature reserve and the surrounding area also have an important role in watershed protection. A total of 4,349 ha of forest land under the management of Hoanh Bo Forest Enterprise are designated as watershed protection forest, for the purpose of protecting the water supply of Cam Pha town (Tordoff *et al.* 2000).

Related projects

No information.

Literature sources

Anon. (1993) [Investment plan for Dong Son-Ky Thuong Nature Reserve, Hoang Bo district, Quang Ninh province]. Viet Tri: North-eastern Sub-FIPI. In Vietnamese.

Anon. (1993) [Report on Dong Son-Ky Thuong Nature Reserve, Hoanh Bo district, Quang Ninh province]. Ha Long: Quang Ninh Provincial People's Committee. In Vietnamese.

Kottelat, M. (1998) Fishes observed on Cat Ba island and in Quang Ninh province between 20 Sept and 5 Oct 1998. Unpublished report.

Tordoff, A. W., Vu Van Dung, Le Van Cham, Tran Quang Ngoc and Dang Thang Long (2000) [A rapid field survey of five sites in Bac Kan, Cao Bang and Quang Ninh provinces: a review of the Northern Indochina Subtropical Forests Ecoregion](#). Hanoi: BirdLife International Vietnam Programme and the Forest Inventory and Planning Institute. In English and Vietnamese.