

Lam Son Cultural and Historical Site

Alternative site name(s)

Lam Kinh

Province(s)

Thanh Hoa

Status

Decreed

Management board established

Yes

Latitude

19°55' - 19°56'N

Longitude

105°24' - 105°25'E

Bio-unit

10b - Northern Indochina



Conservation status

Lam Son Cultural and Historical Site lies within Tho Xuan and Ngoc Lac districts, Thanh Hoa province. The cultural and historical site was included on Decision No. 194/CT of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, dated 9 August 1986, which gave the area as 300 ha (MARD 1997).

An investment plan, written in 1994, gave the area of the cultural and historical site as 141 ha, comprising a strict protection area of 41 ha, a forest rehabilitation area of 98 ha and an administration and services area of 2 ha. A management board was established on 6 December 1994, following Decision No. 1588 of Thanh Hoa Provincial People's Committee. Currently the cultural and historical site has 18 staff, divided between the headquarters and two guard stations (Thanh Hoa Provincial FPD 2000).

Lam Son is not included on the 2010 list (FPD 1998). Furthermore, Wege *et al.* (1999) recommended that, on the basis that the site supports little or no natural forest, Lam Son should be removed from the national protected areas system and placed under the management of the Ministry of Culture and Information.

Topography and hydrology

Lam Son is situated in a low-lying area in central Thanh Hoa province. The site is drained by the Chu river, which flows east to meet the sea just north of Thanh Hoa city.

Biodiversity value

Lam Son is principally a site of cultural rather than biological importance. There is no information available about the biodiversity value of the site.

Conservation issues

The main conservation issue at Lam Son is the preservation of its cultural artefacts, including buildings and statues. The site is around 600 years old, and its restoration is now considered a priority. Between 1995 and 2005, a project of the Ministry of Culture and Information is aiming to restore the royal tombs and other historical artefacts at Lam Son (Pham Duc Duy, Lam Son FPD pers. comm.).

Other documented values

Lam Son is a site of considerable cultural and historical importance. The site contains several

palaces, temples and tombs dating back to the 15th Century. The site was originally built by the Vietnamese king Le Thai To (also known as Le Loi) after he defeated the Minh invaders. The site served as his fall-back capital in case Thang Long (Hanoi) was ever invaded again. The tomb of Le Loi and various status and steels dedicated to this national hero can be found at Lam Son. The site also contains the tombs of other kings and queens of the Le dynasty dating from the 15th Century (Le Thanh Nhan 1999).

Related projects

Provincial funding of approximately VND 96 million has been allocated for tree planting at the site (Pham Duc Duy, Lam Son FPD pers. comm.). Sugar cane is grown at Lam Son to supply the Lam Son Sugar Company in Thanh Hoa province.

Literature sources

Le Thanh Nhan (1999) Impressions during a pilgrimage. Vietnam Cultural Window 16: 14-15.

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