

Lung Ngoc Hoang Proposed Nature Reserve

Alternative site name(s)

Phuong Ninh Forest Enterprise

Province(s)

Can Tho

Status

Proposed

Management board established

No

Latitude

9°41' - 9°45'N

Longitude

105°39' - 105°43'E

Bio-unit

05a - Mekong Delta



Conservation status

Lung Ngoc Hoang is an area of production forest situated in Phung Hiep district, Can Tho province. The provincial authorities have proposed designating this area as a nature reserve. The site is currently under the administration of Phuong Ninh Forest Enterprise, which is under the management of Can Tho Provincial DARD (Buckton *et al.* 1999). Lung Ngoc Hoang was included on the 2010 list (FPD 1998), with a proposed area of 6,000 ha, including 4,500 ha of forest. Buckton *et al.* (1999), however, give the area of the site as c.2,713 ha.

Topography and hydrology

Lung Ngoc Hoang proposed nature reserve is situated in the flat Mekong Delta region. An extensive network of canals runs throughout the site.

Biodiversity value

There are three major vegetation types at Lung Ngoc Hoang. The most widespread vegetation type is *Melaleuca* forest, most of which is commercial plantation of little biodiversity value. There are several small patches of open swamp and grassland, which have greater biodiversity value, although much is now

planted with *Melaleuca* saplings. Approximately one third of the site is given over to rice and sugar cane cultivation (Buckton *et al.* 1999).

The grassland areas include some large areas of *Eleocharis dulcis* meadow, associated with which are *Cynodon dactylon*, and patches of naturally regenerating *Melaleuca*. Three other grassland types are to be found at the site: *Scleria poaeformis* meadow, which includes some *Eleocharis dulcis* and members of the Poaceae; *Hymenachne acutigluma* meadow, which predominates along some of the canal banks; and *Phragmites vallatoria* meadow, which occurs as occasional of patches tall, dense stands (Buckton *et al.* 1999).

The aquatic plant community of the canals is comprised mainly of *Eichhornia crassipes*, *Pistia stratiotes*, *Salvinia cucullata*, *Ipomoea aquatica*, *Ludwigia adscendens*, *Centrostachys aquatica*, *Azolla pinnata*, *Spirodela polyrrhiza* and *Lemna aequinoxialis* (Buckton *et al.* 1999).

The diversity of wetland birds recorded at Lung Ngoc Hoang is low. No globally threatened or near-threatened species have been reliably reported from this site. Large wetland birds are scarce at Lung Ngoc Hoang, only a few egrets and herons have been recorded here during the dry season. During the wet season, however, a few more wetland species have been documented, including Bronze-winged Jacana

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Metopidius indicus and Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis*. The avifauna of the *Melaleuca* plantation areas is species poor, consisting mainly of Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica*, Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis* and Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosa* (Buckton *et al.* 1999).

No significant records of other faunal groups have been made for this site.

Conservation issues

The principal threat to the habitat at Lung Ngoc Hoang is the commercial harvesting of *Melaleuca*, which has two impacts on biodiversity. Firstly, harvesting itself results in continual disturbance to wetland bird populations. Secondly, planting of *Melaleuca* in areas of grassland and open swamp is leading to a reduction in the area of natural habitat at the site. A further threat may be direct persecution of birds. Anecdotal reports suggest that people in surrounding agricultural areas deliberately poison birds with treated bait, in order to protect their crops (Buckton *et al.* 1999).

Other documented values

No information.

Related projects

Until 1999, the national 327 Programme was the main source of investment funding for the activities of the forest enterprise management board, including habitat protection work. Since 1999, this funding source has been replaced by the national 661 Programme.

Literature sources

Buckton, S. T., Nguyen Cu, Ha Quy Quynh and Nguyen Duc Tu (1999) [The conservation of key wetland sites in the Mekong Delta](#). Hanoi: BirdLife International Vietnam Programme.

Buckton, S. T., Nguyen Cu, Ha Quy Quynh and Nguyen Duc Tu (2000) [[The conservation of key wetland sites in the Mekong Delta](#)]. Hanoi: BirdLife International Vietnam Programme. In Vietnamese.