

Muong Phang Cultural and Historical Site

Alternative site name(s)

None

Province(s)

Lai Chau

Status

Decreed

Management board established

Yes

Latitude

21°27' N

Longitude

103°09' E

Bio-unit

10b - Northern Indochina



Conservation status

Muong Phang was included on Decision No. 194/CT of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, dated 9 August 1986, as a 1,000 ha cultural and historical site (MARD 1997). In 1994, a protection group was established with six members of staff, with funding from Lai Chau Provincial Department of Culture and Information. The cultural and historical site is situated within Dien Bien Forest Enterprise, and covers around c.200 ha, of which c.150 ha is forested (Nguyen Duc Tu pers. comm.).

ha of forest at the site, only about 30 ha are in a good condition. Faunal diversity at the site is low, and only common species, such as squirrels, Indian Muntjac *Muntiacus muntjak* and Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*, occur (Nguyen Duc Tu pers. comm.).

Conservation issues

The forest management regulations at Muong Phang Cultural and Historical Site prohibit timber extraction, firewood collection and livestock grazing. These regulations are enforced by the protection group (Nguyen Duc Tu pers. comm.).

Topography and hydrology

Muong Phang Cultural and Historical Site is situated in an area of low hills in the Muong Phang valley. The site is surrounded by a landscape of bare hills, human settlements and paddyfields. A small river runs through the site.

Biodiversity value

In the early part of the 20th century, the site supported good quality lower montane evergreen forest. However, after 1954, a forest enterprise began logging operations in the area, with the result that, today, most of the forest has been cleared. Of the c.150

Other documented values

Muong Phang Cultural and Historical Site has historical, tourism and educational values. The site protects the base of General Vo Nguyen Giap, the commander-in-chief of the Viet Minh forces during the Dien Bien Phu campaign of 1954. The site is only 40 km from Dien Bien Phu town, and access by road is good. The landscape of Muong Phang is very beautiful, comprising a large lake, surrounded by forest. The site currently attracts about 50 visitors per month, including both domestic and overseas ones, and has high potential to attract more visitors in the future. Muong Phang is an important site for educating young

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people about the history of their country (Nguyen Duc Tu pers. comm.).

Related projects

No information.

Literature sources

None.