

Nam Du Proposed Marine Protected Area

Alternative site name(s)

None

Province(s)

Kien Giang

Status

Proposed

Management board established

No

Latitude

9°40'N

Longitude

104°28'E

Bio-unit

05a - Mekong Delta



Conservation status

Nam Du was first proposed as a marine protected area by Nguyen Huy Yet and Vo Si Tuan (1995), who listed it together with Tho Chu and Phu Quoc islands as Cac Dao Tay Nam Bo [islands off south-western Vietnam] proposed marine protected area. Subsequently, the Asian Development Bank (ADB 1999) proposed establishing Nam Du Marine Protected Area, with a total area of 10,400 ha, comprising a terrestrial component of 1,100 ha and a marine component of 9,300 ha.

Topography and hydrology

Nam Du is an archipelago of 21 islands in Kien Hai district, Kien Giang province. The islands cover a total land area of 1,150 ha, and the highest point is 395 m on Nam Du, the largest island (Nguyen Huy Yet and Vo Si Tuan 1995). Close to the islands, the depth of the sea bed is less than 10 m, however, most of the marine component is greater than 10 m deep.

Biodiversity value

Coral reefs cover around 40% of the shallow waters in the proposed marine protected area. These coral reefs are in a good condition. A total of 133

species of hard corals have been recorded at the site, with a dominance of *Acropora* and *Turbinaria*. Hawksbill Turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata* and Green Turtle *Chelonia mydas* used to nest at the site but there have been no nestings in recent years (ADB 1999).

Conservation issues

The abundance of certain marine products, such as abalone *Haliotis* spp. and cone shell *Trochus nilotichus*, at the site have declined in recent years, indicating that they are being unsustainably exploited. No local government body has clear management responsibility for the marine resources and environment at Nam Du, and the islands' residents have received no conservation education (ADB 1999).

Other documented values

The waters around the Nam Du archipelago are considered to be among the best fishing grounds off south-western Vietnam. The area is an important stocking ground, not only for local fisheries but for the wider area. The most important marine resources in the area are cuttlefish and squid (ADB 1999).

Related projects

No information.

Literature sources

ADB (1999) Draft coastal and marine protected areas plan. Hanoi: Asian Development Bank.

Nguyen Huy Yet and Vo Si Tuan (1995) [Information on proposed marine protected areas on the coast of Vietnam]. Hai Phong: Hai Phong Institute of Oceanography. In Vietnamese.