

# Nam Hai Van Proposed Cultural and Historical Site

## Alternative site name(s)

Bach Ma-Hai Van, Col des Nuages, south Hai Van

## Province(s)

Da Nang city

## Status

Proposed

## Management board established

Yes

## Latitude

16°10'N

## Longitude

108°05'E

## Bio-unit

05c - North Annam



## Conservation status

Decision No. 194/CT of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, dated 9 August 1986, decreed the establishment of Bach Ma-Hai Van National Park, with a total area of 40,000 ha (MARD 1997). However, following the preparation of the national park investment plan, the area was divided into three: Bach Ma National Park, Bac Hai Van proposed cultural and historical site and Nam Hai Van proposed cultural and historical site (Vu Van Dung pers. comm.).

An investment plan for Nam Hai Van was prepared in 1992, which gave the total area of the proposed cultural and historical site as 10,850 ha. It is not clear at what level this investment plan has been approved. It would appear, however, that a management board has been established for the site (FPD 1998). Nam Hai Van is included on the 2010 list as a 10,850 ha cultural and historical site, including 3,550 ha of forest (FPD 1998).

## Topography and hydrology

Nam Hai Van proposed cultural and historical site is situated in Hoa Vang and Lien Chieu districts. The proposed cultural and historical site is bordered to the west by Bach Ma National Park, to the east by the East Sea, and to the north by Bac Hai Van proposed cultural and historical site in Thua Thien Hue province. The

proposed cultural and historical site is approximately 25 km long and 6 km across at its widest point.

Nam Hai Van is situated on the southern face of a mountain ridge that extends east from the Annamite mountains to the East Sea. At the eastern end of the proposed cultural and historical site is Hai Van pass, over which National Highway 1 passes. All streams originating in the site drain to the south, into the Ca De river and its tributaries. This river flows into Da Nang bay, to the north of Da Nang city. The highest point in the proposed cultural and historical site is 1,528 m.

## Biodiversity value

The original vegetation of Nam Hai Van would have been lowland evergreen forest below c.1,000 m and lower montane evergreen forest above this elevation. However, the natural forest has been extensively cleared by wartime spraying of defoliants, timber extraction, clearance for agriculture and fire.

Nam Hai Van proposed cultural and historical site lies at the southern extent of the Annamese Lowlands Endemic Bird Area (Stattersfield *et al.* 1998). However, although the avifauna of neighbouring Bach Ma National Park has been well studied, less information is available about Nam Hai Van. Historically, several restricted-range bird species were recorded at the Hai Van pass, including Annam

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Partridge *Arborophila merlini*, Edwards's Pheasant *Lophura edwardsi* and Crested Argus *Rheinardia ocellata* (Delacour and Jabouille 1927). However, Nam Hai Van may no longer support a wide diversity of species of conservation concern because the majority of natural forest at the site is now heavily degraded or has been replaced by plantation forest (Le Trong Trai pers. comm.).

## Conservation issues

Nam Hai Van proposed cultural and historical site is situated close to Da Nang city. The human population density in the surrounding area is high. Many local people extract fuelwood, rattans, resin and honey from the site, and forest fires sometimes occur (Davis et al. eds. 1995). Another problem is grazing of cattle within the site, which is inhibiting natural regeneration of forest (Le Trong Trai pers. comm.). In addition to these problems, National Highway 1 and the railway line between Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City both pass through the centre of the proposed cultural and historical site, increasing levels of disturbance to wildlife populations and facilitating access to the forest.

## Other documented values

According to FPD (1998), the establishment of a cultural and historical site at Nam Hai Van has been proposed to protect the scenic landscape of the Hai Van pass. The scenery of the Hai Van pass is well known nationwide and many travellers between Hue and Da Nang stop at the top of the pass to enjoy the panoramic views.

## Related projects

No information.

## Literature sources

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