

# Nha Phu-Hon Heo Proposed Marine Protected Area

## Alternative site name(s)

Nha Phu bay

## Province(s)

Khanh Hoa

## Status

Proposed

## Management board established

No

## Latitude

12°17' - 22°27'N

## Longitude

109°09' - 109°24'E

## Bio-unit

05b - South Annam



## Conservation status

On 1 March 1988, Nha Phu Fisheries Protection Area was established by Decision No. 07/UB of Khanh Hoa Provincial People's Committee. Subsequently, the provincial authorities proposed combining Nha Phu bay and Hon Heo peninsula into a single protected area (ADB 1999). In 1999, the Asian Development Bank (ADB 1999) proposed establishing Nha Phu-Hon Heo Marine Protected Area, with a total area of 5,600 ha, comprising a terrestrial component of 1,100 ha and a marine component of 4,500 ha.

## Topography and hydrology

Nha Phu-Hon Heo proposed marine protected area is located in Ninh Hoa district, Khanh Hoa province. The proposed marine protected area comprises Nha Phu bay and Hon Heo peninsula. Nha Phu bay is fed by the Dinh, Da Ban and Ca Lam rivers, and is sheltered from the open sea by the Hon Heo peninsula. On the seaward side of the peninsula, there are submerged banks and coral reefs, which are recommended for inclusion within the marine protected area (ADB 1999).

## Biodiversity value

Nha Phu bay is rich in marine biodiversity, while the Hon Heo peninsula supports primary forest (ADB 1999).

## Conservation issues

In 1996, 916 fishermen were operating in the Nha Phu bay. Sometimes, these fishermen employ illegal and destructive fishing techniques, such as use of explosives, which are having severe negative impacts on the coral reefs outside of the bay. The mangrove in the bay has been extensively cleared as a result of aquacultural development. The high human population in the immediate area and a lack of financial incentives to protect the environment are major obstacles to conservation of the site (ADB 1999).

## Other documented values

Nha Phu bay is an important breeding and nursery ground for shrimp and fish species. Among the economically valuable species recorded at the site are Mullet *Mugil cephalus*, Giant Seaperch *Lates calcarifer*, Giant Tiger Prawn *Penaeus monodon* and Blue Mussel *Mytilus smaragdinus*. However, some of

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these species, particularly Mullet and Giant Tiger Prawn, have been over-exploited (ADB 1999).

The landscape of the proposed marine protected is very picturesque, and the site is easily accessible from Nha Trang city. Consequently, the site has high potential for tourism development (ADB 1999).

## Related projects

No information.

## Literature sources

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