

Nui Cam Chau Doc Nature Reserve

Alternative site name(s)

Nui Cam

Province(s)

An Giang

Status

Decreed

Management board established

No

Latitude

10°30' N

Longitude

104°59' E

Bio-unit

05a - Mekong Delta



Conservation status

Nui Cam Chau Doc was included on Decision No. 194/CT of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, dated 9 August 1986, as a 1,500 ha nature reserve (MARD 1997). In 1991, Nui Cam was included within a c.12,200 ha area designated as watershed protection forest by An Giang Provincial People's Committee, with the objective of reforesting the area. Subsequently, in 1997, it was decided that the forest at Nui Cam Chau Doc no longer met the requisite standard for Special-use Forest status and should be removed from the national protected areas network (MARD 1997). Consequently, Nui Cam Chau Doc was not included on the 2010 list (FPD 1998).

Topography and hydrology

The Bay Nui (seven mountains) area of An Giang province consists of seven low mountains of varying altitudes, the highest of which is Mount Cam (710 m), upon which Nui Cam Chau Doc Cultural and Historical Site is centred. These mountains are surrounded by the flat plain of the Mekong Delta, an anthropogenic landscape dominated by wet rice cultivation. Mount Cam is drained by a number of streams which flow into the canal system, which forms

the main hydrological system in this part of the Mekong Delta.

Biodiversity value

The principal habitat types at the site are secondary forest and plantation forest. Plantation forest covers 8,000 ha in the area (Le Hoang pers. comm.). No detailed information on the fauna or flora of Nui Cam Chau Doc, except that the nationally endangered tree species *Aquilaria crassna* has been recorded at the site.

Conservation issues

The Nui Cam Chau Doc area is managed by An Giang Provincial FPD, who operate six forest guard stations at the site (Le Hoang pers. comm.). The forest at Nui Cam Chau Doc was heavily degraded during the Second Indochina War, and, following the war, this degradation has continued as a result of the activities of local people. Today, the principal threat to the site is the mining of rock that is used as a construction material in the Mekong Delta provinces (Le Hoang pers. comm., Nguyen Cu pers. comm.).

Other documented values

Nui Cam Chau Doc Cultural and Historical Site has potential value for tourism, and, indeed, some visitor

facilities have already been constructed close to Chau Doc town.

Related projects

Between 1995 and 1998, the European Union funded a project entitled the *Rainforest project Vietnam: people-based nature conservation*. One objective of this project was to conserve the economically valuable tree species *Aquilaria crassna*, which is used in the manufacture of incense (Nguyen Thi Huynh Yen pers. comm.).

Between 1993 and 1998, reforestation activities in the areas have been funded by the national 327 Programme. Since 1999, this programme has been replaced by the national 661 Programme (Le Hoang pers. comm.).

Literature sources

None.