

# Nui Coc Cultural and Historical Site

## Alternative site name(s)

Ho Nui Coc, Nui Coc reservoir

## Province(s)

Thai Nguyen

## Status

Decreed

## Management board established

Unknown

## Latitude

21°30' - 21°38'N

## Longitude

105°39' - 105°45'E

## Bio-unit

06a - Tropical South China



## Conservation status

Nui Coc was included on Decision No. 194/CT of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, dated 9 August 1986 (MARD 1997), which decreed the establishment of a 6,000 ha cultural and historical site for the protection of "forests for environment and renowned landscape" (Cao Van Sung 1995). However, Nui Coc was not included on the 2010 list (FPD 1998) and can be considered to have been recommended for removal from the national protected areas network.

## Topography and hydrology

Nui Coc Cultural and Historical Site is centred on Nui Coc reservoir, a water storage reservoir 2,580 ha in area with a capacity of 175 million cubic metres. The reservoir was created in 1977 by damming the Cong river, a tributary of the Red River (Scott 1989). The site is located to the north-east of Mount Tam Dao, and is surrounded by low hills. There are some small islands in the reservoir.

## Biodiversity value

The vegetation of the site is dominated by scrub and grassland, characterised by *Rhodomlytus tomentosa*, *Melastoma candidum*, *Cratoxylon* spp. and

*Eupatorium odoratum*. All of these species are typical of open habitats in an early successional stage following massive disturbance. No information is available on the aquatic vegetation of the reservoir (Scott 1989).

At least 10 native fish species occur in the lake and about 40 bird and 15 mammal species have been recorded at the site. Previously, it was reported that some waterfowl species use Nui Coc reservoir as a wintering site, including Lesser Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna javanica*, Common Teal *Anas crecca* and Northern Pintail *A. acuta* (Scott 1989). However, the current importance of the site for migratory waterfowl is not known.

## Conservation issues

Until the 1970s, dense forests covered the hills surrounding the site. However, most of this forest cover has since been lost as a result of over-exploitation of forest products. Since 1986, after Nui Coc was decreed a protected area, some reforestation was carried out on the denuded slopes around the reservoir in an effort to prevent further deforestation and, thereby, reduce the siltation rate of the reservoir (Scott 1989).

The main threats to biodiversity at the site are over-exploitation of firewood and timber, and clearance of

forest for agriculture in the catchment of the reservoir, leading to severe increases in the siltation rate, with impacts on the aquatic ecosystem. The cultivation of cassava and other crops still occurs inside the cultural and historical site, while the grazing of domestic cattle is preventing natural regeneration of vegetation (Scott 1989).

### Other documented values

Nui Coc reservoir supports a significant fishery, with an estimated yield of 120 to 150 tonnes per year, and is an important water source for irrigation of surrounding cultivated lands. The reservoir is situated in a region of spectacular landscapes and is a popular destination for domestic tourists (Scott 1989).

### Related projects

Nui Coc is a site of great scenic beauty. A plan for tourism development at the site was approved by Thai Nguyen Provincial People's Committee in the 1980s (Vu Van Dung pers. comm.).

### Literature sources

Anon. (1995) [Plan for comprehensive realisation of the potential of Nui Co reservoir, Bac Thai province]. Hanoi: Rural and Urban Planning Institute. In Vietnamese.

Anon. (undated) [Plan to develop the environmental and biodiversity potential of Nui Coc reservoir, Thai Nguyen province]. Unpublished report. In Vietnamese.

Scott, D. A. (1989) A directory of Asian wetlands. Gland: IUCN.