

Phuoc Binh Proposed Nature Reserve

Alternative site name(s)

Thuong Da Nhim

Province(s)

Ninh Thuan

Status

Proposed

Management board established

No

Latitude

11°58' - 12°09'N

Longitude

108°43' - 108°50'E

Bio-unit

05b - South Annam



Conservation status

Decision No. 194/CT of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, dated 9 August 1986, decreed the establishment of Thuong Da Nhim Nature Reserve in Lam Dong province, with a total area of 7,000 ha (MARD 1997). According to Eames (1995), the provincial authorities of Lam Dong and Ninh Thuan provinces proposed establishing Thuong Da Nhim Nature Reserve with two sectors: the Nui Ba-Nui Bi Dup sector in Lam Dong province, with a total area of 71,850 ha; and the Phuoc Binh sector in Ninh Thuan province, with a total area of 25,866 ha.

In 1993, a management board for Bi Dup-Nui Ba Nature Reserve was established by Lam Dong Provincial People's Committee (Lam Dong Provincial FPD 2000). This nature reserve comprised the Nui Ba-Nui Bi Dup sector of the former Thuong Da Nhim Nature Reserve in Lam Dong province, and was based on the government decrees for both Thuong Da Nhim and Nui Ba Nature Reserves (MARD 1997).

It appears that a proposal to establish a nature reserve at Phuoc Binh was submitted to the former Ministry of Forestry by Ninh Thuan Provincial People's Committee on 9 September 1993 (Eames and Nguyen Cu 1994) but never approved. Instead, the Phuoc Binh sector of the former Thuong Da Nhim

Nature Reserve was classified as watershed protection forest, under the management of Ninh Thuan Provincial DARD. On 12 September 2000, Ninh Thuan Provincial DARD sent Official Letter No. 398/SNNPTNT-LN to MARD, in order to propose changing the management category of Phuoc Binh from watershed protection forest to nature reserve (Le Trong Trai pers. comm.). This proposal is reiterated on a proposed list of Special-use Forests currently being compiled by FPD and FIPI (in prep.), which proposes establishing a 23,597 ha nature reserve at Phuoc Binh.

Topography and hydrology

Phuoc Binh proposed nature reserve is located in Phuoc Binh commune, Ninh Son district, on the eastern edge of Da Lat plateau. The topography of the proposed nature reserve is dominated by several high peaks in the west of the site, the highest of which reaches 1,978 m. The east of the site decreases in elevation towards the coastal plain of south-central Vietnam. The many streams that originate in the proposed nature reserve feed the Cay river, which reaches the East Sea at Phan Rang town.

Biodiversity value

Phuoc Binh proposed nature reserve supports a range of forest types, including mixed timber and

bamboo forest, coniferous forest and evergreen forest. In addition, there are large areas of agricultural land distributed along the Da May and Ta Hop streams in the south-east of the site. The evergreen forest contains elements of both lower and upper montane forest formations. The dominant tree families are the Fagaceae and the Lauraceae, although a range of coniferous tree species also occur, including *Pinus dalatensis*, *Fokienia hodginsii*, *Podocarpus imbricatus* and *P. neriiifolius* (Eames and Nguyen Cu 1994).

In 1994, FIPI and the WWF Vietnam Programme conducted a field survey of Phuoc Binh proposed nature reserve. During this field survey, 170 vascular plant species and 93 bird species were recorded at the site. The bird species included five restricted-range species: Crested Argus *Rheinardia ocellata*, Yellow-billed Nuthatch *Sitta solangiae*, Collared Laughingthrush *Garrulax yersini*, Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler *Jabouilleia danjoui* and Vietnamese Greenfinch *Carduelis monguilloti* (Eames and Nguyen Cu 1994). Consequently, Phuoc Binh can be considered to lie within the Da Lat Plateau Endemic Bird Area (Stattersfield *et al.* 1998). The most significant mammal records made during the FIPI/WWF survey were Buff-cheeked Gibbon *Hylobates gabriellae*, Gaur *Bos gaurus* and Southern Serow *Naemorhedus sumatraensis* (Eames and Nguyen Cu 1994).

Conservation issues

Phuoc Binh commune has 2,017 inhabitants, who belong to the Ra-glai, Chu and Kinh ethnic groups. These people practice a mixture of wet rice and shifting cultivation, and experience, on average, two months of hunger per year (Ninh Thuan Provincial FPD 2000). According to Ninh Thuan Provincial FPD (2000), the main threats to biodiversity at Phuoc Binh proposed nature reserve are clearance of forest for agriculture and forest fire.

Other documented values

The forest at Phuoc Binh Proposed Nature Reserve plays an important role in protecting the watershed of the Cay river, which provides water for irrigation and domestic use for communities in Ninh Thuan province.

Related projects

Currently, the main source of funding for forestry activities at Phuoc Binh Watershed Protection Forest comes from the national 661 Programme. Prior to 1999, the main source of funding was the national 327 Programme.

Literature sources

Eames, J. C. (1995) Endemic birds and protected area development on the Da Lat plateau, Vietnam. *Bird Conservation International* 5(4): 491-523.

Eames, J. C. and Nguyen Cu (1994) [A management feasibility study of Thuong Da Nhim and Chu Yang Sin Nature Reserves on the Da Lat plateau, Vietnam]. Hanoi: WWF Vietnam Programme and the Forest Inventory and Planning Institute. In Vietnamese.

Lam Dong Provincial FPD (2000) [FPD questionnaire]. Da Lat: Lam Dong Provincial Forest Protection Department. In Vietnamese.

Ninh Thuan Provincial FPD (2000) [FPD questionnaire]. Phan Rang: Ninh Thuan Provincial Forest Protection Department. In Vietnamese.