

Rung Thong Da Lat Cultural and Historical Site

Alternative site name(s)

Da Lat pine forest, Khu rung thong, Lam Vien

Province(s)

Lam Dong

Status

Decreed

Management board established

Yes

Latitude

11°47' - 12°00'N

Longitude

108°20' - 108°40'E

Bio-unit

Mb - Dalat Plateau



Conservation status

The site was included on Decision No. 41/TTg of the Prime Minister, dated 24 January 1977, which decreed the establishment of a 4,000 ha cultural and historical site (MARD 1997). An investment plan for Rung Thong Da Lat, which gave the total area of the cultural and historical site as 32,051 ha, was approved by Lam Dong Provincial People's Committee in 1993 (Lam Dong Provincial FPD 1998).

Prior to 1993, most of the site was under the management of Da Lat Forest Enterprise. However, on 29 January 1993, a management board for a 23,392 ha area, called Lam Vien Special-use Forest, was established by Lam Dong Provincial People's Committee. This management board was placed under the management of Da Lat City People's Committee. The management board currently has 34 members of staff, based at three guard stations (Lam Dong Provincial FPD 2000).

Rung Thong Da Lat Cultural and Historical Site is currently under the management of five separate bodies. An area of 23,392 ha is under the management of the aforementioned Lam Vien Special-use Forest Management Board. Areas of 2,290 and 2,961 ha, which previously belonged to Da Lat Forest Enterprise, are under the management of Don Duong Forest

Enterprise and Don Duong Police Management Board respectively. An area of 453 ha is under the management of Lam Dong Centre for Forestry Research and Demonstration. Finally, an area of 4,476 ha is under the management of Xuan Tho Tree Nursery. Hence, the total area of Rung Thong Da Lat Cultural and Historical Site is currently 33,572 ha (Lam Dong Provincial FPD 2000).

Rung Thong Da Lat Cultural and Historical Site is included on the 2010 list, with a total area of 32,051 ha, including 13,568 ha of forest (FPD 1998).

Topography and hydrology

Rung Thong Da Lat Cultural and Historical Site is situated in Da Lat city, on the Da Lat plateau, in the Central Highlands. The site ranges in elevation from c.900 to c.1,600 m.

Biodiversity value

The vegetation of Rung Thong Da Lat is characterised by coniferous forest, the majority of which is natural forest dominated by *Pinus kesiya*. There are also significant areas of pine plantation. The remainder of the cultural and historical site supports industrial crops, gardens and other agricultural land. Rung Thong Da Lat is situated in the Da Lat Plateau Endemic Bird Area (Stattersfield *et al.* 1998), and the

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coniferous forest at the site supports a significant population of Vietnamese Greenfinch *Carduelis monguilloti*, a species endemic to the Da Lat plateau (Nguyen Cu pers. comm.).

Conservation issues

Rung Thong Da Lat Cultural and Historical Site is centred on Da Lat city, and the human population density in the area is very high. In Lam Vien Special-use Forest alone, there are 160,000 people (Lam Dong Provincial FPD 2000). Consequently there is a high demand for forest products such as charcoal and timber. Lam Dong Provincial FPD (2000) recognise the biggest threats to biodiversity to be illegal encroachment onto forest lands, cutting of trees for timber and charcoal manufacture, and deliberate burning of the forest.

Other documented values

The forest at the cultural and historical site has economic value as a source of timber, charcoal, pine resin and other non-timber forest products. In the past, these resources were exploited commercially. At present, however, most exploitation is illegal, small-scale exploitation by local people.

The cultural and historical site protects the beautiful scenery around Da Lat city and, hence, has importance for the local tourism industry, one of the major sectors in the economy of Lam Dong province.

Related projects

The major source of funding for forest management activities at Rung Thong Da Lat Cultural and Historical Site is the national 661 Programme.

Literature sources

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