

# Ta Dung Proposed Nature Reserve

## Alternative site name(s)

Dak Plao

## Province(s)

Dak Lak

## Status

Proposed

## Management board established

No

## Latitude

11°48' - 11°59'N

## Longitude

107°54' - 108°07'E

## Bio-unit

05b - South Annam



## Conservation status

Prior to 1995, the Ta Dung area was under the management of Dak Plao Forest Enterprise. In 1995, Dak Nong District People's Committee proposed establishing a 8,521 ha protected area in Dak Plao commune, Dak Nong district, and this recommendation was supported by Dak Lak Provincial People's Committee (Dang Huy Huynh *et al.* 1998). Consequently, the site was included on the 2010 list (FPD 1998), which proposed establishing an 8,521 ha nature reserve, including 6,500 ha of forest. The name given on the 2010 list is Ta Dung, after the highest mountain in the area, Mount Ta Dung.

## Topography and hydrology

The south-western boundary of Ta Dung proposed nature reserve is formed by the Dong Nai river, which is fed by a number of small, seasonal streams in the south of the area. The north of the proposed nature reserve is situated in the watershed of the Srepok river. Elevations at the site range from c.800 to 1,982 m at the summit of Mount Ta Dung.

## Biodiversity value

The forest at Ta Dung is predominantly evergreen in nature, although some areas of semi-deciduous forest, characterised by *Lagerstroemia* spp., are present. Lowland forest occurs up to an altitude of c.1,000 m. Lower montane forest continues from c.1,000 to c.1,600 m and is dominated by trees of the Fagaceae family: *Lithocarpus* spp., *Castanopsis* spp. and *Quercus* spp. Upper montane forest covers the highest mountain peaks at the site, at elevations greater than c.1,600 m. Extensive tracts of undisturbed forest remain at elevations above c.1,000 m. Below c.1,000 m, however, the forest exhibits varying degrees of disturbance. The lower elevations of the site support an anthropogenic landscape, dominated by agricultural land and grassland (Dang Huy Huynh *et al.* 1998).

The first field survey of the flora and fauna of the Ta Dung area was conducted by the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR) in 1997 (Dang Huy Huynh *et al.* 1998). A total of 931 vascular plant species were documented by the survey, many of which are listed in the *Red Data Book of Vietnam*, for example *Cinnamomum balansae*, *Pterocarpus macrocarpus*, *Pinus dalatensis*, *Rhodoleia championii* and *Aquilaria crassna*.

Forty seven species of mammal were recorded at Ta Dung during the IEBR survey. Records of particular note included the recently described large mammal species Giant Muntjac *Megamuntiacus vuquangensis*, identified on the basis of specimens, and the globally threatened Gaur *Bos gaurus*, identified on the basis of specimens and footprints. The survey team also recorded Buff-cheeked Gibbon *Hylobates gabriellae* and Black-shanked Douc Langur *Pygathrix nemaeus nigripes* on the basis of interviews with local hunters (Dang Huy Huynh *et al.* 1998).

Ta Dung is situated within the Da Lat Plateau Endemic Bird Area (Stattersfield *et al.* 1998) and supports five restricted-range bird species: Germain's Peacock Pheasant *Polyplectron germaini*, Black-hooded Laughingthrush *Garrulax milleti*, White-cheeked Laughingthrush *G. vassali*, Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler *Jabouilleia danjoui* and Grey-faced Tit Babbler *Macronous kelleyi* (Dang Huy Huynh *et al.* 1998). In total, Dang Huy Huynh *et al.* (1998) recorded 102 species of bird at Ta Dung, in addition to 17 species of reptile and 16 species of amphibian.

## Conservation issues

Shifting cultivation, illegal logging and hunting are the major threats to biodiversity at Ta Dung proposed nature reserve. Commercial logging was halted in 1998, yet, despite the area being designated as Special-use Forest by the provincial authorities in 1995, the area is protected on paper only, and on-the-ground conservation measures have yet to be initiated (Dang Huy Huynh *et al.* 1998).

## Other documented values

The Ta Dung forest plays a role in watershed protection for the Dong Nai and Srepok rivers.

## Related projects

Between 1 and 25 October 1997, IEBR conducted a biodiversity survey of the Ta Dung area as part of the project entitled *Conservation of the Country's Biodiversity Value*, funded by the John T. and Catherine MacArthur Foundation (Dang Huy Huynh *et al.* 1998).

## Literature sources

Dang Huy Huynh, Le Xuan Canh, Nguyen Xuan Dang, Hoang Minh Khien, Pham Trong Anh, Tran Van Thang and Dang Huy Phuong (2000) The fauna of Ta Dung forest, Dak Nong district, Dak Lak province. *Tap Chi Sinh Hoc [Journal of Biology]* 22(15)CD: 99-108. In Vietnamese.

Dang Huy Huynh, Pham Trong Anh, Le Xuan Canh, Nguyen Cu, Dang Thi Dap, Nguyen Xuan Dang, Hoang Minh Khien, Nguyen Van Sang, Tran Van Thang, Dang Huy Phuong, Tran Ngoc Ninh and Ha Van Tue (1998) Report on the result of field survey on biodiversity of Ta Dung forest, Dak Nong district, Dak Lak province. Hanoi: Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources.