

# Ta Kou Nature Reserve

## Alternative site name(s)

None

## Province(s)

Binh Thuan

## Status

Decreed

## Management board established

Yes

## Latitude

10<sup>0</sup>41' - 10<sup>0</sup>53'N

## Longitude

107<sup>0</sup>52' - 108<sup>0</sup>01'E

## Bio-unit

05b - South Annam



## Conservation status

The exact status of Ta Kou is not clear. According to Binh Thuan Provincial FPD (2000), the establishment of Ta Kou Nature Reserve was decreed by Decision No. 791/TTg of the Prime Minister, dated 26 October 1996. Following this decision, a nature reserve management board was established by Binh Thuan Provincial People's Committee on 19 March 1997. Subsequently, an investment plan for the nature reserve was prepared by Ho Chi Minh City Sub-FIPI in 1998. This investment plan was approved by Binh Thuan Provincial People's Committee on 31 December 1998, by Decision No. 2839.

According to Binh Thuan Provincial FPD (2000), the nature reserve is currently under the management of the provincial FPD, and has a total area of 17,823 ha, comprising a strict protection area of 3,521 ha, a forest rehabilitation area of 7,715 ha and an administration and services area of 630 ha. Ta Kou is not included on the 2010 list (FPD 1998).

## Topography and hydrology

Ta Kou Nature Reserve is located in Ham Thuan Nam district, in the coastal zone of south-central Vietnam. The southern boundary of the nature reserve follows the coastline of Vietnam, from where the

nature reserve stretches inland for about 20 km. Most of the nature reserve consists of low, rolling terrain, at elevations from 50 to 100 m. The only significant topographical feature is Mount Ta Kou in the north-west of the nature reserve, which rises abruptly from the surrounding terrain to an elevation of 694 m. To the west, the nature reserve is bordered by the Phan river, and to the north, the Tre stream forms the border. These two watercourses, which drain into the East Sea to either side of the nature reserve, provide the main drainage for the site.

## Biodiversity value

There is very little information available about the biodiversity value of the site. Remote sensing data indicates that the natural vegetation types at the site are evergreen forest and deciduous forest. However, it appears that the natural forest has been extensively cleared and replaced by secondary vegetation types.

## Conservation issues

According to Binh Thuan Provincial FPD (2000), only 504 people live inside Ta Kou Nature Reserve. However, a further 43,875 people live in the buffer zone. These people experience, on average, three months of food shortages per year, and, presumably, a significant proportion of them rely on the natural

resources of the nature reserve. The major threats to biodiversity at Ta Kou are believed to be clearance of forest for agricultural land, over-exploitation of forest products, charcoal production and hunting (Binh Thuan Provincial FPD 2000).

The management board of Ta Kou Nature Reserve has 16 members of staff based at the headquarters and three guard stations (Binh Thuan Provincial FPD 2000).

### Other documented values

No information.

### Related projects

Binh Thuan Provincial People's Committee are currently funding a project to establish a botanical garden at Ta Kou. The timeframe of this project is from 1999 to 2005, and 87 ha within the nature reserve have already been designated for the botanical garden (Binh Thuan Provincial FPD 2000)

### Literature sources

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