

# Tay Con Linh I Proposed Nature Reserve

## **Alternative site name(s)**

Tay Con Linh

## **Province(s)**

Ha Giang

## **Status**

Proposed

## **Management board established**

Yes

## **Latitude**

22°47' - 22°56'N

## **Longitude**

104°43' - 104°56'E

## **Bio-unit**

06a – Tropical South China



## **Conservation status**

Tay Con Linh I is not included on any government decree relating to Special-use Forests. However, an investment plan for the site was published in July 1994 by FIPI, which proposed establishing a 18,790 ha nature reserve, comprising a strict protection area of 8,063 ha, a forest rehabilitation area of 9,402 ha and an administration and services area of 1,325 ha (Anon. 1994). This investment plan was approved by MARD on 6 September 1994 by Decision No. 2160/KH, and by Ha Giang Provincial People's Committee on 21 September 1994 by Decision No. 494/UB-QD (Ha Giang Provincial FPD 2000). Subsequently, a management board was established by the provincial people's committee on 24 November 1994. Tay Con Linh I proposed nature reserve is currently under the management of the provincial FPD (Ha Giang Provincial FPD 2000).

The 2010 list (FPD 1998) includes a proposal to establish a 40,344 ha nature reserve called Tay Con Linh, which would incorporate Tay Con Linh I and Tay Con Linh II, a separate but contiguous area to the south (see Tay Con Linh II site card). In 2000, MARD assigned FIPI with the task of preparing an investment plan for a single nature reserve, combining Tay Con Linh I and Tay Con Linh II proposed nature reserves.

## **Topography and hydrology**

Tay Con Linh I proposed nature reserve lies within Phuong Tien, Thanh Thuy, Thanh Duc, Xin Chai and Lao Chai communes, Vi Xuyen district, Ha Giang province. The proposed nature reserve is situated immediately to the west of Ha Giang town. The north-western boundary of the proposed nature reserve follows the international border between Vietnam and China. The north-eastern boundary is formed by Lo river, alongside which National Highway 2 passes. The southern boundary follows the main ridge of Mount Tay Con Linh, which also forms the northern boundary of Tay Con Linh II proposed nature reserve.

The proposed nature reserve is situated on the northern face of Mount Tay Con Linh, the highest mountain in Ha Giang province, and the highest point in Vietnam east of the Red River. The topography of the proposed nature reserve is steep and mountainous. Elevations range from 2,616 m at the summit of Mount Tay Con Linh to about 200 m in the valley of the Lo river. The geology of the proposed nature reserve is characterised by a mixture of substrates, including limestone and granite. All streams and rivers originating in the proposed nature reserve flow to the north-east and feed the Lo river, which then flows south to join the Red River in Phu Tho province.

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## Biodiversity value

Tay Con Linh I proposed nature reserve supports 9,077 ha of forest, equivalent to 48% of the total area of the nature reserve (Anon. 1994). The main forest types at Tay Con Linh I are lowland evergreen forest, lower montane evergreen forest and upper montane evergreen forest. According to Anon. (1994), only areas of forest above 1,200 m show little disturbance. The tree flora is dominated by members of the Fagaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Lauraceae and Moraceae families. According to the investment plan (Anon. 1994), 236 species of vascular plants have been recorded at the proposed nature reserve. Notably, Tay Con Linh I supports a high diversity of conifers, including *Podocarpus brevifolius*, *Decussocarpus wallichianus*, *Cupressus torulosa* and *Fokienia hodginsii* (Anon. 1994).

According to the investment plan (Anon. 1994), Tay Con Linh I supports 46 species of mammal, 114 species of bird, 18 species of reptile and 11 species of amphibian. However, the source of this data is not clear, and these lists may include figures expected to occur on the basis of known distributions.

## Conservation issues

A total of 5,751 people from the Dao, Tay, Hmong and Hoa ethnic groups live inside the proposed nature reserve. A significant area of forest inside the proposed nature reserve has been cleared for cultivation, and there are now 416 ha of wet rice cultivation, 945 ha of hill fields and 297 ha of industrial crops inside the proposed nature reserve (Ha Giang Provincial FPD 2000). Indeed, Ha Giang Provincial FPD (2000) identify clearance of forest for agriculture as one of the biggest threats to biodiversity at Tay Con Linh I, along with timber extraction and forest fire. It is probable that a significant proportion of forest fires result from use of fire to clear hill fields prior to cultivation.

Tay Con Linh I is one of four decreed and proposed protected areas that lie along or close to the Chinese border in western Ha Giang province. The other three areas are Phong Quang, Tay Con Linh II and Bat Dai Son (see relevant site cards). Together, these four sites protect some of the last significant areas of montane forest in northern Vietnam. Through a programme of

reforestation, it may be possible, in the future, to establish habitat corridors between these sites, thus creating a contiguous area of conservation coverage.

## Other documented values

Tay Con Linh I proposed nature reserve protects part of the watershed of the Lo river. Because of the site's proximity to Ha Giang town, it can be considered to have potential amenity and recreational values.

## Related projects

No information.

## Literature sources

Anon. (1994) [Investment plan for Tay Con Linh I Nature Reserve]. Hanoi: Forest Inventory and Planning Institute. In Vietnamese.

Ha Giang Provincial FPD (2000) [FPD questionnaire]. Ha Giang: Ha Giang Provincial Forest Protection Department. In Vietnamese.