

# Thuy Trieu Proposed Marine Protected Area

## Alternative site name(s)

Cam Ranh bay, Thuy Trieu lagoon

## Province(s)

Khanh Hoa

## Status

Proposed

## Management board established

No

## Latitude

11°46' - 12°07'N

## Longitude

109°07' - 109°15'E

## Bio-unit

05b - South Annam



## Conservation status

The Asian Development Bank (ADB 1999) proposed establishing a marine protected area at Thuy Trieu lagoon, with a total area of 5,000 ha.

## Topography and hydrology

Thuy Trieu lagoon is a coastal lagoon, which lies in a north-south direction, parallel to the coast of central Vietnam. To the south, the lagoon opens into Cam Ranh bay, which also forms part of the proposed marine protected area. The bay and lagoon are sheltered from the open sea by the Cam Ranh peninsula, which extends down from the north. The proposed marine protected area contains two small islands, Binh Ba and Binh Hung, at the mouth of the bay.

## Biodiversity value

The centre of the lagoon supports an estimated 800 ha of seagrass beds. Coral reef habitats still occur in Cam Ranh bay, as well as offshore in the open sea (ADB 1999). The site is an important staging ground for migratory waterbirds. The globally endangered Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes* and the globally near-threatened Eastern Curlew *Numenius*

*madagascariensis* have both been recorded in the area (Eames and Tordoff in prep.).

## Conservation issues

There is no specific management board to coordinate all concerned agencies in the management of the site as a protected area. As a result, exploitation of natural resources and aquacultural pond development have been only loosely controlled. The large area of mangroves that once occurred at the site has now been extensively cleared as a result of aquacultural pond development (ADB 1999).

Among the threats to biodiversity identified by ADB (1999) are pollution from aquaculture, sand exploitation and sugar-cane processing; over-fishing; and use of destructive fishing techniques. Additionally, there is a military base in the bay, which may present an obstacle to designating the site as a protected area.

## Other documented values

Thuy Trieu lagoon is a very important shrimp hatchery. Each year, Khanh Hoa province supplies around 300 million shrimp post larvae for the Vietnamese shrimp farming industry, of which the production from Thuy Trieu lagoon represents one third. Commercial shrimp farming is a very important

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economic activity in the area, although it is reported to be declining now (ADB 1999).

## Related projects

No information.

## Literature sources

ADB (1999) Draft coastal and marine protected areas plan. Hanoi: Asian Development Bank.

Eames, J. C. and Tordoff, A. W. (in prep.) Recent records and a conservation status review of some threatened and near-threatened bird species in Vietnam.