

Tien Lang Proposed Nature Reserve

Alternative site name(s)

Thai Binh and Van Uc estuaries

Province(s)

Hai Phong

Status

Proposed

Management board established

No

Latitude

20°37' - 20°41'N

Longitude

106°36' - 106°42'E

Bio-unit

06a – Tropical South China



Conservation status

Thai Binh estuary (Thai Thuy district), Thai Binh estuary (Tien Lang district) and Van Uc estuary were identified as key sites for wetland conservation in the coastal zone of the Red River Delta by BirdLife International and FIPI in 1996. As a result, the two organisations proposed that a nature reserve should be established stretching from the Diem Dien river in Thai Binh province to the Van Uc river in Hai Phong province, and covering all three sites (Pedersen and Nguyen Huy Thang 1996).

In 1996, however, Thai Thuy District People's Committee nominated the Thai Binh estuary (Thai Thuy district) site for nature reserve establishment (Nguyen Huy Thang *et al.* 2000), and, in July 1997, an investment plan was prepared for Thai Thuy Nature Reserve, covering the entire coastal zone of Thai Thuy district (Anon. 1997). Therefore, Tien Lang proposed nature reserve can be considered to comprise only the coastal zone of Tien Lang district, Hai Phong province.

As an investment plan for the site has not been prepared, and it is not listed on any official decree or set of proposals, the boundaries and area of Tien Lang proposed nature reserve are not clear. Pedersen and Nguyen Huy Thang (1996) give the area of the Thai Binh estuary (Tien Lang district) as 2,000 ha and the

area of the Van Uc estuary as 1,500 ha. The site is currently under the management of Tien Lang District People's Committee (FIPI 1998).

Topography and hydrology

Tien Lang proposed nature reserve covers about 13 km of coastline. The site is bordered by the Van Uc estuary to the north and the Thai Binh estuary to the south.

Biodiversity value

The coastline of Tien Lang proposed nature reserve supports a mixture of habitat types, including saltmarsh, aquacultural ponds, sand dunes and mudflats. Some of the sandy areas have been planted with *Casuarina equisetifolia*. The proposed nature reserve supports over 150 ha of aquacultural ponds, including a 50 ha area south of the Van Uc estuary that is estimated to be more than 100 years old. The old-growth mangrove is dominated by *Sonneratia caseolaris* but also includes *Kandelia candel*, *Aegiceras corniculatum* and *Acanthus ilicifolius*. Almost all of the old-growth mangrove at the site is enclosed within aquacultural ponds (Pedersen and Nguyen Huy Thang 1996).

Three globally threatened or near-threatened bird species have been observed at the site: Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*, Saunders's Gull *Larus saundersi* and Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus* (Pedersen and Nguyen Huy Thang 1996, Pedersen *et al.* 1998). In 1996, maximum counts of 16 Black-faced Spoonbill and 30 Saunders's Gull were recorded (Pedersen and Nguyen Huy Thang 1996).

Conservation issues

Enclosure of mangrove within aquacultural ponds and cutting of mangrove trees for fuel are the biggest threats to the old-growth mangrove at the site. The use of airguns, shotguns and mist nets to hunt birds has been recorded at the site (Pedersen and Nguyen Huy Thang 1996).

Other documented values

There are several economic activities taking place at Tien Lang proposed nature reserve, including aquaculture, collection of crabs, snails and other marine products, inshore fishing, and grazing of domestic animals. The old-growth mangrove at the site has potential cultural and educational value (Pedersen and Nguyen Huy Thang 1996).

Related projects

Prior to 1996, a mangrove afforestation project implemented by Actmang had afforested 50 ha of intertidal mudflats with *Kandelia candel* and established a nursery for *Sonneratia caseolaris* (Pedersen and Nguyen Huy Thang 1996).

Literature sources

Anon. (1997) [Investment plan for Thai Thuy Wetland Nature Reserve, Thai Binh province]. Hanoi: Forest Inventory and Planning Institute. In Vietnamese.

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Nguyen Huy Thang, Vu Van Dung, Nguyen Huy Dung and Ho Manh Tuong (2000) Information sheet on Ramsar wetlands: Thai Thuy wetland, Thai Thuy district, Thai Binh province, Vietnam. Hanoi: Forest Inventory and Planning Institute.

Pedersen, A. and Nguyen Huy Thang (1996) [The conservation of key coastal wetland sites in the Red River Delta](#). Hanoi: BirdLife International Vietnam Programme.

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