

Vuc Mau Proposed Cultural and Historical Site

Alternative site name(s)

Bac Nghe An [northern Nghe An province]

Province(s)

Nghe An

Status

Proposed

Management board established

Yes

Latitude

19°21'N

Longitude

105°36'E

Bio-unit

05c - North Annam



Conservation status

In 1995, the former Ministry of Forestry approved the establishment of Vuc Mau Watershed Protection Forest, with a total area of 24,842 ha (Dao Hai Au, Nghe An Provincial FPD pers. comm.). In 1997, Vuc Mau was included on a proposed list of Special-use Forests prepared for discussion at the Cuc Phuong conference on protected areas (MARD 1997). However, the site was not included on the 2010 list (FPD 1998).

In 1998, the status of the site was changed to cultural and historical site, and the name was changed to Bac Nghe An (northern Nghe An province), following Decision No. 4304/QD-UB-NN of Nghe An Provincial People's Committee, dated 17 November 1998. The area of the site remains unchanged. An investment plan for the proposed cultural and historical site has recently been prepared by North-central Sub-FIPI (Dao Hai Au, Nghe An Provincial FPD pers. comm.).

Topography and hydrology

Vuc Mau proposed cultural and historical site is located in Quynh Luu and Nghia Dan districts, in northern Nghe An province. The area in Quynh Luu district is 19,093 ha, while the area in Nghia Da district

is 5749 ha. The topography of the proposed cultural and historical site is characterised by mountains and low hills, with some small areas of limestone karst. Vuc Mau proposed cultural and historical site lies in the catchment of the Vuc Mau reservoir.

Biodiversity value

Vuc Mau proposed cultural and historical site supports 4,211 ha of natural forest, equivalent to 17% of the total area of the site, and a further 732 ha of plantation forest (Dao Hai Au, Nghe An Provincial FPD pers. comm.). The natural forest at the site is evergreen lowland forest.

To date, 147 plant species, 33 mammal species, 72 bird species, 27 reptile species and 12 amphibian species have been recorded at Vuc Mau. These include several valuable timber species, such as *Erythrophleum fordii*, *Sindora tonkinensis* and *Burretiodendron tonkinensis* (Dao Hai Au, Nghe An Provincial FPD pers. comm.).

Conservation issues

A management board has been established for the proposed cultural and historical site, with six members of staff based at two guard stations. In the past, the main causes of forest loss at Vuc Mau were fuelwood collection and clearance of forest for agriculture.

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Reportedly, however, these activities have now ceased, and the remaining forest is well protected (Dao Hai Au, Nghe An Provincial FPD pers. comm.).

Other documented values

Forest at Vuc Mau proposed cultural and historical site protects the watershed of Vuc Mau reservoir, which provides irrigation water for Quynh Luu, Dien Chau and Yen Thanh districts, Nghe An province. In addition to watershed protection, the site has recreational and amenity values for the residents of northern Nghe An province (Dao Hai Au, Nghe An Provincial FPD pers. comm.).

Related projects

In the buffer zone of Vuc Mau proposed cultural and historical site, there lies North Quynh Luu New Industrial Zone, which includes a new cement factory built with Japanese investment. Also in the buffer zone, there is Ben Nghe Agricultural Enterprise (Dao Hai Au, Nghe An Provincial FPD pers. comm.).

Literature sources

None.