

Earal Proposed Nature Reserve

Alternative site name(s)

Thong Nuoc

Province(s)

Dak Lak

Area

50 ha

Coordinates

13°09'N, 108°18'E

Agro-ecological zone

Central Highlands

Decreed by government

No

Management board established

Yes

Investment plan prepared

No

VCF eligibility criteria met

B, C

Social screening criteria met

None

Conservation needs assessment prepared

No

Operational management plan prepared

No

Tracking tool completed

No

Map available

Yes

Management history

Earal is not included on any government decision relating to the national Special-use Forests system MARD (1997). However, Decision No. 157/QĐ-UB of Dak Lak Provincial People's Committee, dated 5 March 1994, approved the establishment of a 50 ha nature reserve to protect one of the last remaining populations of the nationally threatened conifer *Glyptostrobus pensilis* in Vietnam (Dak Lak Provincial FPD 1998). According to Dak Lak Provincial DARD (*in litt.* 2000), a management board with two members has been established under the management of Dak Lak Provincial FPD.

Earal is included on a list of Special-use Forests to be established by the year 2010, prepared by the FPD of MARD, as a 50 ha nature reserve (FPD 2003); this list has not yet been approved by the government.

Topography and hydrology

Earal proposed nature reserve is located in Earal commune, Ea H'leo district, in the Central Highlands of Vietnam, at an elevation of around 530 m. The proposed nature reserve comprises a swampy area surrounded by coffee plantations (Vu Van Dung verbally 2000).

Biodiversity values

Previously, *G. pensilis* was distributed in many provinces in Vietnam (Vu Van Dung verbally 2000) but the species is now one of the most endangered tree species in the country, with only two known populations remaining. Earal proposed nature reserve supports 220 individuals, while Trap Kso proposed nature reserve, the other site, supports only 34 individuals (Dak Lak Provincial FPD 1998) (see Trap Kso site card).

Conservation issues

The main threats to the population of *G. pensilis* at Earal are forest fire in the dry season and floods in the rainy season (Vu Van Dung verbally 2000). In addition, Dak Lak Provincial DARD (*in litt.* 2000) identify the lack of a buffer zone and the proximity of the site to centres of population as obstacles to management. One guard station has been constructed at the site, and a water control programme has been implemented with the aim of reducing the water level at the site, thereby protecting the *G. pensilis* population (Dak Lak Provincial FPD 1998, Dak Lak Provincial DARD *in litt.* 2000).

Other documented values

No information.

Related projects

No information.

Conservation needs assessment

A conservation needs assessment has not been conducted for the site.

Operational management plan

An operational management plan has not been prepared for the site.

Eligibility against VCF criteria

Earal is ineligible for VCF support because it does not meet the criteria for supporting forest biodiversity of international importance. The site lies within Priority Landscape DF4 - Eastern Plains Dry Forests but was assessed by a subsequent analysis as having low importance for international biodiversity conservation (Tordoff *et al.* in prep.).

Criterion	Eligibility
A _I	
A _{II}	
B _I	Proposed Special-use Forest
B _{II}	Nature Reserve
B _{III}	Under provincial management
C _I	Management board established
C _{II}	

Social screening requirements

A social screening report has not been prepared for the site.

Criterion	Eligibility
A	
B	
C	
D	

Literature sources

Dak Lak Provincial FPD (1998) [Report on implementation of management and conservation plan

for *Glyptostrobus pensilis* populations in Dak Lak province]. Unpublished report to Dak Lak Provincial People's Committee. In Vietnamese.

Tordoff, A. W., Timmins, R. J., Maxwell, A., Huy Keavuth, Lic Vuthy and Khou Eang Hout eds. (in prep.) Biological assessment of the Lower Mekong Dry Forests Ecoregion: final report.