

# Cha La Bird Sanctuary Nature Reserve

## Alternative site name(s)

Cac San Chim, Cai Nuoc, San Chim Ca Mau

## Province(s)

Ca Mau

## Area

14 ha

## Coordinates

8°58'N, 105°06'E

## Agro-ecological zone

Mekong Delta

## Decreed by government

Yes

## Management board established

Yes

## Investment plan prepared

Yes

## 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

Cha La bird sanctuary, together with Bac Lieu and Dam Doi bird sanctuaries (see separate site cards), was included on Decision 194/CT of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, dated 9 August 1986, as a 500 ha nature reserve with the name Cac San Chim (MARD 1997). An investment plan for Cha La bird sanctuary, prepared in 1999, proposed establishing a 14 ha nature reserve. This investment plan was approved by Ca Mau Provincial People's Committee on 12 October 1999 (Cai Nuoc District DARD *in litt.* 2000). Cha La bird sanctuary is managed by a forest guard station with three members of staff, under the management of Dong Thoi Commune People's Committee (Ca Mau Provincial FPD *in litt.* 2003).

Cha La bird sanctuary is not included on a list of Special-use Forests to be established by the year 2010, prepared by the FPD of MARD (FPD 2003).

## Topography and hydrology

Cha La bird sanctuary is a 14 ha patch of mangrove forest surrounded by agricultural land that is irrigated by a system of canals and supports a number of settlements.

## Biodiversity values

Cha La bird sanctuary supports mangrove forest dominated by the palm *Phoenix padulosa* together with *Nypa fruticans*, *Bruguiera parviflora*, *Excoecaria agallocha* and, on the ground, *Acrostichum aureum*. Lianas such as *Flagellaria indica* and *Sarcolobus globosus* are also present.

Many waterbird species are known to breed at this site, the most abundant being cormorants, herons and egrets. Cha La bird sanctuary is particularly noteworthy for the presence of Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*, Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*, Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus* and Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*.

## Conservation issues

The principal threat to the bird populations at Cha La bird sanctuary is poaching. Both young birds and eggs are taken illegally for food and sale in local markets. The bird sanctuary is situated close to human settlements and is surrounded by agricultural land. Pesticides are widely used on the adjacent rice fields where many of the birds feed, thus posing an additional threat to their survival.

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## Other documented values

Cha La bird sanctuary has long been a popular destination for tourists visiting the Mekong Delta. The bird sanctuary attracts both domestic and foreign tourists, and several tour companies operate excursions to the site. Tourism infrastructure at Cha La bird sanctuary is underdeveloped at present. If the site was well managed and protected, however, it would have potential as a site for recreation, conservation education and scientific research.

## 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

The site is ineligible for VCF funding because it does not meet the criteria for supporting forest biodiversity of international importance.

Criterion	Eligibility
A <sub>I</sub>	
A <sub>II</sub>	
B <sub>I</sub>	Decision No. 194/CT, dated 09/08/86
B <sub>II</sub>	Nature Reserve
B <sub>III</sub>	Under provincial management
C <sub>I</sub>	
C <sub>II</sub>	Managed as a Special-use Forest by a forest guard station under the management of Dong Thoi Commune People's Committee

## Social screening requirements

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

Criterion	Eligibility
A	
B	
C	
D	

## Literature sources

Buckton, S. T., Nguyen Cu, Ha Quy Quynh and Nguyen Duc Tu (1999) The conservation of key wetland sites in the Mekong Delta. Hanoi: BirdLife International Vietnam Programme.

Buckton, S. T., Nguyen Cu, Ha Quy Quynh and Nguyen Duc Tu (2000) [The conservation of key wetland sites in the Mekong Delta]. Hanoi: BirdLife International Vietnam Programme. In Vietnamese.

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Scott, D. A. (1989) A directory of Asian wetlands. Gland: IUCN.