

Ru Linh Proposed Cultural and Historical Site

Alternative site name(s)

None

Province(s)

Quang Tri

Area

127 ha

Coordinates

17°03'N, 107°03'E

Agro-ecological zone

North Central Coast

Decreed by government

No

Management board established

Yes

Investment plan prepared

Yes

VCF eligibility criteria met

None

Social screening criteria met

None

Conservation needs assessment prepared

No

Operational management plan prepared

No

Tracking tool completed

No

Map available

Yes

Management history

Ru Linh is not included on any government decision or official set of proposals regarding the national Special-use Forests network (MARD 1997, FPD 2003). In 1990, Quang Tri Provincial FPD prepared an investment plan for the establishment of a cultural and historical site at Ru Linh, and submitted it to MARD for approval. However, because of the small area of the site, the investment plan was not approved (Quang Tri Provincial FPD *in litt.* 2003).

Currently, the site is under the management of Vinh Hien and Vinh Hoa communes, and two people from each commune have been employed as forest guards (Quang Tri Provincial FPD *in litt.* 2003).

Topography and hydrology

Ru Linh proposed cultural and historical site is located in Vinh Hoa and Vinh Hien communes, Vinh Linh district, Quang Tri province. The proposed cultural and historical site is located in the coastal plain of north-central Vietnam, about 6 km inland from the coast. The topography of the proposed cultural and historical site is relatively flat, and the highest point is 95 m. The proposed cultural and historical site is drained by three streams, which supply water to local households (Quang Tri Provincial FPD *in litt.* 2003).

Biodiversity values

Prior to 1954, there were 170 ha of natural forest at the site. Today, the area of natural forest has decreased to 93 ha. Due to the impacts of the Second Indochina War and the high human population density in the surrounding area, the site currently supports few animal species. However, the site remains important for plant species, with over 200 species recorded to date, including two globally threatened species: *Aquilaria crassna* and *Erythrophloeum fordii* (Quang Tri Provincial FPD *in litt.* 2003).

Conservation issues

A total of 6,000 people live in the surrounding area, mainly members of the Kinh ethnic group. These people cultivate wet rice and cash crops, and have relatively high living standards (Quang Tri Provincial FPD *in litt.* 2003).

Despite the efforts of the forest guards, human pressure on the natural resources of Ru Linh proposed cultural and historical site remain high, particularly fuelwood collection. The human population density in the surrounding area is very high, and funding for forest protection activities is very limited (Quang Tri Provincial FPD *in litt.* 2003).

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Other documented values

Ru Linh is located close to the East Sea and the Vinh Moc tunnels, in an ideal location for ecotourism development. In addition, the site has an important role in protecting the water supplies for the residents of Vinh Hien, Vinh Hoa and Vinh Thanh communes (Quang Tri Provincial FPD *in litt.* 2003).

Related projects

To date, there have been no biodiversity conservation projects at Ru Linh (Quang Tri Provincial FPD *in litt.* 2003).

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

Ru Linh is ineligible for VCF support because it does not meet the criteria for supporting forest biodiversity of international importance. In addition, Ru Linh is a cultural and historical site, and it is not under appropriate conservation management.

Criterion	Eligibility
A _I	
A _{II}	
B _I	Proposed Special-use Forest
B _{II}	
B _{III}	Under provincial management
C _I	
C _{II}	

Social screening requirements

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

Criterion	Eligibility
A	
B	
C	
D	

Literature sources

None.