



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

Viet Nam

9 Ramsar Site(s) covering 120,549 ha

Ba Be National Park

Site number: 1,938 | Country: Viet Nam | Administrative region: Bac Kan Province

Area: 10,048 ha | Coordinates: 22°24'N 105°36'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2011

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ba Be; 02/02/2011; Bac Kan Province; 10,048 ha; 22°24'N 105°36'E. Ba Be is a National Park and an ASEAN Heritage Park. The Man and Biosphere Committee of Vietnam is currently supporting the designation of Ba Be as a Biosphere Reserve.

Ba Be National Park supports the only significant natural mountain lake in Vietnam and is the most important wetland in the country's protected area system because it is the only site that has a natural lake surrounded by a mountainous karst ecosystem. It supports a number of globally threatened species such as the endangered Francois' Langur (*Trachypithecus francoisi*), the endangered Big-headed Turtle (*Platysternon megacephalum*), and is home to endemic species such as the Vietnamese Salamander (*Paramesotriton deloustali*).

The site is recognised as an Important Bird Area, supporting more than 1% threshold population of the endangered White-eared Night Heron (*Gorsachius magnificus*), a species which also has a very restricted habitat range.

Ba Be Lake is important for regulating water supply, it provides water for irrigation in the dry season and helps to mitigate floods from four rivers during the wet season.

Archaeological evidence from mountain caves indicates that Ba Be was inhabited from the late Pleistocene some 20,000 years ago, up to the Le-Mac dynasties in the 16th century.

Threats to the site include infrastructure development, hunting of birds, fuel and solid waste pollution, and clearance of forest for agriculture.

The Provincial People's Committee of Bac Kan Province is responsible for the management of this site. BirdLife International Vietnam Programme provided valuable assistance in the listing of this site.

Ramsar site: 1938 Most recent RIS information: 2010.

Bau Sau Wetlands and Seasonal Floodplain

Site number: 1,499 | Country: Viet Nam | Administrative region: Dong Nai Province

Area: 13,759 ha | Coordinates: 11°28'N 107°23'E | Designation dates: 04-08-2005

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bau Sau (Crocodile Lake) Wetlands and Seasonal Floodplains. 04/08/05; Dong Nai; 13,759 ha; 11°28'N 107°23'E. Cat Tien National Park. A freshwater complex and transition zone between the Great Annamite ecoregion and lower Mekong Delta with Vietnam's last remaining lowland semi-evergreen forests representative of the Indo-Chinese region. Bau Sau is a key habitat for 50 very rare IUCN red-listed species like Siamese Crocodile, Asian Arowana, Black-shanked Douc, Asian Elephant, Wild Gaur, Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon and Smooth-coated Otter, 131 endemic fish and 6 species of turtles, tortoises and terrapins. Several red-listed birds include *Pseudibis davisoni*, *Cairina scutulata*, *Grus antigone* and *Leptoptilos javanicus*, and plants *Dipterocarpus dyeri* and *Diospyros mun*. Despite human activities such as subsistence fishing, hunting and collection of wood products, it is the best-conserved and almost pristine habitat of the national park as a result of enhanced protection by local management. It also serves as a floodwater retention reservoir with significant flow regulation protecting populated downstream localities. An ecological threat arises from invasion of exotic *Mimosa pigra* and water hyacinth bringing succession from open water to swamp vegetation. Conservation efforts include control of invasive species, crocodile census, waterbird surveys, awareness raising and range patrolling. Ramsar site no. 1499. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Con Dao National Park

Site number: 2,203 | Country: Viet Nam | Administrative region: Ba Ria Vung Tau

Area: 19,991 ha | Coordinates: 08°42'N 106°38'E | Designation dates: 18-06-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Con Dao National Park. 18/06/2013; Ba Ria-Vung Tau; 19,991 ha; 8°42'N 106°38'E; National Park. Con Dao is an archipelago of 14 islands located some 80 km off the coast of southern Viet Nam. Con Son, the largest of the islands at 5,700 ha, is situated at its centre. Con Son and Hon Cau are the only two islands in the archipelago with year-round freshwater supplies. The site supports a representative range of coastal and terrestrial ecosystems that are important for the biogeographic region. There are low montane *Melaleuca* forests inland, while along the coast there are dry forests as well as shallow marine waters, coral reefs, seagrass beds, intertidal flats and mangrove forests. These wetland habitats are particularly intact and support a high biodiversity. Some 355 coral species have been recorded of which 56 are classified as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. Also present are the critically endangered mangrove, *Bruguiera hainesii*, and the critically endangered Leatherback Turtle *Dermochelys coriacea* and Hawksbill Turtle *Eretmochelys imbricate*. The archipelago has been inhabited for 4,000 years. The French colonial government occupied Con Lon Island in the late 19th Century, and established a prison from 1936 to 1975 which is now preserved as a national historic site. Traditionally managed capture fishing is allowed, and local people have also adopted other livelihoods including tourism-related ventures. Ramsar site no. 2203. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Lang Sen Wetland Reserve

Site number: 2,227 | Country: Viet Nam | Administrative region: Long An Province

Area: 4,802 ha | Coordinates: 10°47'N 105°44'E | Designation dates: 22-05-2015

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lang Sen Wetland Reserve is a wetland complex in the "Plain of Reeds" of the Mekong Delta, which comprises a mosaic of seasonally flooded grassland, open swamp, and riverine *Melaleuca* and mixed forests. The Site supports the best sample of natural riverine forests in the Mekong Delta, and provides habitat for a wide diversity of waterbirds and fish species. It regularly supports more than 20,000 waterbird individuals in the dry season, including globally threatened species such as the endangered greater adjutant (*Leptoptilos dubius*) and the vulnerable sarus crane (*Grus antigone*). The Site also hosts globally vulnerable reptiles such as the Indochinese spitting cobra (*Naja siamensis*) and Southeast Asian softshell turtle (*Cuora amboinensis*). 27 of 87 fish species recorded in Lang Sen live only in the lower Mekong Basin; these include the critically endangered Mekong giant catfish (*Pangasianodon gigas*) and giant barb (*Catlocarpio siamensis*). According to a 1969 map, Lang Sen Wetland Reserve then covered around 10,000 hectares. With its current area of 4,802 hectares, the Site is the second largest remaining area of the Plain of Reeds. Local communities have long exploited Lang Sen Wetland Reserve; most of it is divided into small agro-forestry production patches, some managed by local households, and others by state bodies.

Mui Ca Mau National Park

Site number: 2,088 | Country: Viet Nam | Administrative region: Ca Mau Province
Area: 41,862 ha | Coordinates: 08°41'N 104°48'E | Designation dates: 12-12-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mui Ca Mau National Park. 13/12/12; Ca Mau; 41,862 ha; 08°41'00"N 104°47'32"E. UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, National Park, BirdLife IBAs. Situated at the southernmost tip of Viet Nam, Mui Ca Mau supports the largest remaining area of mangrove forests (13,400 ha) and intertidal mudflats (26,000 ha) in the Ca Mau Peninsula as well as the Indochina Mangroves biogeographic region. Originally, the site held some 1.6 million hectares of natural wetlands but the vast majority of the mangrove was destroyed during the Vietnam War and, later, by conversion to aquacultural ponds and agricultural land. Rehabilitation efforts began in the late 1990s as a result of the decline in shrimp production and the later establishment of Mui Ca Mau National Park. Most of the aquacultural ponds inside the park have been abandoned and now support extensive areas of re-colonising mangrove forest. It is the only place in the country where two different tidal regimes interact, which contributes to the aggradation that is building new mud-flats and creating favourable habitats for many species, such as the critically endangered Four-toed Terrapin *Batagur baska*, the endangered Hairy Nosed Otter *Lutra sumatrana* and the endangered Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*. The site also provides important stopover and wintering habitats for a large number of waterbirds. Ramsar Site no. 2088. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

Tram Chim National Park

Site number: 2,000 | Country: Viet Nam | Administrative region: Dong Thap Province
Area: 7,313 ha | Coordinates: 10°43'N 105°30'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2012

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tram Chim National Park (7,313 hectares, 10°42'49"N 105°30'12"E) is one of the last remnants of the Plain of Reeds wetland ecosystem, which previously covered some 700,000 ha of the Mekong Delta in southwestern Viet Nam. The site is one of the very few places in the region where the Brownbeard Rice (*Oryza rufipogon*) communities survive.

The wetland supports 9 bird and 5 fish species that are globally threatened, including the critically endangered Bengal Florican *Houbaropsis bengalensis* and the Giant Barb *Catlocarpio siamensis*. The site regularly supports more than 20,000 waterbirds in the dry season, and more than 1% of the population of 6 waterbird species, especially the Easter Sarus Crane *Grus antigone* sharpii.

The near natural landscape of the park serves to break wave energy during the flood season, helping to protect the houses of about 20,000 people along its eastern and southern dykes, as well as having a significant capacity to mitigate the damage from floods and droughts for the downstream part of the Mekong Delta. The beautiful landscape of the park attracts visitors internationally. The site has historical values as during the American-Vietnam war many battles took place in the plain. The park is a rich source of grass for fodder, trees for fuel and, most importantly, fish, which provide the main source of protein for local people.

Tram Chim is one of the demonstration sites of the Mekong River Basin Wetland Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Programme, Phase I, implemented by IUCN, the Mekong River Commission (MRC), and UNDP, with funding from UNDP/GEF and SIDA. The goal of the programme is to assist countries in the Lower Mekong subregion to develop new approaches to integrating the protection and sustainable use of wetland biodiversity with economic development, including ecotourism development. Recently, from 2007 to 2011, WWF supported Tram Chim National Park with a series of research and pilot activities to rehabilitate the natural habitats.

U Minh Thuong National Park

Site number: 2,228 | Country: Viet Nam | Administrative region: U Minh Thuong district, Kien Giang province
Area: 8,038 ha | Coordinates: 09°36'N 105°06'E | Designation dates: 30-04-2015

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

U Minh Thuong National Park is one of the last remnants of climax peat swamp forest in the biogeographic region, dominated by mixed forests and *Melaleuca* forests on peat that covers around 3,000 ha (approximately 37%) of the Park. The Site is recognized as one of the three highest priority sites for wetland conservation in the Mekong Delta. It is home to distinctive flora and fauna including 32 mammal species, 187 bird species, 34 reptile and amphibian species, 37 fish species, and 203 insect species. Many of these are globally threatened, including the endangered yellow-breasted bunting (*Emberiza aureola*), yellow-headed temple turtle (*Heosemys annandalii*), Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*) and fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*). It is also one of the only three sites in the world known to support a population of the endangered hairy-nosed otter (*Lutra sumatrana*). The Site regularly hosts more than 20,000 waterbirds. Most of the fish species observed are native and the distribution of eight of these is restricted to the lower Mekong Basin.

U Minh Thuong National Park supports large areas of peat layers and a complex system of canals that can store a large volume of water. It functions as a sponge that maintains the groundwater level and releases surface water to the surrounding areas, and supports production and daily activities of the local communities surrounding the Park. In addition, the Site is of significant spiritual, historical, archaeological, educational and scientific value.

Van Long Wetland Nature Reserve

Site number: 2,360 | Country: Viet Nam | Administrative region: Ninh Binh
Area: 2,736 ha | Coordinates: 20°24'N 105°51'E | Designation dates: 10-02-2017

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located on the northernmost tip of the Pu Luong-Cuc Phuong limestone mountain range, Van Long Wetland Nature Reserve is one of the few intact lowland inland wetlands remaining in the Red River Delta. The Site is centred on a block of limestone karst outcrops that rise abruptly from the flat coastal plain of northern Vietnam. The freshwater lake, marshes and swamps that surround the karst, together with subterranean hydrological systems, form a wetland complex that is very rare in the Indochinese Peninsula. The limestone hills are famous for providing habitat for the critically endangered Delacour's langur (*Trachypithecus delacouri*), one of the world's 25 most endangered primates. The Site is home to more than half of the global population and is the only place where the species can be observed in the wild. The Site is also an important refuge and breeding ground for a number of aquatic species, and a staging site for waterbirds. It provides important ecosystem services for the surrounding communities, including its aquatic and agricultural resources, its water regulation and its scenic beauty for recreation and ecotourism.

Xuan Thuy Natural Wetland Reserve

Site number: 409 | Country: Viet Nam | Administrative region: Nam Ha Province
Area: 12,000 ha | Coordinates: 20°10'N 106°20'E | Designation dates: 20-09-1988

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Xuan Thuy Natural Wetland Reserve. 20/09/88; Nam Ha; 12,000 ha; 20°10'N 106°20'E. Strict Nature Reserve. Delta and estuary islands supporting the last significant remnants of coastal mangrove and mudflat ecosystems in the Red River Delta; includes land enclosed by sea dikes, with fringing marshes. A critically important area for migratory waterbirds and shorebirds, regularly supporting several globally threatened species. Human uses include fishing and aquaculture yielding up to 10,300 tonnes per year, rice production yielding 40,000 tonnes per year, duck rearing, bird hunting, and reed harvesting. The mangrove forest is of considerable importance in maintaining the fishery, as a source of timber and fuelwood, and in protecting coastal settlements from the full impact of typhoons. Ramsar site no. 409. Most recent RIS information: 1992.