



PHONG DIEN NATURE RESERVE

KEY FACTS

➤ Province	: Thua Thien Hue Province
➤ Status	: Nature Reserve
➤ Latitude	: 16 ⁰ 17' to 16 ⁰ 35' N E
➤ Longitude	: 107 ⁰ 03' to 107 ⁰ 20' E
➤ Size	: 40,815 ha

SITE OVERVIEW

Phong Dien Nature Reserve is located between 16⁰17' to 16⁰35' N and 107⁰03' to 107⁰20' E, in North western Thua Thien Hue province. The site includes the districts of A Luoi and Phong Dien and the communes of Hong Ha, Hong Kim Phong My and Phong Xuan. Phong Dien Nature Reserve was designated on the 13th of November 2002, through decision 2979/QĐ-UB, with a total area of 40,815 ha. The site is composed of 28,054 ha of strictly protected zone, 10,862 ha of ecological restoration zone and 1,898 ha of service -administration zone.

Forest cover in Phong Dien NR is less than some of the other protected areas in the landscape, with 36,863 ha, equal to 89% of the total area. The site still contains large amounts of relatively undisturbed forest however (43%) and also has significant areas of degraded forest (21%) and regrowth (22%). Phong Dien NR currently has a Management Plan and a total staff of 32 people.

BIODIVERSITY VALUES

Phong Dien Nature Reserve is a recognized as a global Key Biodiversity Area (BirdLife, 2018a) because of the importance of its

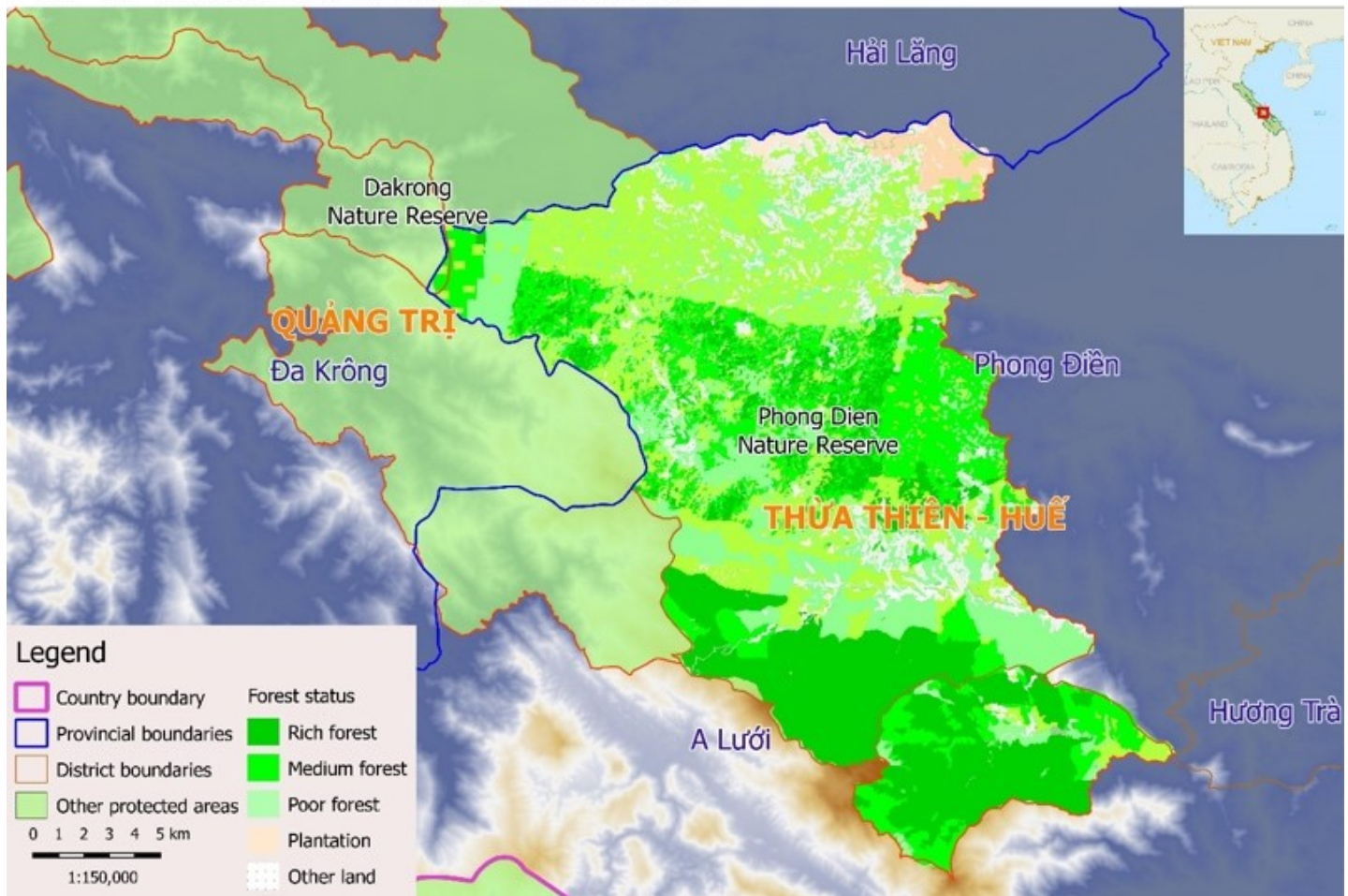
bird and mammal fauna, and is a priority conservation corridor (CEPF 2012). It also belongs to the Endemic Birds Area of the Annamese Lowlands (Birdlife, 2018b), and is considered an Important Bird Area in its own right (BirdLife, 2018c).

Phong Dien was initially designated based on the rediscovery of the Critically Endangered Edwards's pheasant at the site in 1996, which was previously believed to be possibly extinct in the wild (IUCN, 2018). The species occurs naturally in a very small area, and has been the target of surveys over recent decades. These unfortunately failed to find any records of the species with the exception of a photo of a dead female Edwards's pheasant taken in A Luoi District (specific location unknown) in mid 2018. This suggests that the species may still persist in Phong Dien NR.

Field surveys of the sites biodiversity have confirmed the sites importance, with 38 mammal species, 204 bird species, 35 reptile and amphibian species and 755 plant species. Many of these are internationally and nationally recognized as species with a high risk of extinction (IUCN 2018; MoST 2007) and of high importance for protection. Due to a lack of confirmed records in recent years, despite considerable survey effort (see above), Edwards's pheasant is not listed in the above species list until reconfirmed.

Key species records include two mammals only found in this region; the Owston's civet *Chrotogale owstoni* and the Annamite striped rabbit *Nesolagus timminsi*. Owston's civet Both of these species are in decline and Phong Dien NR represents a significant opportunity to conserve these species. Important bird species for the site include two pheasants; Edwards's pheasant as discussed above and the crested argus *Rheinardia ocellata*, which is in decline due to hunting pressure. Other confirmed bird species of

MAP OF PHONG DIEN NATURE RESERVE



importance include Annam partridge *Arborophila merlini*, the Indochinese wren babbler *Jabouilleia danjoui*, long-tailed broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae*, bar-bellied pitta *Pitta elliotii* and ratchet-tailed treepie *Temnurus temnurus*. Amphibian and reptiles species of conservation concern include king cobra, banded krait, *Gekko gecko* and the Indochinese water dragon. For plants, the Critically Endangered Eagle wood *Aquilaria crassna* is one of several threatened species priorities.

CONSERVATION ISSUES AND ACTION

Deforestation in Phong Dien NR is ongoing at relatively low levels in most areas, with approximately 201 ha of forest (0.4%) loss between 2012 and 2016; however, forest loss has increased in recent years. Increased monitoring and enforcement, especially along river valleys in the core zone, should be conducted so as to avoid further impacts.

Hunting with snares continues to be a major threat to biodiversity in Phong Dien NR as it does throughout the region. The site would benefit from the development of a snare removal program, where local communities can be engaged in removing snares and contributing to conservation. This would help to reduce the threat to important species such as Owston's civet, Annamite striped rabbit and crested argus.

The threats posed by hydropower development to biodiversity in Phong Dien NR are clear. Clearance of habitats, infrastructure development and hunting and wildlife consumption conducted by

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construction teams all contribute to impact the sites values. Strict control over the building hydroelectricity power plants which includes the control of forest conversion during the building's activities as well as the behavior of construction workers is a priority.

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