



SONG THANH NATURE RESERVE

KEY FACTS

➤ Province	: Quang Nam Province
➤ Status	: Nature Reserve
➤ Latitude	: 15°13' to 15°41' N E
➤ Longitude	: 107°21' to 107°50' E
➤ Size	: 76,964.4 ha

SITE OVERVIEW

Song Thanh Nature Reserve is located in Southwest Quang Nam province, and includes the districts of Nam Giang and Phuoc Son and the communes of Tà Bhing, Tà Pơơ, Cà Dy, Chà Val, La Dêê, Đắc Tôi, Đắc Pre, Đắc Pring and Phước Xuân, Phước Năng, Phước Mỹ, Phước Công. Song Thanh Nature Reserve, was designated in October 2000, through decision 3849/QĐ-UB, with a total area of 76,964.4 ha. The site is composed of 54,897 ha of strictly protected zone and 22,067 ha of ecological restoration zone.

Song Thanh NR maintains a significant amount of forest within its borders, equivalent to 69,927 ha or 90% of the total area. Most forest is categorised as either slightly degraded (24%) or heavily degraded evergreen forest (18%). The Nature Reserve does not currently does have a Management Plan to guide management, having expired in 2010. Total staff for Song Thanh NR is 35 people.

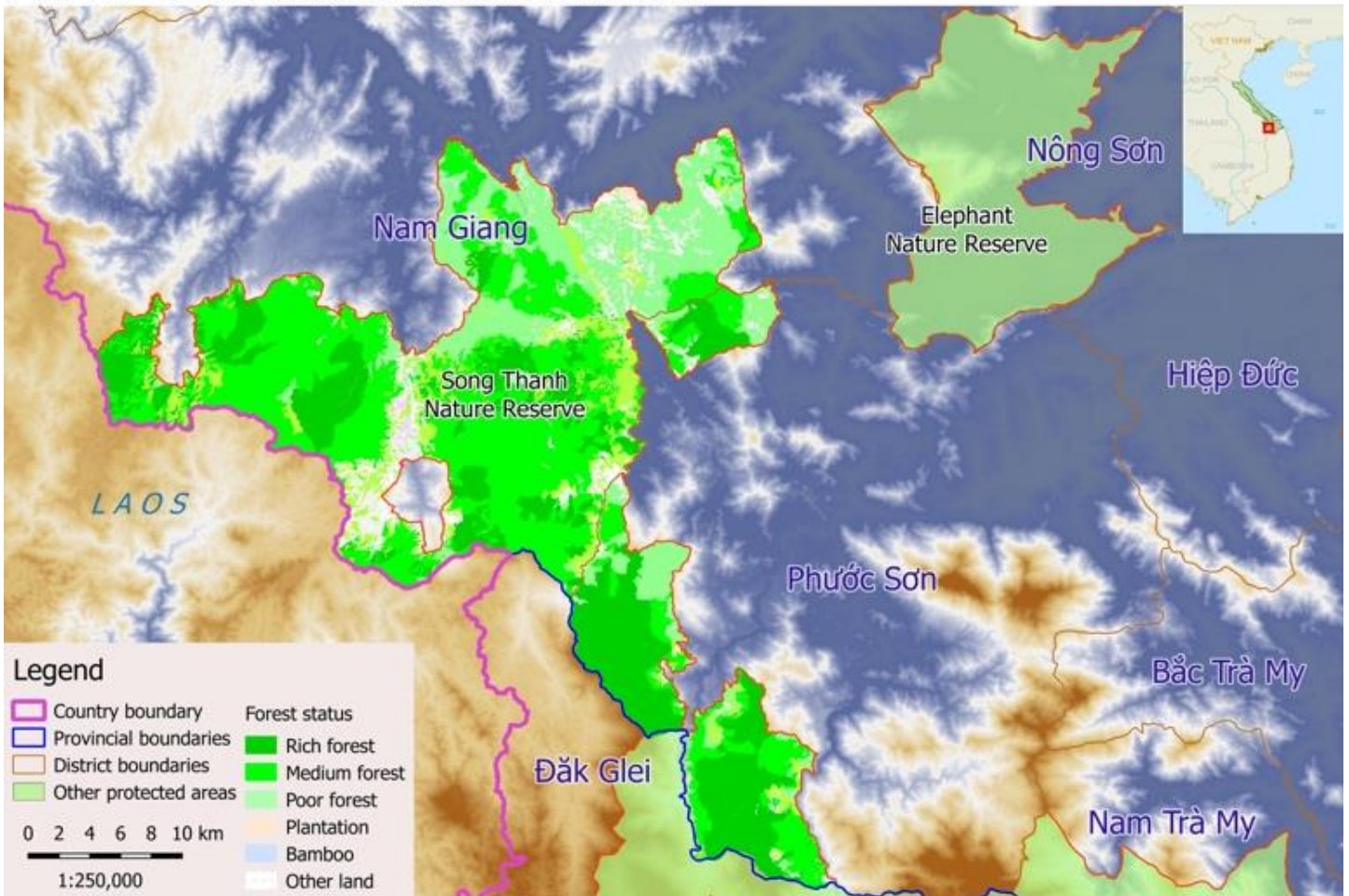
BIODIVERSITY VALUES

Song Thanh Nature Reserve is a recognized as a global Key Biodiversity Area (BirdLife, 2018) because of the importance of its mammal fauna, and is also a globally important conservation corridor (CEPF 2012).

Field surveys of the sites biodiversity have confirmed the sites importance, with 73 mammal species, 177 bird species, 118 reptile and amphibian species and 671 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.

Key species records include three mammals found only in this landscape; Owston's civet *Chrotogale owstoni*, the Annamite striped rabbit *Nesolagus timminsi*, and the large-antlered muntjac *Muntiacus vuquangensis*. Large-antlered muntjac is one of the highest priority species in the Annamites, it is listed as Critically Endangered (IUCN, 2018) and, like saola, is approaching imminent global extinction as a result of snaring pressure. Song Thanh is only the third forest complex in all of Vietnam where the species has been camera trapped since 2000 and therefore represents a highly significant records for Song Thanh NR. Owston's civet is rare and records suggest the sites importance for the species, likewise, the poorly known Annamite striped rabbit. Important bird species for the site include the black-crowned Barwing *Actinodura sodangorum*, crested argus *Rheinardia ocellata*, Annam partridge *Arborophila merlini*, Austen's brown hornbill *Anorrhinus austeni* and great hornbill *Buceros*

MAP OF SONG THANH NATURE RESERVE



bicornis. Amphibian and reptile species of conservation concern from Song Thanh many highly threatened turtle species including the Critically Endangered Annam leaf Turtle *Mauremys annamensis* and Bourret box turtle *Cuora bourreti*. Additional priorities include a number of frog species including giant spiny frog *Quasipaa spinose* and Kio whipping frog *Rhacophorus kio* showing Song Thanh NR as a priority for conservation of reptiles and amphibians. For plants, the Critically Endangered Eagle wood *Aquilaria crassna* and *Anoectochilus setaceus* represent priorities.

CONSERVATION ISSUES AND ACTIONS

Between 2012 and 2016, Song Thanh NR has lost approximately 153 ha of forest cover, equivalent to approximately 0.2% of total forest cover. annual forest cover loss has increased moderately in recent years in Song Thanh NR and habitats within Song Thanh NR are under considerable pressure. Targeting enforcement effort around hotspots of deforestation should be pursued by the management board to reduce pressures on habitat. Hunting with snares continues to be a major threat to biodiversity in Song Thanh NR as it does throughout the region. The site would benefit from the development of a snare removal program similar to that developed by WWF-Vietnam in Hue and Quang Nam Saola Nature Reserves. Given the rarity of large-antlered muntjac and their susceptibility to snaring this is of high conservation concern.

Illegal gold mining along the sites rivers appears to be of particular concern and in need of addressing. Upstream mining impacts in the form of pollution of streams was recorded, and suggests significant number of operations. This illegal presence and nature of the activities conducted, along with likely additional harvesting of wildlife, suggest that curtailing small scale mining operations should be a priority to mitigate threats to biodiversity.

REFERENCES

- BirdLife International. 2018. *The World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas*. Developed by the Key Biodiversity Areas Partnership. Downloaded from www.keybiodiversityareas.org on 31/05/2018.
- CEPF. 2012. Ecosystem Profile: Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot 2011 Update. Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund.
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