

## Vu Quang

Criteria: A1, A2 &amp; A3

**Province(s):** Ha Tinh  
**PA Status:** National Park  
**Latitude:** 18°17'N  
**Longitude:** 105°26'E  
**Area:** 55,950 ha  
**Altitude Range:** 30-2,286 m asl

**EBA / SA:**

Annamese Low lands EBA

**Priority Landscape:**

NA4 - Northern Annamites

**General Description**

The IBA comprises Vu Quang National Park, which is situated in the northern Annamite mountains. The IBA supports a range of habitat types. At low elevations, the landscape is largely anthropogenic and dominated by agricultural land, grassland and scrub, although there are also a few remaining patches of lowland evergreen forest, especially in inaccessible areas along river valleys<sup>1,2</sup>. Higher elevations support a range of montane habitat types, including elfin forest along ridge crests at the highest elevations. Below 500 m asl, however, much of the forest has been selectively logged<sup>3</sup>. To the south, Vu Quang IBA is contiguous with Phou Laoko IBA in Laos.

**Bird Fauna: Key Features**

Due to the diversity of natural habitats, Vu Quang IBA supports a rich and diverse avifauna. A total of 273 bird species have been recorded at the IBA to date, including 11 globally threatened or near-threatened species. Vu Quang IBA supports a total of 76 biome-restricted species, including Rufous-vented Laughingthrush *Garrulax gularis*, which is not known from any other site in Vietnam. Although Vu Quang IBA lies within the Annamese Lowlands Endemic Bird Area (EBA), the IBA only supports three restricted-range species, none of which are restricted to the EBA<sup>4</sup>.

Species	IBA Criteria	Global Threat Status	Other IBAs	Notes
Crested Argus <i>Rheinardia ocellata</i>	A1, A2	VU	15	Between 10 and 14 males were heard between July and September 1997. The species was also heard in July 1999 <sup>4</sup> .
†Spot-billed Pelican <i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	A1	VU	6	An upper mandible of this species was found in a hunter's house in Kim Quang village in 1992; the mandible reportedly belonged to a bird that was shot from a flock of six seen perched in a tree around 1988 <sup>4</sup> . The site does not regularly support a significant population of this species.
Chestnut-necklaced Partridge <i>Arborophila charltonii</i>	A1	NT	7	The species was observed and heard on several occasions in lowland evergreen forest in June 1994 <sup>1,2,4</sup> .
Siamese Fireback <i>Lophura diardi</i>	A1, A3	NT	13	A single male was seen in secondary scrub in August 1997 <sup>4</sup> .
Red-collared Woodpecker <i>Picus rabieri</i>	A1, A3	NT	11	A male was caught in a mist net in August 1997, and single birds were seen in August and September 1997 <sup>4</sup> .
Great Hornbill <i>Buceros bicornis</i>	A1	NT	13	The species was recorded in May 1992 and June 1994 <sup>2,4</sup> .
Brown Hornbill <i>Anorrhinus tickelli</i>	A1, A3	NT	16	Four flocks of between 5 and 30 birds were seen and two additional flocks were heard in August and September 1997. A flock of 25 birds was seen in July 1999 <sup>4</sup> .
Blyth's Kingfisher <i>Alcedo hercules</i>	A1, A3	NT	8	Two specimens were mist-netted above the Con river in July and August 1997, and a single bird was observed on rocks in this river in July 1997 <sup>4</sup> .
Lesser Fish Eagle <i>Ichthyophaga humilis</i>	A1	NT	6	One bird was seen in June 1994 and two birds were seen in July 1999 <sup>1,2,4</sup> .

Species	IBA Criteria	Global Threat Status	Other IBAs	Notes
[Grey-headed Fish Eagle <i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i> ]	A1	NT	9	The species was included on a list of birds at Vu Quang Nature Reserve on the basis of anecdotal evidence <sup>5</sup> . There are no other records of this species from the IBA <sup>4</sup> .
Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler <i>Jabouilleia danjoui</i>	A1, A2	NT	17	The species was frequently recorded between July and September 1997. The species was also recorded in July 1999 <sup>4</sup> .
Grey-faced Tit Babbler <i>Macronous kelleyi</i>	A2		12	The species was heard in June 1994 <sup>1,2,4</sup> . Fledged young were seen in July 1997 <sup>4</sup> .

Notes: [ ] = unconfirmed record; † = not confirmed to regularly occur in significant numbers.

**Biome Restricted Species:** The site qualifies under criterion A3 because it supports 47 species restricted to the Sino-Himalayan Subtropical Forests (Biome 08) and 19 species restricted to the Indochinese Tropical Moist Forests (Biome 09). See Appendix 4 for details.

### Secondary Criteria

Species	Status	Species	Status
Rhesus Macaque <i>Macaca mulatta</i> <sup>6</sup>	NT	Four-eyed Turtle <i>Sacalia quadriocellata</i> <sup>6</sup>	EN
Stump-tailed Macaque <i>Macaca arctoides</i> <sup>6</sup>	VU	Impressed Tortoise <i>Manouria impressa</i> <sup>6</sup>	VU
Red-shanked Douc <i>Pygathrix nemaeus nemaeus</i> <sup>6</sup>	DD	<i>Fokienia hodginsii</i> <sup>6</sup>	NT
White-cheeked Gibbon <i>Nomascus leucogenys</i> <sup>6</sup>	DD	<i>Podocarpus neriifolius</i> <sup>6</sup>	DD
Big-headed Turtle <i>Platysternon megacephalum</i> <sup>6</sup>	EN	[ <i>Amenotaxus yunnanensis</i> ] <sup>6</sup>	VU
Indochinese Box Turtle <i>Cuora galbinifrons</i> <sup>6</sup>	CR	Asian Elephant <i>Elephas maximus</i> <sup>6</sup>	EN
Chinese Three-striped Box Turtle <i>Cuora trifasciata</i> <sup>6</sup>	CR	Gaur <i>Bos gaurus</i> <sup>6</sup>	VU
Asian Leaf Turtle <i>Cyclemys dentata</i> <sup>6</sup>	NT	Southern Serow <i>Naemorhedus sumtraensis</i> <sup>6</sup>	VU
		Saola <i>Pseudoryx nghetinhensis</i> <sup>6</sup>	EN

Notes: [ ] = unconfirmed record.

### Threats to Biodiversity

The major threats to biodiversity at Vu Quang IBA are clearance of forest for agriculture, hunting, timber extraction and grazing of livestock. Clearance of forest for agriculture is a particular threat at lower elevations, and may increase following the construction of National Highway 2, the proposed route of which runs alongside the IBA<sup>6</sup>. This road development may facilitate human settlement in the area. Bird and mammal populations at the IBA are under high hunting pressure, mainly in response to demand from the wildlife trade. Illegal timber extraction is widespread in the IBA, as is firewood collection. It is estimated that a quantity of firewood equivalent to the clear-felling of over 400 ha of forest is extracted from the IBA each year<sup>2,6</sup>.

Threat	Severity
Agricultural intensification / expansion	• •
Forest grazing	•
Hunting	• •
Infrastructure development	• •
Selective logging / cutting	• •

### Conservation Actions

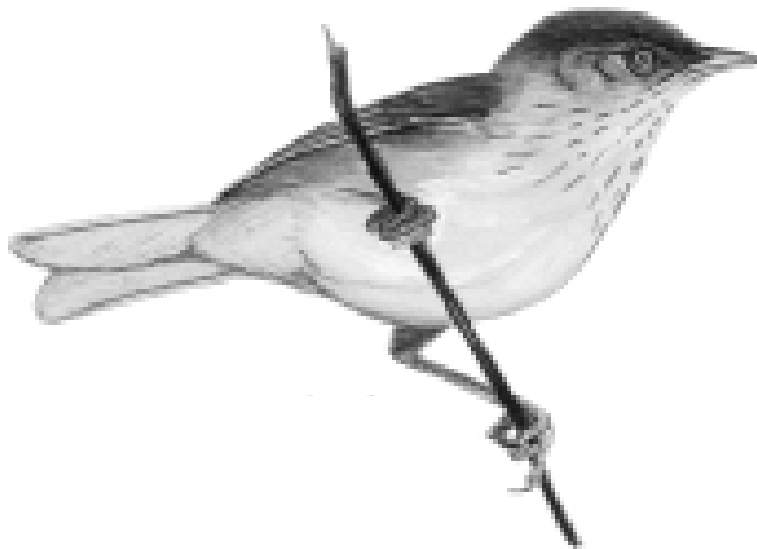
- Vu Quang was decreed as a nature reserve by the government of Vietnam in 1986, and a management board was established in 1994<sup>2</sup>.
- Between June 1995 and June 2000, a project entitled the *Vu Quang Conservation Project* was implemented by the WWF Indochina Programme, with funding from the Royal Netherlands Embassy<sup>2,6</sup>.
- Vu Quang Nature Reserve was upgraded to national park status in 2002.

### Recommendations

- Measures to reduce the impacts of National Highway 2 on biodiversity should be implemented. In particular, human settlement into the buffer zone of the national park should be strictly controlled.
- The enforcement of protected area management regulations, particularly controls on hunting, timber extraction and firewood collection, should be strengthened.

## References

1. Eames, J. C., Lambert, F. R. and Nguyen Cu (1994) A survey of the Annamese lowlands, Vietnam and its implications for the conservation of Vietnamese and Imperial Pheasants *Lophura hatinhensis* and *L. imperialis*. *Birdlife Conservation International* 4(4): 343-382.
2. Lambert, F. R., Eames, J. C. and Nguyen Cu (1994) *Surveys for endemic pheasants in the Annamese lowlands of Vietnam, June-July 1994: status of and conservation recommendations for Vietnamese Pheasant Lophura hatinhensis and Imperial Pheasant L. imperialis*. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, U.K.: IUCN Species Survival Commission.
3. BirdLife International and the Forest Inventory and Planning Institute (2001) *Sourcebook of existing and proposed protected areas in Vietnam*. Hanoi: BirdLife International Vietnam Programme and the Forest Inventory and Planning Institute.
4. Eames, J. C., Eve, R. and Tordoff, A. W. (2001) The importance of Vu Quang Nature Reserve for bird conservation, in the context of the Annamese Lowlands Endemic Bird Area. *Bird Conservation International* 11: 247-285.
5. MacKinnon, J. R. and Vu Van Dung (1992) *Draft management plan for Vu Quang Nature Reserve, Huong Khe district, Ha Tinh province, Vietnam*. Unpublished report to the Ministry of Forestry, Hanoi, Vietnam.
6. Eve, R., Madhavan, S., and Vu Van Dzung (2000) *Spatial planning for nature conservation in Vu Quang Nature Reserve: a landscape ecology approach*. Vu Quang Nature Reserve Conservation Project, WWF Indochina Program, Hanoi.



Grey-faced Tit Babbler *Macronous kelleyi*