

Copia Proposed Nature Reserve

Alternative site name(s)

None

Province(s)

Son La

Area

19,353 ha

Coordinates

21°17' - 21°25'N, 103°32' - 103°44'E

Agro-ecological zone

North-western

Decreed by government

No

Management board established

Yes

Investment plan prepared

Yes

VCF eligibility criteria met

B, C

Social screening criteria met

None

Conservation needs assessment prepared

No

Operational management plan prepared

No

Tracking tool completed

No

Map available

Yes

Management history

Copia is not included on any government decision or official set of proposals regarding the national Special-use Forests system (MARD 1997, FPD 2003). However, an investment plan to establish a 19,353 ha nature reserve at the site was prepared by Son La Provincial FPD in 2002 (Son La Provincial FPD 2002). Later in 2002, the investment plan was approved by Son La Provincial People's Committee, and a management board was established, following Decision No. 3440/QD-UB. The management board currently has 20 members of staff, based at four guard stations, and is under the management of Son La Provincial FPD (Nguyen Van Luan, Son La Provincial FPD *in litt.* 2002).

Topography and hydrology

Copia proposed nature reserve is located in Thuan Chau district, Son La province. The proposed nature reserve is centred on Mount Copia, a 1,800 m peak.

Biodiversity values

Copia proposed nature reserve supports around 12,000 ha of natural forest, mostly lower montane evergreen forest. There is little additional information available about the biodiversity values of the proposed nature reserve.

Conservation issues

The major threats to biodiversity at the proposed nature reserve are reported to be agricultural encroachment and hunting (S. Swan *in litt.* 2003). Little forest remains at lower elevations within the nature reserve, apparently as a result of clearance for shifting cultivation.

Other documented values

Son La Provincial FPD are considering developing the site for ecotourism, along the lines of Ba Vi and Tam Dao National Parks (S. Swan *in litt.* 2003).

Related projects

There exists a plan to implement a government-funded pilot rural development project at the site, focussing on sedentarised Hmong communities (S. Swan *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

Copia is ineligible for VCF support because it does not meet the criteria for supporting forest biodiversity of international importance.

Criterion	Eligibility
A _I	
A _{II}	
B _I	Proposed Special-use Forest
B _{II}	Nature Reserve
B _{III}	Under provincial management
C _I	Management board established
C _{II}	

Social screening requirements

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

Criterion	Eligibility
A	
B	
C	
D	

Literature sources

Son La Provincial FPD (2002) [Investment plan to protect and develop Copia Nature Reserve, Son La province]. Son La: Son La Provincial Forest Protection Department. In Vietnamese.