

CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE OF VETERBRATE FAUNA IN THAC TIEN – DEO GIO FOREST, HA GIANG PROVINCE

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SUMMARY

The survey on vertebrate fauna of Thac Tien – Deo Gio natural forest was carried out in April and May 2015. Traditional methods including interviews, transects, point counts, mist nets were used in this survey. The results of this survey show that there are 133 species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, belonging to 54 families and 14 orders recorded Thac Tien – Deo Gio natural forest. Of 133 recorded species, 28 species are threatened and have conservation priority, including Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*), King Cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*), Spotted Giant Flying Squirrel (*Petaurista elegans*), Burmese Python (*Python molurus*), and Yunna firebelly toad (*Bombina maxima*). Many wildlife species are locally extinct during recent years. The key threats to the wildlife fauna are hunting, agricultural cultivation, logging, and non-timber forest products collection. This suggests that the establishment of a nature reserve in this area and performing efforts to save the wildife of Thac Tien - Deo Gio natural forest is necessary and urgent.

Keywords: *Conservation, Deo Gio, endangered species, vertebrate, wildlife.*