Van Long Wetland Nature Reserve becomes Viet Nam’s newest Ramsar Site

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Viet Nam

Vietnam has designated Van Long Wetland Nature Reserve as a Wetland of International Importance, its ninth. Located on the northernmost tip of the Pu Luong-Cuc Phuong limestone mountain range, the Site (Ramsar Site no.2360) is one of the few intact lowland inland wetlands remaining in the Red River Delta. It is centred on a block of limestone karst outcrops that rise abruptly from the flat coastal plain of northern Vietnam.

The freshwater lake, marshes and swamps that surround the karst, together with subterranean hydrological systems, form a wetland complex that is very rare in the Indochinese Peninsula.

The limestone hills are famous for providing habitat for the critically endangered Delacour’s langur (Trachypithecus delacouri), one of the world’s 25 most endangered primates. The Site is home to more than half of the global population and is the only place where the species can be observed in the wild.

The Site is also an important refuge and breeding ground for a number of aquatic species, and a staging site for waterbirds. It provides important ecosystem services for the surrounding communities, including its aquatic and agricultural resources, its water regulation and its scenic beauty for recreation and ecotourism.

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