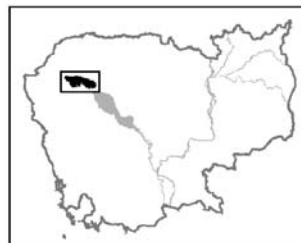


Preah Net Preah/Kra Lanh/Pourk

Criteria A1, A3 & A4i

Province(s):	Banteay Meanchey and Siem Reap
District(s):	Kra Lanh, Pourk and Preah Net Preah
Area (ha):	69,570
Altitude (m asl):	4 to 12
Central coordinates:	13°26'N 103°26'E

**General description**

The IBA is located in the north-western part of the Tonle Sap floodplain, and comprises a substantial area of seasonally inundated grassland and scrub. This includes, in the south-east of the IBA, an area reportedly dominated by Wild Rice *Oryza rufipogon*, in mosaic with tall scrub and flooded forest, similar to that found at Veal Srongae IBA (KH020). In recent years, these habitats have been increasingly converted to deepwater and recession rice, reducing and fragmenting the key habitats at the IBA. The IBA is an important dry season breeding area for Bengal Florican *Houbaropsis bengalensis*, which occurs in areas of seasonally inundated grassland throughout. In addition, several other globally threatened and near-threatened species have been seasonally recorded at the IBA in small numbers, including Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*, Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* and Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis*.

Key bird species

Common name	Scientific name	IBA criteria
Bengal Florican	<i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>	A1
Sarus Crane	<i>Grus antigone</i>	A1
Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>	A1
Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	A1
Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	A1
Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	A1 A4i
Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	A1 A4i
Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	A1

Biome restricted species

One species is restricted to the Indo-Gangetic Plains (see Appendix 4).

Threats to biodiversity

Hunting of waterbirds and Bengal Florican, chiefly by poisoning and trapping, is an ongoing threat; much of this hunting is for sale in local markets. In the wet season, local people also apparently use fish-hooks to catch large waterbirds. A more recent threat, which is of major concern, is the extensive conversion of grasslands to deepwater rice in south-eastern Banteay Meanchey and western Siem Reap provinces. This is rapidly reducing available breeding habitat for Bengal Florican. Associated disturbance from agricultural activities (e.g. ploughing) and grazing of large herds of domestic livestock probably further reduces Bengal Florican breeding success. Finally, children use catapults to scare or kill birds when they are in the fields with their cattle.

Recommendations

- Law enforcement and community awareness activities should be initiated based on the successful model at Stung Sen/Santuk/Baray IBA (KH021). These should focus on controlling the hunting and trade of key species, particularly Bengal Florican and large waterbirds, and the potential benefits to local communities.
- Further research should be carried out on the relative ecological roles of the seasonally flooded grasslands and deepwater rice areas, particularly with regard to the conservation of Bengal Florican.
- Any further agricultural development, particularly expansion of deepwater rice, should not be undertaken without a full environmental impact assessment and a proper understanding, based on the above, of the potential effects of conversion of the semi-natural ecosystems to agriculture.

References

Pech Bunnat (2002) *Field survey of eastern Tonle Sap in Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey Provinces*. Unpublished report to the Wildlife Conservation Society Cambodia Program and the BirdLife International Vietnam Programme.