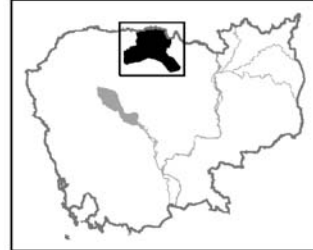


Upper Stung Sen Catchment

Criteria A1 & A4i

Province(s):	Preah Vihear and Siem Reap
District(s):	Chom Khsan, Kulen, Tbeng Meanchey, Chey Sen and Svay Leu
Area (ha):	533,748
Altitude (m asl):	36 to 802
Central coordinates:	14°00'N 104°44'E

**General description**

The IBA comprises the catchment of the upper Stung Sen river. The vegetation of the IBA is dominated by open deciduous dipterocarp forest (grading into mixed deciduous and semi-evergreen forest in the west), permanent and seasonal wetlands and grasslands. Much of the IBA is a floodplain and in the wet season, is inundated, while in the dry season, water is restricted to a few permanent watercourses (the Stung Sen river and its larger tributaries) and pools. Along these watercourses, semi-evergreen forest and thick bamboo forest are distributed. Much of the IBA is located within Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary. The IBA supports one of the few breeding colonies of Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* remaining outside of the Tonle Sap Lake floodplain. In addition, the IBA is an important breeding site for Sarus Crane *Grus antigone* and Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*. Furthermore, a number of other globally threatened and near-threatened species have been recorded at the site, including Giant Ibis *Pseudibis gigantea*, White-shouldered Ibis *Pseudibis davisoni*, Greater Adjutant *Leptoptilos dubius*, Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* and Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*.

Key bird species

Common name	Scientific name	IBA criteria
Green Peafowl	<i>Pavo muticus</i>	A1
Sarus Crane	<i>Grus antigone</i>	A1
Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>	A1
Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	A1
Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	A1
Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	A1
Giant Ibis	<i>Pseudibis gigantea</i>	A1 A4i
White-shouldered Ibis	<i>Pseudibis davisoni</i>	A1
Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	A1
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	A1
Greater Adjutant	<i>L. dubius</i>	A1
Asian Golden Weaver	<i>Ploceus hypoxanthus</i>	A1

Biome restricted species

Four species are restricted the Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry Zone (see Appendix 4).

Globally threatened primate species

Slow Loris *Nycticebus coucang*, Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca nemestrina*, Long-tailed Macaque *M. fascicularis*, Silvered Langur *Semnopithecus cristatus* and Pileated Gibbon *Hylobates pileatus*.

Globally threatened elephant and ungulate species

Eld's Deer *Cervus eldii*, Gaur *Bos gaurus* and Banteng *B. javanicus*.

Globally threatened turtle and crocodile species

Asian Box Turtle *Cuora amboinensis*, Giant Asian Pond Turtle *Heosemys grandis*, Yellow-headed Temple Turtle *Hieremys annandalii*, Elongated Tortoise *Indotestudo elongata* and Asiatic Softshell Turtle *Amyda cartilaginea*.

Threats to biodiversity

There are numerous permanent human settlements within the IBA, some large, including the provincial town of Tbeng Meanchey, the district town of Chom Khsan, and Phum Takang resettlement village, which was established in 1999. For at least the last two years, local people from Phum Takang village have collected eggs and chicks from the Darter colony within the IBA. All large waterbirds breeding at the IBA face similar anthropogenic threats, especially the ground-nesting Sarus Crane, for which there is a high demand from the wildlife trade in Thailand. Major potential future threats to biodiversity at the IBA include human in-migration, provincial road development plans, and associated agricultural expansion and increased hunting pressure.

Recommendations

- Mapping of key wetlands, breeding areas of key species and human presence throughout the IBA should be carried out. This will require further surveys and should be used to inform conservation planning.
- A conservation planning process should be initiated with the wildlife sanctuary authorities and other relevant provincial government bodies, based on the results of the mapping exercise. Efforts should be made to incorporate the results of the mapping exercise into provincial and national development plans.
- A needs assessment of the wildlife sanctuary and its staff should be conducted, in order that capacity may be strengthened appropriately and efficiently.
- Current ranger patrolling and enforcement initiatives in Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary should be continued and increased to cover all important areas. Activities should focus on the control of illegal fishing methods, egg collection and the conversion or degradation of riverine habitats.
- The pilot site support group initiative to protect the Darter colony should be further supported and potentially expanded.
- Immigration into and illegal settlement and land encroachment within Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary should be prevented, especially the planned resettlement of former military personnel.

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