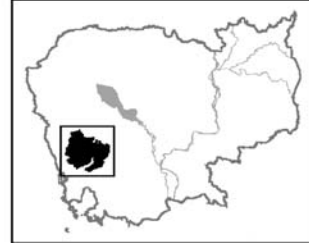


Central Cardamoms

Criteria A1 & A2

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Province(s): | Pursat, Kompong Speu and Kong Kong |
| District(s): | Kravanh, Aural, Veal Veng and Thmar Baing |
| Area (ha): | 385,362 |
| Altitude (m asl): | 350 to 1,539 |
| Central coordinates: | 11°53'N 103°32'E |



General description

The IBA is located in the Cardamom Mountains, between Phnom Samkos (KH012) and Phnom Aural IBAs (KH014). The IBA comprises all areas of evergreen and semi-evergreen forest in the central Cardamom Mountains above 400 m asl, which is thought to be the lower altitudinal limit of Chestnut-headed Partridge *Arborophila cambodiana*. The topography of the IBA is mountainous, although maximum elevations are lower than within the adjacent IBAs. The vegetation of the IBA is dominated by lowland evergreen forest, with hill evergreen forest above 1,000 m asl. The IBA supports Chestnut-headed Partridge one of the two restricted-range species found in the Cambodia-Thailand Mountains Endemic Bird Area. Furthermore, the large expanses of relatively intact lowland evergreen forest within the IBA make it a potentially important site for the conservation of Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis*. Historically both White-winged Duck *Cairina scutulata* and White-shouldered Ibis *Pseudibis davisoni* were recorded along rivers within the IBA in 1944, but their current status is unknown. Most of the IBA is included within the Central Cardamoms Protected Forest.

Key bird species

| Common name | Scientific name | IBA criteria |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Chestnut-headed Partridge | <i>Arborophila cambodiana</i> | A1 A2 |
| Great Hornbill | <i>Buceros bicornis</i> | A1 |

Biome restricted species

One species is restricted to the Sino-Himalayan Subtropical Forests (see Appendix 4).

Globally threatened primate species

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

Globally threatened elephant and ungulate species

Asian Elephant *Elephas maximus*, Gaur *Bos gaurus* and Southern Serow *Naemorhedus sumatraensis*.

Globally threatened turtle and crocodile species

Siamese Crocodile *Crocodylus siamensis*, and Impressed Tortoise *Manouria impressa* and Asiatic Softshell Turtle *Amyda cartilaginea*.

Threats to biodiversity

The construction of new roads and logging roads is facilitating access to the area for returning refugees and, particularly in the lowland areas, forest is being converted to agriculture. Hunting, often linked with new roads and increasing access, is also a problem. Much hunting is for local consumption, and linked to the collection of agarwood (from *Aquilaria* sp.). However, hunting for trade, particularly from Thailand, is thought to be increasing.

Recommendations

- Law enforcement on the crackdown of wildlife hunting, trade and illegal logging should be strengthened in the whole Cardamom Mountains.
- Any development in the area without biodiversity impact assessment is to be prohibited or stopped.

- Land encroachment and forest clearance for agricultural purposes should be discouraged.

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