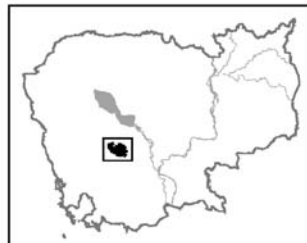


Phnom Aural

Criteria A1, A2 & A3

Province(s):	Pursat, Kampong Speu and Kampong Chhnang
District(s):	Kravanh, Aural and Tuk Phos
Area (ha):	50,085
Altitude (m asl):	340 to 1,756
Central coordinates:	12°03'N 104°09'E



General description

The IBA is located within Phnom Aural Wildlife Sanctuary in the Cardamom Mountains. The IBA comprises all areas of evergreen and semi-evergreen forest 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 dominated by Phnom Aural, which, at around 1,800 m asl, is Cambodia's highest mountain. At elevations below 1,200 m asl, the vegetation of the IBA is dominated by lowland evergreen forest. Elevations between 1,200 and 1,500 m asl support lower montane evergreen forest, while elevations above 1,500 m asl support upper montane evergreen forest. The IBA supports both restricted-range species found in the Cambodia-Thailand-Mountains Endemic Bird Area: Chestnut-headed Partridge and Cambodian Laughingthrush *Garrulax ferrarius*.

Key bird species

Common name	Scientific name	IBA criteria
Chestnut-headed Partridge	<i>Arborophila cambodiana</i>	A1 A2
Siamese Fireback	<i>L. diardi</i>	A1
Great Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>	A1
Cambodian Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax ferrarius</i>	A2

Biome restricted species

Twelve species are restricted to the Sino-Himalayan Subtropical Forests and four to the Indochinese Tropical Moist Forests (see Appendix 4).

Globally threatened primate species

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

Globally threatened elephant and ungulate species

Asian Elephant *Elephas maximus*, Gaur *Bos gaurus*.

Threats to biodiversity

Within the IBA, hunting pressure on bird populations appears to be relatively low, and largely restricted to the snaring of ground birds, such as Chestnut-headed Partridge, Silver Pheasant *Lophura nycthemera* and Coral-billed Ground Cuckoo *Carpococcyx renauldi*, for domestic consumption. Such snaring is mainly conducted by agarwood collectors. Another potential threat to biodiversity is selective logging, which can lead to habitat degradation and loss. This threat is, however, currently low, since no large-scale, commercial logging is taking place within the IBA, and small-scale, illegal logging is on the decline.

Recommendations

- Current ranger patrolling and enforcement initiatives in Phnom Aural Wildlife Sanctuary focused on illegal activities (hunting and logging) should be continued and increased to cover all important areas.

References

Swan, S. R. and Long, B. (2002) Birds. In J. C. Daltry ed. *Social and ecological surveys of Phnom Aural Wildlife Sanctuary, Cardamom mountains, Cambodia*. Phnom Penh: Fauna & Flora International Cambodia Programme.