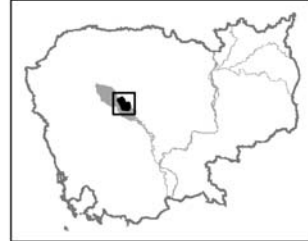


Boeung Chhmar / Moat Khla

Criteria A1, A4i & A4iii

Province(s):	Kampong Thom and Siem Reap
District(s):	Stung, Chi Kren and Sotr Nikum
Area (ha):	39,405
Altitude (m asl):	4 to 10
Central coordinates:	12°51'N 104°14'E



General description

The IBA comprises of the open wetlands and swamp forest of the Boeung Chhmar Core Area of Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve and the adjacent Moat Khla area to the north. Boeung Chhmar is a permanent, 4,000 ha lake, surrounded by flooded swamp forest, comprising tall (7-15 m high) gallery forest and fairly homogeneous stands of short (2-4 m high) trees and scrub. Boeung Chhmar is linked to Tonle Sap Lake by a maze of channels and streams. Moat Khla is an area of flooded swamp forest, characterised by a dense network of interconnected channels and shallow creeks, running parallel to the lakeshore, bordered by tall (7-15 m high) gallery forest, dominated by *Barringtonia acutangula* and *Diospyros cambodiana*. Boeung Chhmar has been designated as a Ramsar site.

Boeung Chhmar is clearly one of the important feeding sites for large waterbirds in Cambodia, particularly in the post-breeding period, and regularly supports significant numbers of Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis*, Indian Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*, Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala* and Greater Adjutant *Leptoptilos dubius*. In addition, Masked Finfoot *Heliopais personata* has been recorded at Moat Khla.

Key bird species

Common name	Scientific name	IBA criteria	
Masked Finfoot	<i>Heliopais personata</i>	A1	
Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>	A1	
Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	A1	A4i
Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>		A4i
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	A4i
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	A1	
Greater Adjutant	<i>L. dubius</i>	A1	A4i

Biome restricted species

One species is restricted to the Indochinese Tropical Moist Forests (see Appendix 4).

Globally threatened primate species

Long-tailed Macaque *Macaca fascicularis* and Silvered Langur *Semnopithecus cristatus*.

Globally threatened turtle and crocodile species

Siamese Crocodile *Crocodylus siamensis*, Asian Box Turtle *Cuora amboinensis*, Yellow-headed Temple Turtle *Hieremys annandalii*, Malayan Snail-eating Turtle *Malayemys subtrijuga* and Asiatic Softshell Turtle *Amyda cartilaginea*.

Threats to biodiversity

Over-exploitation is the biggest threat to biodiversity at the IBA. There are two floating villages within the IBA, and local people hunt birds and collect eggs and chicks opportunistically while engaged in fishing and other activities. These activities are a particular threat to birds that breed at the IBA. Additional threats to biodiversity at the IBA include cutting of trees for firewood and clearance of forest for agriculture, although the impacts of these threats are currently limited.

Recommendations

- Enforcement activities should be undertaken by appropriate government personnel to control illegal hunting and fishing activities, particularly in the Boeung Chhma Core Area.
- Further surveys should be carried out to identify any, as yet undocumented, breeding colonies, particularly of Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* in the wet season and adjutants *Leptoptilos* spp. in the dry season.
- Further research and surveys are also required to better understand key post-breeding areas.
- If appropriate, a community-based conservation programme, based on the successful model at Prek Toal IBA (KH003), should be initiated, in order to protect key areas for breeding or feeding.
- An environmental education programme should be initiated, based on the successful model at Prek Toal IBA (KH003). This should work with both adults and children but, in particular, through the local schools throughout the IBA.

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