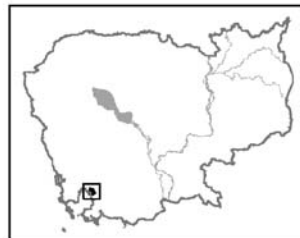


Sre Ambel

Criteria A1

Province(s):	Koh Kong
District(s):	Sre Ambel
Area (ha):	8,068
Altitude (m asl):	0 to 16
Central coordinates:	11°06'N 103°41'E



General description

The IBA is comprised of the estuary of the Sre Ambel River, and the associated wetland habitats. The vegetation of the IBA comprises an area of intertidal mudflats and mangrove, backed by an extensive area of *Melaleuca* swamp, which contains numerous small wetlands. Although the IBA has received little recent ornithological study, a range of large waterbirds in small numbers, including Milky Stork *Mycteria cinerea*, Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*, Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*, Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* and Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*. Perhaps most notably, the IBA supports a small non-breeding population of Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*. In addition, there are historical records of both Giant and White-shouldered Ibises *Pseudibis gigantea* and *P. davisoni* from what is believed to be the general vicinity of the IBA, although there are no recent records. The IBA is included within Dong Peng Multiple Use Area, designated under the 1993 Royal Decree on Protected Areas.

Key bird species

Common name	Scientific name	IBA criteria
Sarus Crane	<i>Grus antigone</i>	A1
Milky Stork	<i>Mycteria cinerea</i>	A1
Painted Stork	<i>M. leucocephala</i>	A1
Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	A1
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	A1
Asian Golden Weaver	<i>Ploceus hypoxanthus</i>	A1

Globally threatened primate species

Long-tailed Macaque *Macaca fascicularis*.

Globally threatened turtle and crocodile species

Mangrove Terrapin *Batagur baska*.

Threats to biodiversity

Perhaps the major threat to biodiversity at the IBA is conversion of natural habitat to agriculture. Significant parts of the *Melaleuca* swamp have already been converted to agriculture, and the wetlands within the swamp appear to be a particular focus for conversion. This is a severe threat to Sarus Crane, which is dependent upon seasonally inundated grasslands. In addition, cutting of *Melaleuca*, and, to a lesser (nonetheless significant) extent, mangrove, is taking place for pole and charcoal production.

Recommendations

- Further surveys need to be carried out focusing on identifying important sites for large waterbirds within the remaining areas of lowland coastal (mangrove and *Melaleuca*) forest and wetlands.
- Patrolling should be initiated within the Dong Peng Multiple Use Area to control illegal cutting and clearance of mangrove and *Melaleuca* and hunting of large waterbirds.
- An assessment should be carried out of the feasibility of including large waterbird conservation in the on-going initiative (education, awareness and enforcement) to protect Mangrove Terrapin.

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