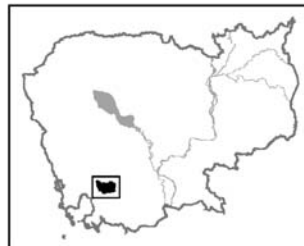


Kirirom

Criteria A1 & A3

Province(s):	Koh Kong and Kampong Speu
District(s):	Sre Ambel, Kampong Seila and Phnom Sruoch
Area (ha):	52,783
Altitude (m asl):	360 to 943
Central coordinates:	11°18'N 103°57'E

**General description**

The IBA comprises of Kirirom National Park, together with a contiguous area of natural habitat to the west. The topography of the national park is dominated by a low massif, which rises sharply from the surrounding, densely populated lowlands to 960 m asl. The most extensive vegetation type within the national park is natural coniferous forest dominated by *Pinus merkusii* and with an open, grassy understorey, which is distributed on an undulating plateau, at approximately 700 m asl. The national park also supports semi-evergreen forest, and, at lower elevations, mixed deciduous forest and deciduous dipterocarp forest. There are many small streams within the national park and several artificial lakes but no major rivers. The contiguous area of natural habitat to the west of the national park is within a forest concession, under the management of Samling International. This area comprises extensive semi-evergreen forest with smaller patches of coniferous forest, distributed on a series of steep hills, which rise to over 800 m asl. The area is drained by a number of small streams, which feed two larger rivers.

As a result of unsustainable hunting pressure, the avifauna of the IBA is less intact than that of a number of other sites in the Elephant and Cardamom Mountains. However, the IBA is the only site in Cambodia from where there are records of Brown Hornbill *Anorrhinus tickelli* and one of the few confirmed sites for Lesser Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga humilis* which occurs along the rivers in the area to the west of the national park. There are unconfirmed records of Chestnut-headed Partridge *Arborophila cambodiana* (calling birds and hunted birds in trade) and both Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus* and Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis* have occurred in the area in recent years, but maybe now locally extinct due to hunting. Due to its proximity to Phnom Penh and easy access, the IBA has great potential for conservation awareness and education programmes.

Key bird species

Common name	Scientific name	IBA criteria
Brown Hornbill	<i>Anorrhinus tickelli</i>	A1
Lesser Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga humilis</i>	A1

Biome restricted species

Six species are restricted to the Sino-Himalayan Subtropical Forests, five to the Indochinese Tropical Moist Forests and seven to 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*, 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

Elongated Tortoise *Indotestudo elongata*.

Globally threatened gymnosperm species

Pinus merkusii.

Threats to biodiversity

Almost all areas of natural habitat within the IBA have been degraded to some extent by former and on-going human activities. A road was built to the summit of Kirirom during the French colonial period and holiday resorts and a tea plantation were established there. The semi-evergreen forest within the IBA has been severely affected by commercial timber extraction, both legal and illegal. Hunting is another threat to biodiversity at the IBA, and has resulted in the eradication of a number of species, including Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus* and Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis*. Furthermore, the forest around the edges of the IBA is being encroached by illegal settlers, who convert forest to agricultural land.

Recommendations

- Current ranger patrolling and enforcement initiatives in Kirirom National Park focused on illegal activities (hunting and logging) should be continued and increased to cover all important areas.
- In the area under forest concession, critical areas for key species should be designated in the concession management plan as special protection areas for biodiversity conservation, in order to ensure that they are not logged or disturbed.
- On-going education and awareness initiatives focusing on day visitors from Phnom Penh should be expanded and bird conservation issues should be highlighted.

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