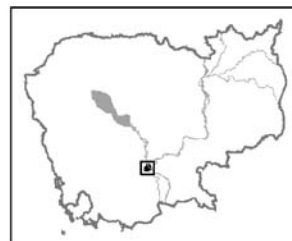


Basset Marsh

Criteria A1

Province(s):	Kandal and Phnom Penh
District(s):	Ponhealou Ang Snoul and Dangkao
Area (ha):	2,770
Altitude (m asl):	4 to 10
Central coordinates:	11°39'N 104°50'E



General description

The IBA comprises of Basset Marsh, a permanent lake located along Road No. 5, about 12 km north of Phnom Penh. The areas surrounding the lake become inundated when the Tonle Sap River floods during the wet season, and thus support extensive marshes. These marshes are surrounded by agricultural land, mainly rice. Small numbers of Spot-billed Pelicans *Pelecanus philippensis* are regular in the wet season and Darters *Anhinga melanogaster* are also regular. The IBA is the only known site thus far in Cambodia where River Tern *Sterna aurantia* has been recorded away from the upper Mekong in the wet season. Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus* has also been recorded once and is probably no more than an irregular visitor. 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
Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	A1
Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	A1
Asian Golden Weaver	<i>Ploceus hypoxanthus</i>	A1

Threats to biodiversity

There are many villages located close to the IBA, and the activities of local people generate a high level of disturbance to bird populations. Increasing human population and development is resulting in the destruction of wetland habitat through land-filling for construction.

Recommendations

- The potential of the area for the implementation of education and awareness initiatives for day visitors from Phnom Penh should be assessed. This could focus on the visiting waterbirds, especially Spot-billed Pelicans, and could potentially be carried out in conjunction with one of the local pagodas.

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