

## Ke Go

Criteria: A1, A2 &amp; A3

**Province(s):** Ha Tinh  
**PA Status:** Nature Reserve

**Latitude:** 18°05'N  
**Longitude:** 105°59'E  
**Area:** 24,801 ha  
**Altitude Range:** 50-497 m asl

**EBA / SA:**

Annamese Low lands EBA

**Priority Landscape:**

NA5 - Ke Go and Khe Net Low lands

**General Description**

The IBA comprises Ke Go Nature Reserve, which is situated within the Annamese lowlands. The topography of the IBA is dominated by a range of gently undulating hills, at elevations below 300 m asl, which support an extensive area of lowland evergreen forest. Almost all the forest has been logged at some stage, and undisturbed primary forest is virtually absent. The IBA includes Ke Go lake, a man-made reservoir. To the south, Ke Go IBA is contiguous with Khe Net IBA in Quang Binh province<sup>1</sup>.

**Bird Fauna: Key Features**

Ke Go IBA is situated in the Annamese Lowlands Endemic Bird Area (EBA) and supports populations of five restricted-range bird species: Vietnamese Pheasant *Lophura hatinhensis*, Imperial Pheasant *L. imperialis*, Crested Argus *Rheinardia ocellata*, Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler *Jabouilleia danjoui* and Grey-faced Tit Babbler *Macronous kelleyi*. Of greatest significance, Ke Go IBA, together with the contiguous Khe Net IBA, supports the only known wild population of Vietnamese Pheasant in the world.

Species	IBA Criteria	Global Threat Status	Other IBAs	Notes
Vietnamese Pheasant <i>Lophura hatinhensis</i>	A1, A2	EN	1	In early 1990, one male was trapped to the north-west of Cat Bin town, and 11 males and two females were trapped in forest up to 12 km west of the town. In addition, one male was trapped by rattan collectors at Rao Cai in January 1997 <sup>2</sup> .
† White-winged Duck <i>Cairina scutulata</i>	A1	EN	2	A pair and a single individual were recorded on separate occasions flying over Ke Go lake in May 1993 <sup>3</sup> . The site is unlikely to regularly support a significant population of this species.
Crested Argus <i>Rheinardia ocellata</i>	A1, A2	VU	15	During 1994, the species was regularly heard and a single male was observed in closed canopy forest on ridge tops <sup>4</sup> .
Chestnut-necklaced Partridge <i>Arborophila charltonii</i>	A1	NT	7	Three individuals were trapped in snares set near Ke Go lake in 1994 <sup>4</sup> . The species was also recorded between April and August 1995 <sup>2</sup> .
Siamese Fireback <i>Lophura diardi</i>	A1, A3	NT	13	The species was recorded between April and August 1995 <sup>2</sup> .
Red-collared Woodpecker <i>Picus rabieri</i>	A1, A3	NT	11	The species was recorded in 1994, when it was considered to be 'relatively common' <sup>4</sup> .
Great Hornbill <i>Buceros bicornis</i>	A1	NT	13	The species was observed at Ke Go in June-July 1994 <sup>4</sup> .
Brown Hornbill <i>Anorrhinus tickelli</i>	A1, A3	NT	16	The species was recorded in 1994 <sup>4</sup> .
Blyth's Kingfisher <i>Alcedo hercules</i>	A1, A3	NT	8	The species was recorded along forested streams in 1994 <sup>4</sup> .
Lesser Fish Eagle <i>Ichthyophaga humilis</i>	A1	NT	6	A single bird was recorded in June 1995 <sup>3</sup> .

Species	IBA Criteria	Global Threat Status	Other IBAs	Notes
Grey-headed Fish Eagle <i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>	A1	NT	8	The species was recorded at Ke Go between April and August 1995 <sup>2</sup> .
Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler <i>Jabouilleia danjoui</i>	A1, A2	NT	17	In 1994, the species was observed only in taller, selectively logged forest, outside of the Ke Go lake catchment, where it appeared 'rare' <sup>4</sup> .
Imperial Pheasant <i>Lophura imperialis</i>	A1, A2	DD	2	In February 1990, an immature male was trapped by rattan collectors 12 km to the west of Cat Bin <sup>5</sup> . While the precise locality is not certain, it appears to lie on the border between Ke Go Nature Reserve and Khe Net proposed nature reserve.
Grey-faced Tit Babbler <i>Macronous kelleyi</i>	A2		12	In 1994, the species was observed only in taller, selectively logged forest, outside of the Ke Go lake catchment, where it appeared 'rare' <sup>4</sup> .

Notes: † = not confirmed to regularly occur in significant numbers.

**Biome Restricted Species:** The site qualifies under criterion A3 because it supports 27 species restricted to the Sino-Himalayan Subtropical Forests (Biome 08) and 20 species restricted to the Indochinese Tropical Moist Forests (Biome 09). See Appendix 4 for details.

### Secondary Criteria

Species	Status	Species	Status
[Northern Slow Loris <i>Nycticebus bengalensis</i> ] <sup>2</sup>	DD	Chinese Striped-necked Turtle <i>Ocadia sinensis</i> <sup>6</sup>	EN
Northern Pigtail Macaque <i>Macaca leonina</i> <sup>2</sup>	VU	Keeled Box Turtle <i>Pyxidea mouhotii</i> <sup>6</sup>	EN
[Assamese Macaque <i>Macaca assamensis</i> ] <sup>2</sup>	VU	Four-eyed Turtle <i>Sacalia quadriocellata</i> <sup>6</sup>	EN
[Rhesus Macaque <i>Macaca mulatta</i> ] <sup>2</sup>	NT	Elongated Tortoise <i>Indotestudo elongata</i> <sup>6</sup>	EN
Stump-tailed Macaque <i>Macaca arctoides</i> <sup>2</sup>	VU	Wattle-necked Softshell Turtle <i>Palea steindachneri</i> <sup>6</sup>	EN
[Red-shanked Douc <i>Pygathrix nemaeus nemaeus</i> ] <sup>2</sup>	EN	Chinese Softshell Turtle <i>Pelodiscus sinensis</i> <sup>6</sup>	VU
White-cheeked Gibbon <i>Nomascus leucogenys</i> <sup>2</sup>	DD	<i>Podocarpus neriifolius</i> <sup>2</sup>	DD
Big-headed Turtle <i>Platysternon megacephalum</i> <sup>6</sup>	EN	*Asian Elephant <i>Elephas maximus</i> <sup>2</sup>	EN
Indochinese Box Turtle <i>Cuora galbinifrons</i> <sup>6</sup>	CR	[Gaur <i>Bos gaurus</i> ] <sup>2</sup>	VU
Asian Leaf Turtle <i>Cyclemys dentata</i> <sup>6</sup>	NT	[Southern Serow <i>Naemorhedus sumatraensis</i> ] <sup>2</sup>	VU
Asian Yellow Pond Turtle <i>Mauremys mutica</i> <sup>6</sup>	EN		

Notes: [ ] = unconfirmed record; \* = believed to be locally extinct<sup>2</sup>.

### Threats to Biodiversity

The inhabitants of the buffer zone of Ke Go Nature Reserve mainly belong to the Kinh ethnic group. Around half the households in the buffer zone supplement their incomes through the exploitation of forest resources. Fragrant oil distillation is a particularly severe threat to biodiversity at Ke Go, as the process requires large quantities of firewood. Small-scale timber extraction also contributes to forest degradation<sup>2</sup>.

Perhaps the biggest threat to biodiversity at Ke Go is hunting, which plays an important role in the local economy. Despite declining mammal and bird populations, hunting pressure remains high, partly in response to demand from the wildlife trade. Most significantly for the populations of key bird species at Ke Go, the use of non-specific hunting methods, such as traps and snares, threatens ground birds, such as Vietnamese Pheasant and Crested Argus<sup>2</sup>.

Threat	Severity
Hunting	• •
Selective logging / cutting	• •

### Conservation Actions

- Prior to the establishment of the Ke Go Nature Reserve, the Centre for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, Ky Anh District People's Committee and Ha Tinh Provincial Department of Science, Technology and Environment implemented a project to protect the Gat Che Me area in the east of the IBA<sup>1</sup>.
- Ke Go was decreed as a nature reserve by the government of Vietnam in 1996, and a management board was established in 1997<sup>1</sup>.
- In 1996, with funding from the Danish Embassy in Hanoi, BirdLife and Oxfam UK-Ireland implemented a one-year environmental education project, in collaboration with Ky Anh District Department of Education and Training<sup>1</sup>.

- Between 1997 and 1999, with funding from the British Birdwatching Fair, BirdLife International implemented a project entitled the *Ke Go Forest Project*, the activities of which included construction of two guard stations, provision of motorbikes and other equipment, and training for nature reserve staff<sup>1</sup>.
- In 1998, with funding from the Netherlands Government and technical support from IUCN, the Forest Science Institute of Vietnam initiated a project entitled *Sustainable Utilisation of Non-timber Forest Products at Ke Go Nature Reserve*<sup>1</sup>.
- In 2002, BirdLife International, in collaboration with Ha Tinh Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development propose to begin implementing a Danida-funded integrated conservation and development project entitled *Sustainable Management of the Ke Go Nature Reserve*.

### **Recommendations**

- The capacity of the management board of Ke Go Nature Reserve should be strengthened.
- Forest management regulations regarding hunting and exploitation of timber and non-timber forest products should be effectively enforced.
- Mechanisms for community-based natural resource management should be developed and piloted in the buffer zone of the nature reserve.
- Activities should be implemented to raise awareness among local communities of the values of Ke Go, and to promote sustainable use of natural resources.
- Opportunities for collaboration in forest management between the management boards of Ke Go Nature Reserve and Khe Net proposed nature reserve should be sought.
- The taxonomic status of Vietnamese Pheasant and Imperial Pheasant should be reviewed, as this is likely to affect the global conservation importance of the IBA.

### **References**

1. BirdLife International and the Forest Inventory and Planning Institute (2001) *Sourcebook of existing and proposed protected areas in Vietnam*. Hanoi: BirdLife International Vietnam Programme and the Forest Inventory and Planning Institute.
2. Le Trong Trai, Nguyen Huy Dung, Nguyen Cu, Le Van Cham, Eames, J. C. and Chicoine, G. (1999) *An investment plan for Ke Go Nature Reserve, Ha Tinh province, Vietnam: a contribution to the management plan*. Hanoi: BirdLife International Vietnam Programme and the Forest Inventory and Planning Institute.
3. Eames, J. C. and Tordoff, A. W. (in prep) Recent records and a conservation status review of some threatened and near-threatened bird species in Vietnam.
4. Eames, J. C., Lambert, F. R. and Nguyen Cu (1994) A survey of the Annamese lowlands, Vietnam and its implications for the conservation of Vietnamese and Imperial Pheasants *Lophura hatinhensis* and *L. imperialis*. *Birdlife Conservation International* 4(4): 343-382.
5. Robson, C. R., Eames, J. C., Newman, M., Nguyen Cu and Truong Van La (1990) *Forest bird surveys in Vietnam 1989/90: final report*. Unpublished report to the International Council for Bird Preservation
6. Zeigler, T. (2000) *Studies on the herpetofauna of a lowland humid forest protected area in the south of northern Vietnam*. Unpublished dissertation: Rheinischcn Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universitat Bonn, Germany. (In German).



Vietnamese Pheasant *Lophura hatinhensis*