

4. Site accounts

This chapter presents site accounts for each of the 63 IBAs selected in Vietnam. Site accounts are arranged in the order that the IBAs were entered onto Vietnam's IBA database; a full list can be found in the Table of Contents. Each site account contains the following sections:

4.1 Heading

IBA code. A unique code is given for each IBA. Codes for Vietnamese IBAs are prefixed with the letters VN, and comprise VN001 to VN063 inclusive.

IBA name. The name of the IBA is given. In cases where the IBA boundaries coincide with those of a protected area, the protected area name given in the *Sourcebook of Existing and Proposed Protected Areas in Vietnam*¹ is used. In cases where the IBA includes only part of a protected area or parts of two protected areas, a name based on a prominent geographical feature or a protected area sector is used. In cases where the IBA does not include part of a protected area, the most widely used name for the site is used, often this is the name given in technical reports about the site in question.

Criteria. The IBA criteria that the site qualifies under are listed.

Province. The province(s) or city in which the IBA is located is/are listed.

PA status. For IBAs that are partly or wholly included within a decreed protected area, following the *Sourcebook of Existing and Proposed Protected Areas in Vietnam*¹, the protected area category is given. In cases where the protected area has been upgraded from nature reserve to national park since the publication of the sourcebook, the new category is used.

Latitude and longitude. The coordinates of the central point of the IBA are given, to the nearest minute.

Area. The area of the IBA is given in hectares. For some IBAs, the precise boundaries have not yet been defined, and the area given is only approximate; such cases are indicated in the general description.

Altitude range. The approximate altitudinal range of the IBA is given in metres above sea level. The approximate range is derived from Department of Cartography 1:250,000 topographical maps.

EBA/SA. For IBAs situated within an Endemic Bird Area (EBA) or Secondary Area (SA), the name of the EBA or SA is given.

Priority landscape. For IBAs situated within priority landscapes for biodiversity conservation in the Forests of the Lower Mekong Ecoregion Complex (FLMEC), as defined by WWF², the name of the priority landscape is given.

4.2 General description

The general description contains summary information on location, boundaries, topography, vegetation, ecology and current management of the IBA. Not all this information is available for every IBA; where information is lacking, this is indicated. The information is compiled from a number of sources, referenced in the text.

4.3 Bird fauna

Key features. The key features of the bird fauna of the IBA are briefly summarised. This section concentrates on the significance of the site for bird conservation, in particular the reasons why the site was selected as an IBA, but also includes features of the bird fauna of national or regional significance that did not contribute to the site's selection as an IBA.

Species table. The species table lists all category A1 (globally threatened), category A2 (restricted-range) and category A4 (congregatory) bird species recorded at the IBA since April 1988. For each species, the common and scientific names are given, together with the IBA criteria that the species meets, the global threat status of the species according to *Threatened Birds of Asia*³, and the number of other IBAs at which the species is confirmed to regularly occur in significant numbers. In addition, a brief summary of the evidence on which each species's occurrence at the IBA is based is given in the notes section. In every case, the source(s) of information is/are given.

Finally, species whose occurrence at the IBA is unconfirmed are placed in square brackets [], while species confirmed to occur but not regularly in significant numbers are marked with a sword †.

Biome-restricted species. If the site qualifies as an IBA under criterion A3 (biome-restricted species), a brief summary of the biome-restricted species at the site is given. Because, for many IBAs, the number of biome-restricted species is very large, the full list is given in Appendix 4, not in the site account.

4.4 Secondary criteria

The secondary category taxa (primates, crocodiles, turtles, gymnosperms, elephant and ungulates) of which the IBA is believed to hold a viable population are listed, together with the global threat status according to the *2000 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*⁴. Taxa whose occurrence at the IBA is unconfirmed are placed in square brackets [], while taxa believed to be possibly extinct at the IBA are marked with an asterisk *. Information on secondary category taxa was compiled from published and unpublished literature, supplemented by communications with scientists. Where there was considered to be any degree of uncertainty over the occurrence of a taxon, it is listed as unconfirmed. In every case, the source(s) of information is/are given. For many IBAs, comprehensive information on one or more groups of secondary category taxa was not available. Therefore, the lists of secondary category taxa should not be considered comprehensive.

4.5 Threats to biodiversity

The main threats to biodiversity at the IBA are briefly summarised, including both current threats and potential future threats. Threats to biodiversity were grouped into 20 categories, and those threats that apply to the IBA are presented in a table. Each threat is marked with three, two or one dots, according to whether it is rated as severe, medium or low respectively. Severe threats are ones that, if not mitigated, are predicted to cause the loss of key elements of biodiversity from the IBA within the next five years, including the eradication of one or more category A1, A2, A3 or A4 bird species. Medium threats are ones that, if not mitigated, are predicted to cause the loss of key elements of biodiversity from the IBA within the next 20 years, including the eradication of one or more category A1, A2, A3 or A4 bird species. Low threats are ones that, if not mitigated, are predicted to cause a significant decline in but not loss of key elements of biodiversity at the IBA within the next 20 years, including a significant decline in the population size or distribution of one or more category A1, A2, A3 or A4 bird species.

4.6 Conservation actions

Past, on-going and planned conservation actions at the IBA are briefly summarised, including preparation of feasibility studies, establishment of protected areas, capacity building for protected area staff, environmental awareness programmes and community-based conservation initiatives.

4.7 Recommendations

Management recommendations for each IBA are presented. Where these recommendations are based on ones made in technical reports about the site in question, the source is given. In other cases, the recommendations are based on a review of all available literature and communications with scientists and protected area managers.

References

1. BirdLife International and the Forest Inventory and Planning Institute (2001) *Sourcebook of existing and proposed protected areas in Vietnam*. Hanoi, Vietnam: BirdLife International Vietnam Programme and the Forest Inventory and Planning Institute.
2. Baltzer, M. C., Nguyen Thi Dao and Shore, R. G. eds. (2001) *Towards a vision for biodiversity conservation in the Forests of the Lower Mekong Ecoregion Complex*. Hanoi: WWF Indochina Programme.
3. BirdLife International (2001) *Threatened birds of Asia: the BirdLife International red data book*. Cambridge, U.K.: BirdLife International.
4. IUCN (2000) *2000 IUCN red list of threatened species*. Gland and Cambridge: IUCN.