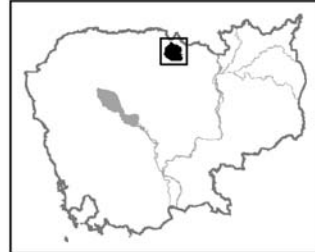


## O Skach

Criteria A1 &amp; A4i

<b>Province(s):</b>	Preah Vihear
<b>District(s):</b>	Chhep, Chom Khsan and Tbeng Meanchey
<b>Area (ha):</b>	80,426
<b>Altitude (m asl):</b>	46 to 154
<b>Central coordinates:</b>	13°58'N 105°08'E

**General description**

The IBA is situated in the upper catchment of the Stung Sen River, and comprises a large patch of evergreen and semi-evergreen forest, within a landscape dominated by open deciduous dipterocarp forest. The IBA contains a high density of freshwater wetlands, including rivers, streams, lakes and pools. The IBA is located within a forest concession managed by the Chendar Plywood Company, and is contiguous with the newly decreed Protected Forest for Conservation of Genetic Diversity, Vegetation and Wildlife Resources in Chhep and Chom Khsan districts. The IBA is important for the conservation of a range of forest bird species, including Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus*, Siamese Fireback *Lophura diardi* and Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis*. Most notably, the IBA supports a breeding population of White-winged Duck *Cairina scutulata*, the most significant known in Cambodia.

**Key bird species**

Common name	Scientific name	IBA criteria	
Siamese Fireback	<i>Lophura diardi</i>	A1	
Green Peafowl	<i>Pavo muticus</i>	A1	
White-winged Duck	<i>Cairina scutulata</i>	A1	A4i
Great Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>	A1	

**Biome restricted species**

Three species are restricted to the Sino-Himalayan Subtropical Forests, four to the Indochinese Tropical Moist Forests and one 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*, Silvered Langur *Semnopithecus cristatus* and Pileated Gibbon *Hylobates pileatus*.

**Globally threatened elephant and ungulate species**

Asian Elephant *Elephas maximus*, Gaur *Bos gaurus* and Banteng *B. javanicus*.

**Globally threatened turtle and crocodile species**

Asiatic Softshell Turtle *Amyda cartilaginea*.

**Threats to biodiversity**

One of the major threats to biodiversity at the IBA is habitat loss, from both legal and illegal logging, particularly as this activity reduces the number of large trees suitable for hole-nesting species, such as White-winged Duck. In addition, hunting is rife throughout the area, and a particular problem is hunting with dogs, which is a severe threat to flightless, molting White-winged Ducks during the wet season. A further, although less severe, threat is disturbance caused by resin collectors, who travel and camp along rivers and streams within the IBA.

**Recommendations**

- Designate important stretches of riverine habitat for White-winged Duck as special protection areas for biodiversity conservation within the forest concession management plan, in order to ensure that they are not further logged or disturbed.
- Establish community hunting agreements limiting the use of dogs, and increase awareness of the importance of and threats to the population of White-winged Duck among local communities.

- Ensure that all logging activity takes place in line with legal requirements for good practice.
- Forest concession staff and contractors should uphold the laws and guidelines prohibiting hunting within forest concessions.

**References**

Goes, F. and Davidson, P. eds. (2002) Recent sightings. *Cambodia Bird News* 9: 47-59.  
Tan Setha and Song Chansocheat (2002) *White-winged Duck survey in Chendar Plywood Forest Concession*. Unpublished report to the Wildlife Conservation Society Cambodia Program.