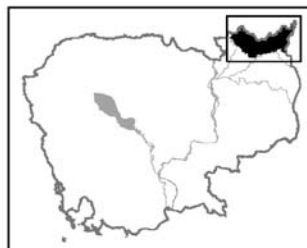


## Virachey

Criteria A1, A2 &amp; A3

<b>Province(s):</b>	Stung Treng and Ratanakiri
<b>District(s):</b>	Siem Pang, Ven Sai and Ta Veng
<b>Area (ha)</b>	432,415
<b>Altitude (m asl):</b>	65 to 1,546
<b>Central coordinates:</b>	14°20'N 107°11'E



### General description

The IBA is centred on Virachey National Park, and borders Laos to the north and Vietnam to the east. The IBA comprises all areas, primarily of evergreen and semi-evergreen forest, within and adjacent to the national park above 150 m asl. The vegetation of the IBA is dominated by dense semi-evergreen forest, interspersed with patches of true evergreen forest, upland savanna, bamboo thickets and occasional patches of mixed deciduous forest. The topography of the IBA is dominated by hills and low mountains, with most areas lying above 400 m asl, and elevations reaching over 1,500 m asl along the border with Laos. The avifauna of the IBA is quite distinct from that of lowland areas to the south and west, which are dominated by deciduous dipterocarp forest. The IBA is one of only two areas in Cambodia known to support Germain's Peacock Pheasant *Polyplectron germaini*, a restricted-range species. In addition, the IBA supports a number of globally threatened and near-threatened species, including Siamese Fireback *Lophura diardi*, Red-collared Woodpecker *Picus rabieri* and Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis*. Virachey remains one of the most ornithologically unexplored parts of Cambodia. However, survey work in neighbouring areas of Laos and Vietnam, indicate that higher elevation areas are likely to be of particular importance for globally threatened species such as Black-hooded Laughingthrush *Garrulax milleti* and Black-crowned Barwing *Actinodura sodangorum*.

### Key bird species

Common name	Scientific name	IBA criteria
Siamese Fireback	<i>Lophura diardi</i>	A1
Germain's Peacock Pheasant	<i>Polyplectron germaini</i>	A1 A2
Green Peafowl	<i>Pavo muticus</i>	A1
Red-collared Woodpecker	<i>Picus rabieri</i>	A1
Great Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>	A1

### Biome restricted species

One species is restricted to the Sino-Himalayan Subtropical Forests, six 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*, Pygmy Loris *N. pygmaeus*, Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca nemestrina*, Long-tailed Macaque *M. fascicularis*, Bear Macaque *M. arctoides*, Douc Langur *Pygathrix nemaeus* and Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon *Nomascus gabriellae*.

### Globally threatened elephant and ungulate species

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

### Globally threatened turtle and crocodile species

Impressed Tortoise *Manouria impressa*.

### Globally threatened gymnosperm species

*Pinus merkusii*.

**Threats to biodiversity**

Although there are few villages within the IBA, villagers living in adjacent areas continue to hunt, fish, gather forest products and engage in shifting cultivation within the IBA. Of these activities, hunting is a perhaps the most severe threat to biodiversity. This activity is a particular threat to populations of ground birds, such as Green Peafowl, which are susceptible to snaring and egg collection. Commercial logging has already affected substantial areas within the IBA.

**Recommendations**

- Current ranger patrolling and enforcement initiatives within Virachey National Park focused on controlling illegal activities (hunting and logging) should be continued and increased to cover all important areas.
- Further surveys should be carried out, particularly of the montane areas close to the borders of Laos and Vietnam, to confirm the presence or absence of globally threatened and restricted-range species expected to occur in this area.

**References**

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