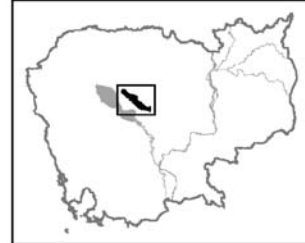


Stung / Chi Kreng / Kampong Svay

Criteria A1 & A3

Province(s):	Kompong Thom, Siem Reap
District(s):	Stung, Chi Kreng and Kampong Svay
Area (ha):	53,543
Altitude (m asl):	4 to 17
Central coordinates:	12°57'N 104°25'E

**General description**

The IBA comprises one of the largest remnant tracts of contiguous semi-natural grassland within the Tonle Sap inundation zone. The vegetation of the IBA is characterised by a mosaic of tall and short grass swards, mixed with some patchy, dense scrub, limited deepwater rice fields and small, scattered wetlands. Wet season rice is cultivated along the IBA's northern fringe, adjacent to Road No. 6. The seasonally inundated grassland supports the highest densities of breeding Bengal Floricans *Houbaropsis bengalensis* found in Cambodia to date, and the IBA supports a highly significant population of this species. The small pools at the IBA are used as feeding areas by a number of large waterbirds dispersing from the Tonle Sap breeding colonies, including Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala* and Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*. The IBA also supports a substantial wintering population of Manchurian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus tangorum*, as well as small numbers of wintering Greater Spotted Eagles *Aquila clanga*.

Key bird species

Common name	Scientific name	IBA criteria
Bengal Florican	<i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>	A1
Sarus Crane	<i>Grus antigone</i>	A1
Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	A1
Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	A1
Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	A1
Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	A1
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	A1
Manchurian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus tangorum</i>	A1
Asian Golden Weaver	<i>Ploceus hypoxanthus</i>	A1

Biome restricted species

One species is restricted to the Indo-Gangetic Plains (see Appendix 4).

Threats to biodiversity

Hunting is currently the most serious threat to Bengal Floricans and waterbirds at the IBA. During the dry season, as floodwaters recede, large numbers of people move into the area to fish, harvest grasses, gather brushwood and wetland plants, and graze domestic livestock in herds that can number several hundred animals. This causes high levels of disturbance in some parts of the IBA. Deepwater rice is cultivated rather patchily in northern parts of the IBA. A potential future threat to biodiversity at the IBA is conversion of grassland areas to deepwater rice cultivation.

Recommendations

- Law enforcement and community awareness activities should be initiated based on the successful model at Stung Sen/Santuk/Baray IBA (KH021). These should focus on controlling the hunting and trade of key species, particularly Bengal Floricans and large waterbirds, and potential benefits to local communities of conserving the natural ecosystem.
- Further research should be carried out on the relative ecological importance of flooded grassland and deepwater rice areas, particularly with regard to the conservation of Bengal Florican.
- Any further agricultural development, particularly deepwater rice expansion, should not be undertaken without a full environmental impact assessment and a proper understanding of the potential impacts on the natural ecosystems upon which the floricans are reliant.

References

- Goes, F. and Davidson, P. eds. (2002) Recent sightings. *Cambodia Bird News* 9: 47-59.
- Pech Bunnat (2002) *Field survey of eastern Tonle Sap in Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey provinces*. Unpublished report to the Wildlife Conservation Society Cambodia Program and the BirdLife International Vietnam Programme.
- Seng Kim Hout *et al.* (2002) *Field survey of seasonally flooded wetlands located in the east of Tonle Sap Lake in Kampong Thom and Siem Reap provinces*. Unpublished report to the Wildlife Conservation Society Cambodia Program and the BirdLife International Vietnam Programme.