

Chhnuk Tru

Criteria A1 & A4i

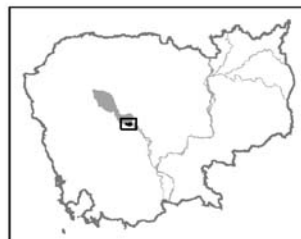
Province(s): Pursat and Kampong Chhnang

District(s): Krakor and Baribo

Area (ha): 2,357

Altitude (m asl): 4 to 8

Central coordinates: 12°32'N 104°25'E

**General description**

The IBA comprises Chhnuk Tru, an inland delta formed where the Tonle Sap and Stung Sen Rivers meet the Tonle Sap Lake. During the dry season, the IBA contains large areas of exposed mudflat, bisected by a complex of small, medium and large waterways. During the dry season (March to May), the IBA is important for large numbers of migratory shorebirds, although more survey work needs to be carried out to establish the patterns of use of the IBA by migratory shorebirds and feeding large waterbirds from the colonies to the northwest. The area also regularly supports more than 1% of the Asian biogeographic population of Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*. The IBA is situated within Tonle Sap Multiple Use Area, designated under the 1993 Royal Decree on Protected Areas, and Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve.

Key bird species

Common name	Scientific name	IBA criteria
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	A4i
Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	A1
Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	A1
Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	A1
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	A1
Greater Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>	A1

Globally threatened turtle and crocodile species

Siamese Crocodile *Crocodylus siamensis*, Asian Box Turtle *Cuora amboinensis*, Yellow-headed Temple Turtle *Hieremys annandalii*, Malayan Snail-eating Turtle *Malayemys subtrijuga* and Asiatic Softshell Turtle *Amyda cartilaginea*.

Threats to biodiversity

Opportunistic hunting of waterbirds is probably the most serious threat to biodiversity at the IBA. Several small, mobile, floating villages are dotted throughout the area, including Kampong Loung, Chhnuk Tru and Phat Sanday, and fishing activities are a source of disturbance to bird populations.

Recommendations

- Further surveys should be undertaken in the low water season (April to July), in order to better understand the importance of the IBA for feeding waterbirds, both post-breeding large waterbirds from the Tonle Sap breeding colonies and migratory shorebirds.
- Enforcement activities should be undertaken by appropriate government officers, focusing on controlling hunting and disturbance of waterbirds and illegal fishing methods.

References

- Carr, P. (1993) *Bird observations from the southern reaches of the Tonle Sap lake in central Cambodia from 9th April to 16th June*. Unpublished report.
- Carr, P. (1994) Cambodia, the last refuge for rare and endangered waterfowl in South-East Asia. *Sea Swallow* 23: 35-37
- Goes F. and Hong Chamnan (2002) *The status and conservation of large waterbirds on the Tonle Sap Great Lake, Cambodia 2000-2001*. Phnom Penh: Wildlife Conservation Society.
- Mundkur, T., Carr, P., Sun Hean and Chhim Somean (1995) *Surveys for large waterbirds in Cambodia, March-April 1994*. Cambridge, UK: IUCN/SSC.