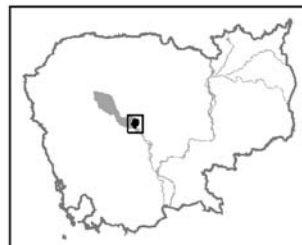


## Lower Stung Sen

Criteria A1 &amp; A4i

Province(s):	Kampong Thom
District(s):	Kampong Svay
Area (ha):	12,390
Altitude (m asl):	4 to 10
Central coordinates:	12°36'N 104°31'E



### General description

The IBA is centred on the Stung Sen Core Area of Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve. The IBA is located at the south-eastern end of Tonle Sap Lake, to the north of the point where the Tonle Sap River leaves the lake. The vegetation of the IBA is characterized by botanically unique gallery forest along rivers, dominated by *Barringtonia acutangula* and *Diospyros cambodiana*. Although disturbed, this habitat is the most species-rich tall forest around Tonle Sap Lake. The IBA supports an important breeding colony of Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*, as well as a significant breeding concentration of Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*.

### Key bird species

Common name	Scientific name	IBA criteria
Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>	A1
Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	A1 A4i
Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	A1
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	A1

### Globally threatened primate species

Long-tailed Macaque *Macaca fascicularis*.

### 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

The major threats to biodiversity at the IBA are hunting and egg collection. These activities are usually conducted opportunistically by local people, whose main occupation is fishing. When local people encounter a nest site, eggs or chicks will be collected, regardless of species or stage of development. In October 2001, local people collected around 500 Darter eggs from within the IBA. Additional threats to biodiversity including cutting of trees for firewood, and, in areas of higher elevation, clearance of forest for agriculture.

### Recommendations

- Enforcement activities should be undertaken by appropriate government personnel to control illegal hunting and fishing activities, particularly in the Stung Sen Core Area.
- The Stung Sen Core Area should be removed from the fishing lot system and give conservation status as a Fish Sanctuary under the Fisheries Law.
- A local conservation programme based on the successful model at Prek Toal IBA (KH003) should be initiated to protect the wet season breeding colonies of Darter.
- Further surveys should be carried out to identify any as-yet-undocumented breeding colonies, particularly of Darter in the wet season and adjutants *Leptoptilos* spp. in the dry season.
- Initiate an environmental education programme, based on the successful model at Prek Toal IBA (KH003). This should work with both adults and children but particularly through the local schools throughout the IBA.

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