

Stung Kampong Smach

Criteria A1

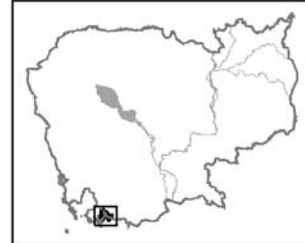
Province(s): Kampot and Sihanoukville

District(s): Kampot and Prey Nup

Area (ha): 13,790

Altitude (m asl): 0 to 153

Central coordinates: 10°37'N 103°51'E



General description

The IBA comprises the estuary of the Kampong Smach River, which flows into the Gulf of Thailand to the west of Bokor National Park. At the mouth of the river, there are extensive mangroves and intertidal mudflats, while, upriver, there are stands of *Melaleuca* and *Nypa*. The mangrove along the western side of the estuary has been significantly reduced by land reclamation and conversion to rice agriculture, but that on the eastern side is in a better condition, with stands of mature mangrove. The IBA is an important site for migratory waterbirds, including Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*. In addition, the IBA supports a number of large waterbirds during the non-breeding season, including Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*, Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*, Milky Stork *M. cinerea* and Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis*. Furthermore, there is a record of 22 Greater Adjutant *Leptoptilos dubius* from 1994, although there have been no subsequent records, and the species may not regularly occur in significant numbers.

Key bird species

Common name	Scientific name	IBA criteria
Asian Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>	A1
Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	A1
Milky Stork	<i>Mycteria cinerea</i>	A1
Painted Stork	<i>M. leucocephala</i>	A1
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	A1
Greater Adjutant	<i>L. dubius</i>	A1

Threats to biodiversity

The mangrove along the western side of the estuary has been significantly reduced by land reclamation and conversion to rice agriculture, as part of a major development project involving the construction and restoration of dykes. Although the mangrove along the eastern side of the estuary is in a better condition, some areas in the south-east have been converted to aquaculture. Upriver, much of the *Melaleuca* and mangrove has been cut for poles and charcoal production.

Recommendations

- All environmental impacts should be fully examined and understood before there is any further conversion of mangrove and associated wetlands into agricultural land.
- Further surveys need to be carried in the mudflat and mangrove areas focusing on identifying and understanding key areas and the use of the site by both large waterbirds and migratory shorebirds.

References

- Edwards, P. J. (1996) *Cambodia wetlands ornithological survey*. Newmarket: Xenus Ecology.
- Edwards, P. J. (1996) Recent waterbird surveys in Cambodia. *Forktail* 15: 29-42.
- Goes, F. Tan Seta and Ros Bansok (1998) *Preliminary bird survey for cluster of three national parks in southern Cambodia*. Phnom Penh: European Commission Support Programme to the Environment Sector in Cambodia.
- Mundkur, T., Carr, P., Sun Hean and Chhim Somean (1995) *Surveys for large waterbirds in Cambodia, March-April 1994*. Cambridge, UK: IUCN/SSC.