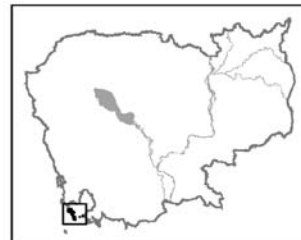


## Koh Rong Archipelago

Criteria A1

Province(s):	Sihanoukville
District(s):	Mittapheap
Area (ha):	10,561
Altitude (m asl):	0 to 317
Central coordinates:	10°43'N 103°15'E



### General description

The IBA comprises the Koh Rong archipelago, a group of islands situated in the mouth of Kampong Saom Bay, 20 km west of Sihanoukville. The largest islands are Koh Rong and Koh Rong Samlem, while smaller islands include Koh Ta and Koh Pos. The islands are characterized by sandy beaches, rocky shores, coral reefs (which are often degraded) and small areas of mangrove and seagrass. The vegetation of the islands is dominated by evergreen forest, although this has been degraded by logging in many places. The sandy beaches, which fringe the islands, are important breeding sites for Malaysian Plover *Charadrius peronii*.

### Key bird species

Common name	Scientific name	IBA criteria
Malaysian Plover	<i>Charadrius peronii</i>	A1

### Globally threatened turtle and crocodile species

Green Sea Turtle *Chelonia mydas*.

### Threats to biodiversity

With the exception of Koh Rong, the islands are mainly uninhabited, apart from a small military base on Koh Rong Samlem. Threats to biodiversity at the IBA include human disturbance, especially from fishing activities, and, potentially egg and chick collection by local people. Tourism development, particularly on Koh Pos, is a potential future threat, as it could disturb breeding beaches for Malaysian Plover.

### Recommendations

- Any tourism infrastructure development in the area should not be undertaken without a full environmental impact assessment and a proper understanding on the potential negative effects on the potentially fragile coastal ecosystem.

### References

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