

Ban Nakhay

Criteria: A1

Province(s): Vientiane municipality **Latitude:** 18°17'N
Protected area: Phou Khaokhouay NPA **Longitude:** 102°48'E
Area: 2,480 ha

General description

The IBA is located on the south-western periphery of Phou Khaokhouay National Protected Area, in northern Lao P.D.R. The IBA is situated in the foothills of the Phou Khaokhouay massif, close to Ban Nakhay. The topography of the IBA is dominated by gently sloping sandstone shelves, with patches of thin, sandy soil, supporting stunted dry dipterocarp forest and bamboo scrub. Along streams and by pools, there are also patches of mixed deciduous forest (Evans and Timmins 1998, Ounekham and Hedemark 2002). The IBA is the only site in northern Lao P.D.R. confirmed to support a significant population of Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus* (Evans and Timmins 1996, Duckworth *et al.* 1999). The IBA differs from most other IBAs in Lao P.D.R. in that it was identified for a single species in a very localised area.

Key bird species

Species	IBA criteria	Global threat status	Lao threat status	Notes
Green Peafowl <i>Pavo muticus</i>	A1, A3	VU	ARL	At least six males were heard at a communal roosting site in March 1994 (Evans and Timmins 1998), and two were heard there in May 1995 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). At least five males were heard calling and a single bird was seen at a communal roosting site in February 2002, and the species was reported to be also present in an adjacent catchment (Ounekham and Hedemark 2002). While the population at the IBA is of moderate to high national significance, it is of low global significance, given the vastly larger populations in parts of Cambodia.

Biome-restricted species: The site is not known to qualify under criterion A3 (Duckworth *et al.* 1998). See Appendix 3 for details.

Threats to biodiversity

During the early 1990s, the Green Peafowl population at the IBA was apparently under severe pressure from hunting and egg collection (Evans and Timmins 1996). However, following the initiation of a community-based conservation project at the IBA, coupled with the national gun collection programme, egg collection and hunting of Green Peafowl have declined markedly. There remain a number of additional threats to biodiversity at the IBA, although none of them necessarily threaten the Green Peafowl population. Shifting cultivation in the watershed above the IBA by local villagers is of high concern. Annual forest fire outbreaks between January and April also affect the habitat condition. Illegal tree cutting by local people also occurs at the IBA but is somewhat suppressed by the law enforcement activities conducted by the national protected area authorities (J. Parr *in litt.* 2002).

References

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- Ounekham, K. and Hedemark, M. (2002) *WCS field trip report to Ban Nakhay in Phou Khao Kwai Protected Area to confirm Green Peafowl in the IBA*. Unpublished report to the WCS Lao Program and the BirdLife International Vietnam Programme.
- Thewlis, R. M., Timmins, R. J., Evans, T. D. and Duckworth, J. W. (1998) The conservation status of birds in Laos: a review of key species. *Bird Conserv. Internat.* 8(suppl.): 1-159.