Nam Ha Northern Highlands **Criteria: A3**

Province(s): Luang Namtha
Protected area: Nam Ha NPA
Area: 184,520 ha
Latitude: 23º00'N
Longitude: 101º14'E

General description

The IBA is situated inside Nam Ha National Protected Area, in northern Lao P.D.R. The IBA lies along a mountainous ridge, between 1,000 and 2,094 m asl, that runs south-west from the international border with China. The natural vegetation of the IBA is dry evergreen forest with upper montane forest at higher elevations. Large areas of forest have, however, been cleared for shifting cultivation and now support *Imperata* grassland. Most of the remaining areas of forest have been disturbed, although there are some remnant patches of relatively undisturbed forest at high elevations. The IBA supports a rich montane avifauna, and was selected on the basis that it supports a significant number of biome-restricted bird species, including some that are not known to occur at any other IBA in Lao P.D.R., such as White-bellied Redstart *Hodgsonius phaenicuroides*, Crested Finchbill *Spizixos canifrons* and White-necked Laughingthrush *Garrulax strepitans*.

Key bird species

Nam Ha Northern Highlands IBA is not known to support any key bird species (Tizard *et al.* 1997).

Biome-restricted species: The site qualifies under criterion A3 because it supports eight species restricted to the Sino-Himalayan Temperate Forests (Biome 07) and 48 species restricted to the Sino-Himalayan Subtropical Forests (Biome 08) (Tizard *et al.* 1997). See Appendix 3 for details.

Threats to biodiversity

According to a preliminary survey of threats, the main threats to biodiversity at the IBA are shifting cultivation, which is resulting in habitat loss, and exploitation of NTFPs for sale, which is resulting in declines in the populations of certain species (Johnson 2000). Other threats include hunting for sale, exploitation of NTFPs for subsistence, hunting for food, infrastructure development, and grazing by free-ranging livestock (Johnson 2000).

References

Johnson, A. (2000) Use of a conceptual model and threat assessment to design and monitor effectiveness of the Nam Ha National Biodiversity Conservation Area, Lao P.D.R. Pp. 356-364 In: A. Galt, Sigaty, T. and Vinton, M. eds. *The World Commission on Protected Areas, 2nd Southeast Asia regional forum*. Pakse: IUCN Lao P.D.R.

Tizard, R. J., Davidson, P., Khounboline, K. and Salivong, K. (1997) *A wildlife and habitat survey of Nam Ha and Nam Kong Protected Areas, Luang Namtha province, Lao P.D.R.* Vientiane: CPAWM/WCS.