

Xe Khampho/Xe Pian

Criteria: A1, A2, A3 & A4i

Province(s): Attapu **Area:** 197,280 ha
Protected area: Bolaven South-west and Xe Khampho PNPAs, and Xe Pian and Dong Hua Sao NPAs **Latitude:** 14°44'N
Longitude: 106°16'E

General description

The IBA is centred on Bolaven South-west and Xe Khampho proposed national protected areas, in southern Lao P.D.R., and also includes parts of Xe Pian and Dong Hua Sao National Protected Areas. The IBA contains the middle stretches and large parts of the catchments of the Xe Pian and Xe Khampho, which flow south from the Bolaven plateau, to Xe Pian National Protected Area. The landscape of the IBA comprises lowlands and rolling hills, generally below 700 m asl, which support semi-evergreen forest (Thewlis *et al.* 1996, Duckworth *et al.* 1998). There is a high density of non-flowing wetlands within the IBA, many of which are permanent. The IBA is of high importance for the conservation of White-winged Duck *Cairina scutulata*, as it supports one of only three known significant populations in the country (Thewlis *et al.* 1998). The riverine habitats within the IBA are also important for Masked Finfoot *Heliopais personata* and Lesser Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga humilis*. The non-flowing wetlands within the IBA may also be important for a number of large waterbird species. However, they have been the focus of little ornithological survey to date, particularly those within Xe Khampho proposed national protected area. Finally, the semi-evergreen forest at the IBA, which is the largest area of such forest in Lao P.D.R. and as large as any in Indochina or Thailand, supports a relatively intact bird community, and is important for Siamese Fireback *Lophura diardi*, Red-collared Woodpecker *Picus rabieri* and Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis* (R. J. Timmins *in litt.* 2002).

Key bird species

Species	IBA criteria	Global threat status	Lao threat status	Notes
Siamese Fireback <i>Lophura diardi</i>	A1, A3	NT	PARL	The species was fairly commonly recorded in primary semi-evergreen forest in Xe Pian National Protected Area in 1992 and 1993 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1996). The species was reported by hunters to occur in Xe Khampho proposed national protected area in 1995 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). The population at the IBA is of high national significance and moderate to high global significance.
White-winged Duck <i>Cairina scutulata</i>	A1, A4i	EN	ARL	One bird was seen flying along the Houay Kua in December 1992 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1996). A pair with three young was photographed along the Houay Tauang, probably in December 1994 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). A group of three birds was seen at a pool in dense forest in the northern Xe Kong plains in May 1995 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). A group of four, a group of three and a pair were seen on the Xe Pian and adjacent pools between 300 and 320 m asl in April 1995; and a total population of 10 to 20 adult birds was estimated for Bolaven South-west proposed national protected area, with some occurring as high as 800 m asl (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). The population at the IBA is of high national and global significance.
Red-collared Woodpecker <i>Picus rabieri</i>	A1, A3	NT		The species was commonly recorded in all primary semi-evergreen forest at Xe Pian and Dong Hua Sao National Protected Areas in 1992 and 1993 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1996). The population at the IBA is of high national significance and moderate global significance.
Great Hornbill <i>Buceros bicornis</i>	A1	NT	ARL	Flocks of up to four birds were seen in the main semi-evergreen forest block at Xe Pian National Protected Area in January 1993 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1996). The population at the IBA is of high national significance and moderate global significance.

Species	IBA criteria	Global threat status	Lao threat status	Notes
Moustached Hawk Cuckoo <i>Cuculus vagans</i>	A1	NT	LKL	Two single birds were recorded in Xe Pian National Protected Area in December 1992 and January 1993 (Duckworth <i>et al.</i> 1996, Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1996). The significance of the population at the IBA is difficult to assess.
Masked Finfoot <i>Heliopais personata</i>	A1, A3	VU	ARL	Three singles were seen along the Xe Pian, around Ban Houayko, in April 1995 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). The population at the IBA is of high national and global significance.
Lesser Fish Eagle <i>Ichthyophaga humilis</i>	A1	NT	ARL	Two birds and a single were seen on consecutive days on the upper Houay Tauang in February 1993 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1996). In April 1995, one bird was seen on two days along the Xe Pian near Ban Houayko, and an occupied nest was found 17 km downstream; these records probably refer to two separate territories (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). The population at the IBA is of high national significance and moderate global significance.
White-rumped Vulture <i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	A1, A3	CR	ARL	Occasional birds were seen over the main semi-evergreen forest block at Xe Pian National Protected Area in December 1992 and January 1993, but the species was believed to concentrate over more open habitats outside of the IBA (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1996). The population at the IBA is of high national and global significance.
Slender-billed Vulture <i>G. tenuirostris</i>	A1, A3	CR	ARL	Two birds and a single were seen over the main semi-evergreen forest block at Xe Pian National Protected Area in January 1993, but the species was believed to concentrate over more open habitats outside of the IBA (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1996). The population at the IBA is of high national and global significance.
[Oriental Darter <i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>]	A1	NT	ARL	The species was reported by hunters to visit the Ban Hinlat area during the rainy season, and there was one unconfirmed sighting in May 1995 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). If the species occurs at the IBA, the population is likely to be of moderate to high national significance but low global significance.
[Greater Adjutant <i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>]	A1	EN	ARL	A single bird, provisionally identified as this species, was observed at the Nong Houay Soymong wetlands in March 1992 (Salter 1993 cited in Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). There have been no subsequent confirmed records of this species in Lao P.D.R., and there is as yet no evidence that the IBA regularly supports a significant population.
Grey-faced Tit Babbler <i>Macronous kelleyi</i>	A2			The species was very commonly recorded in the main semi-evergreen forest block at Xe Pian National Protected Area and in primary semi-evergreen forest at Dong Hua Sao National Protected Area in 1992 and 1993 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1996). The species was commonly recorded at Bolaven South-west proposed national protected area in April 1995 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). The population at the IBA is of moderate national significance and moderate to low global significance.

Note: [] = unconfirmed record.

Biome-restricted species: The site qualifies under criterion A3 because it supports 11 species restricted to the Indochinese Tropical Moist Forests (Biome 09) (Duckworth *et al.* 1998, Poulsen unpubl.). See Appendix 3 for details.

Threats to biodiversity

Human population density is relatively low within the IBA, but relatively high around it. Much of the lowland semi-evergreen forest along the middle reaches of the Xe Pian has been logged, and there appear to be patches of secondary growth around abandoned villages (Thewlis *et al.* 1998). Illegal selective tree cutting by local people remains a major threat to biodiversity within the IBA (Claridge 2000), as do hunting, conversion of wetlands and unsustainable agricultural practices.

References

- Claridge, G. (2000) *Logging in Xe Pian National Biodiversity Conservation Area: ramifications for management planning*. Advisor report to the FOMACOP/GEF project, Vientiane, April 2000.
- Duckworth, J. W. (1996) Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo *Cuculus vagans* and Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* in Laos: two species new for Indochina. *Forktail* 11: 159-160.
- Duckworth, J. W., Tizard, R. J., Timmins, R. J., Thewlis, R. M., Robichaud, W. G. and Evans, T. D. (1998) Bird records from Laos, October 1994-August 1995. *Forktail* 13: 33-68 (including errata sheet distributed with *Forktail* 14).
- Poulsen, M. K. (unpubl.) *Full list of bird species known from Xe Pian NBCA*. Unpublished list of birds compiled from Thewlis *et al.* (1996), Duckworth *et al.* (1998) and M. K. Poulsen pers. obs.
- Thewlis, R. M., Duckworth, J. W., Anderson, G. Q. A., Dvorak, M., Evans, T. D., Nemeth, E., Timmins, R. J. and Wilkinson, R. J. (1996) Ornithological records from Laos, 1992-1993. *Forktail* 11: 47-100.
- 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.

Species	IBA criteria	Global threat status	Lao threat status	Notes
Moustached Hawk Cuckoo <i>Cuculus vagans</i>	A1	NT	LKL	Two single birds were recorded in Xe Pian National Protected Area in December 1992 and January 1993 (Duckworth <i>et al.</i> 1996, Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1996). The significance of the population at the IBA is difficult to assess.
Masked Finfoot <i>Heliopais personata</i>	A1, A3	VU	ARL	Three singles were seen along the Xe Pian, around Ban Houayko, in April 1995 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). The population at the IBA is of high national and global significance.
Lesser Fish Eagle <i>Ichthyophaga humilis</i>	A1	NT	ARL	Two birds and a single were seen on consecutive days on the upper Houay Tauang in February 1993 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1996). In April 1995, one bird was seen on two days along the Xe Pian near Ban Houayko, and an occupied nest was found 17 km downstream; these records probably refer to two separate territories (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). The population at the IBA is of high national significance and moderate global significance.
White-rumped Vulture <i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	A1, A3	CR	ARL	Occasional birds were seen over the main semi-evergreen forest block at Xe Pian National Protected Area in December 1992 and January 1993, but the species was believed to concentrate over more open habitats outside of the IBA (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1996). The population at the IBA is of high national and global significance.
Slender-billed Vulture <i>G. tenuirostris</i>	A1, A3	CR	ARL	Two birds and a single were seen over the main semi-evergreen forest block at Xe Pian National Protected Area in January 1993, but the species was believed to concentrate over more open habitats outside of the IBA (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1996). The population at the IBA is of high national and global significance.
[Oriental Darter <i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>]	A1	NT	ARL	The species was reported by hunters to visit the Ban Hinlat area during the rainy season, and there was one unconfirmed sighting in May 1995 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). If the species occurs at the IBA, the population is likely to be of moderate to high national significance but low global significance.
[Greater Adjutant <i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>]	A1	EN	ARL	A single bird, provisionally identified as this species, was observed at the Nong Houay Soymong wetlands in March 1992 (Salter 1993 cited in Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). There have been no subsequent confirmed records of this species in Lao P.D.R., and there is as yet no evidence that the IBA regularly supports a significant population.
Grey-faced Tit Babbler <i>Macronous kelleyi</i>	A2			The species was very commonly recorded in the main semi-evergreen forest block at Xe Pian National Protected Area and in primary semi-evergreen forest at Dong Hua Sao National Protected Area in 1992 and 1993 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1996). The species was commonly recorded at Bolaven South-west proposed national protected area in April 1995 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). The population at the IBA is of moderate national significance and moderate to low global significance.

Note: [] = unconfirmed record.

Biome-restricted species: The site qualifies under criterion A3 because it supports 11 species restricted to the Indochinese Tropical Moist Forests (Biome 09) (Duckworth *et al.* 1998, Poulsen unpubl.). See Appendix 3 for details.

Threats to biodiversity

Human population density is relatively low within the IBA, but relatively high around it. Much of the lowland semi-evergreen forest along the middle reaches of the Xe Pian has been logged, and there appear to be patches of secondary growth around abandoned villages (Thewlis *et al.* 1998). Illegal selective tree cutting by local people remains a major threat to biodiversity within the IBA (Claridge 2000), as do hunting, conversion of wetlands and unsustainable agricultural practices.