

Nam Chat/Nam Pan

Criteria: A1, A2 & A3

Province(s): Bolikhamxai

Latitude: 18°34'N

Protected area: Nam Chat/Nam Pan PPA

Longitude: 105°01'E

Area: 81,220 ha

General description

The IBA is located inside Nam Chat/Nam Pan Provincial Protected Area (referred to as Nam Theun Extension proposed NBCA in many published sources), in northern Lao P.D.R. The vegetation of the IBA is characterised by the occurrence of a large area of wet evergreen forest, while *Fokienia* forest is also present (Thewlis *et al.* 1998). The IBA lies within the Annamite mountains, at a point where the summit ridges are relatively low (below 1,000 m asl) and do not bar the passage of rain clouds carried by the north-eastern monsoon. In addition, the IBA also experiences the south-western monsoon, which brings rain to the rest of Lao P.D.R. (Evans and Timmins 1998). As a result, the area receives a greater amount of precipitation than many other areas of the Annamite mountains in Lao P.D.R. and has closer faunal affinities to the eastern flanks of the Annamites in Vietnam. The avifauna of the wet evergreen forest in the IBA has affinities with forest at higher elevations within Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area. This habitat supports some very important bird populations, especially high densities of Crested Argus *Rheinardia ocellata* and Grey Laughingthrush *Garrulax maesi*. In addition, the IBA is one of the few sites in Lao P.D.R. known to support Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler *Jabouilleia danjoui* (Evans and Timmins 1998). Furthermore, the IBA supports Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis*, Brown Hornbill *Anorrhinus tickelli* and Rufous-necked Hornbill *Aceros nipalensis*. While, by itself, the IBA might not be able to support viable populations of all of these species in the long-term, it forms part of a network of contiguous sites throughout the Annamite mountains that might. Finally, the IBA supports one of the most significant known populations of Saola *Pseudoryx nghetinhensis* in Lao P.D.R.

Key bird species

| Species | IBA criteria | Global threat status | Lao threat status | Notes |
|---|--------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|
| Crested Argus <i>Rheinardia ocellata</i> | A1, A2 | VU | ARL | At least 10 birds were heard in a 1 km radius in wet evergreen forest between January and February 1994 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). Display grounds were found between 1,100 and 1,200 m asl in January 1995 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). The species was commonly heard along the Ban Nahoua logging road in April 1996 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). During a survey in 1997, an estimated 12 males were heard on the eastern slope of Phou Chomvoy, an estimated 33 males were heard along a 10 km section of the Ban Nahoua logging road, and a maximum of four males in one day were heard along the upper Nam Chat and its tributaries (Tobias 1997). The population at the IBA is of high national significance but, given much larger populations in parts of Vietnam, it is of only moderate to low global significance. |
| Red-collared Woodpecker <i>Picus rabieri</i> | A1, A3 | NT | | A single male was seen at the forest edge on the Nam Chat at 500 m asl, and four birds were seen near Sop Theung at 530 m asl in 1997 (Tobias 1997). The population at the IBA is of low national and global significance. |
| Great Hornbill <i>Buceros bicornis</i> | A1 | NT | ARL | Four birds were seen over the Nam Kwai in January 1994 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). The population at the IBA is of moderate to low national significance and low global significance. |
| Brown Hornbill <i>Anorrhinus tickelli</i> | A1, A3 | NT | PARL | Groups were encountered commonly in the Nam Kwai area in January and February 1994 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). The species was heard daily near the logging camp in the upper Nam Pan catchment, and a group of five was seen along the upper Nam Cham in May 1996 (Tizard 1996, Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). During a survey in 1997, groups of 4 to 12 birds were seen regularly along the Nam Chat between 500 and 530 m asl, and a group of 15 were seen above the Nam Dthang at 650 m asl (Tobias 1997). The population at the IBA is of moderate national significance but low global significance. |

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|---|--------------|----------------------|-------------------|---|
| †Rufous-necked Hornbill <i>Aceros nipalensis</i> | A1, A3 | VU | ARL | Although no surveys have seen or heard the species in the wild, remains of the species were found in the forest in 1995 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). The IBA may not regularly support a significant population of this species, although it may have done in the past. Given the availability of suitable habitat, if hunting were curtailed, numbers of this species could recover. |
| Blyth's Kingfisher <i>Alcedo hercules</i> | A1, A3 | NT | PARL | A single bird was seen on the Nam Kwai on several occasions in 1994 (Evans and Timmins 1998, Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). Between April and May 1996, a single bird was mist-netted along the Nam Pan Noy, and three records of single birds, probably representing one pair, were made along the Nam Cham (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). The territories of four pairs were found in the upper Nam Pan catchment and at least six pairs were seen in the Nam Chat catchment in 1997 (Tobias 1997). The population at the IBA is of moderate to low national significance and low global significance. |
| Lesser Fish Eagle <i>Ichthyophaga humilis</i> | A1 | NT | ARL | During a 1997 survey, singles or pairs were seen on most days along the Nam Chat and its tributaries, and an estimated three to four pairs appeared to be resident along the stretches of river surveyed (Tobias 1997). The population at the IBA is of moderate to low national significance and low global significance. |
| †Greater-spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i> | A1 | VU | LKL | A single bird was seen in flight over Phou Chomvoy in April 1997 (Duckworth <i>et al.</i> 1999). In addition, four eagles <i>Aquila</i> sp. seen over Ban Lak (20), close to the IBA, in March 1997 may have been this species (Duckworth <i>et al.</i> 1999). There is, as yet, no evidence that the IBA regularly supports a significant population of this species, which is probably a passage migrant through the IBA. |
| *Yellow-vented Warbler <i>Phylloscopus cantator</i> | A2 | | | The species was occasionally recorded near the Nam Kwai in 1994 (Evans and Timmins 1998). One bird was seen at 800 m asl along the Ban Nahoua logging road in April 1996 (Thewlis <i>et al.</i> 1998). A pair was observed along the Ban Nahoua logging road in 1997 (Tobias 1997). As there is no evidence that the species breeds at the IBA, the site would not qualify for inclusion within an EBA on the basis of the occurrence of this species alone. |
| Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler <i>Jabouilleia danjoui</i> | A1, A2 | NT | PARL | A party of two birds was seen in wet evergreen forest at 750 m asl, close to the Nam Kwai, in January 1994 (Evans and Timmins 1998). Three males and a presumed female were seen in forest near Sop Theung at 530 m asl in 1997 (Tobias 1997). The population at the IBA is of high national significance but, given much larger populations in parts of Vietnam, it is of low global significance. |

Notes: † = not confirmed to regularly occur in significant numbers; * = does not qualify under criterion A2.

Biome-restricted species: The site qualifies under criterion A3 because it supports 48 species restricted to the Sino-Himalayan Subtropical Forests (Biome 08), 18 species restricted to the Indochinese Tropical Moist Forests (Biome 09) and one species restricted to the Indo-Gangetic Plains (Biome 12) (Tizard 1996, Tobias 1997, Evans and Timmins 1998). See Appendix 3 for details.

Threats to biodiversity

One of the major threats to biodiversity at the IBA is conversion of forest to unsustainable agriculture. Although the areas to the west of the IBA are densely settled and extensively deforested at lower elevations, forest cover within the IBA is still high. In some areas, however, encroachment is taking place rapidly (Thewlis *et al.* 1998). Hunting is another major threat to biodiversity at the IBA, particularly to large-bodied species such as Crested Argus and hornbills. There are extensive trail networks within the IBA, and trans-border hunting is a particular problem.

References

Duckworth, J. W., Salter, R. E. and Khounbolin, K. eds. (1999) *Wildlife in Lao P.D.R.: 1999 status report*. Vientiane: IUCN, WCS and CPAWM.

- Evans, T. D. and Timmins, R. J. (1998) Records of birds from Laos during January-July 1994. *Forktail* 13: 69-96.
- 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.
- Tizard, R. J. (1996) *A preliminary wildlife and habitat survey of the proposed northern extension to the Nakai-Nam Theun National Biodiversity Conservation Area and the adjacent Nam Gnouang area, Bolikhamsai province, Lao P.D.R.* Vientiane: WCS.
- Tobias, J. (1997) *Environmental and social action plan for the Nakai-Nam Theun catchment and corridor areas: report of the wildlife survey.* Vientiane: WCS report to IUCN.

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