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Kampong Trach IBA a future Sarus Crane Conservation Area

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The workshop Chairmen
Photo: Seng Kim Hout – BirdLife Cambodia

BirdLife International¹ – On 09 October 2006, BirdLife International’s Cambodia Programme in collaboration with the Forestry Administration (FA) held a stakeholder workshop entitled “*Results of Sarus Crane conservation in Anlung Pring, Kampong Trach district, Kampot province and future objectives*” in Kampot provincial town to initiate the establishment of Kampong Trach Important Bird Area (IBA) as a Sarus Crane conservation area as defined by ministerial decree of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). The workshop was chaired by His Excellency Chuong Siv Vuth, a deputy provincial governor, Mr. Men Phymean, director of the Wildlife Protection Office of FA, and Mr. Meak Heang, Chief of Kampot Forestry Administration.

Twenty nine participants from relevant provincial agencies and NGOs participated including the Kampot provincial governor’s office, the Departments of Agriculture, Environment, Tourism, Rural Development, and Kampot Forestry Administration, the armed forces, the Kampong Trach Site Support Group (SSG), Kampong Trach district office and NGO representatives including Danida, GTZ and SEILA programme as well as the Wildlife Protection Office of the FA. All



Sarus Cranes feeding in assemblage
Photo: Seng Kim Hout – BirdLife Cambodia

participants, in particular, the provincial governor expressed their strong support for the establishment of this IBA with an area of 238 ha as a Sarus Crane conservation area. During the workshop, some participants suggested a buffer so that disturbance and other threats can be better controlled.

Regarding this issue, Mr. Men Phymean, director of Wildlife Protection Office of FA and BirdLife counterpart staff will conduct a review of the proposed boundary, and study social-economic impacts and meet with relevant district agencies before preparing a report to MAFF.

This site has already been included in a draft provincial tourism guide book for Kampot province which in the future could attract bird-watching tourists and students to enjoy the spectacle of the Sarus Crane which are only present between October and May.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

- 1) BirdLife International is a global alliance of conservation organisations working in more than 100 countries worldwide who, together, are the leading authority on the status of birds, their habitats and their conservation. Further information about BirdLife's work in Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar can be found at www.birdlifeindochina.org.