

KRABI RIVER ESTUARY



Location:

Muang district, Krabi province

- Area: 114 square kilometers (71,250 rai)
- Geographical coordinates: 7° 59' to 8° 03' N and 98° 51' to 99° 00' E
- Altitude from mean sea level: 0-3 meters

Wetland type:

estuary, mangrove forests and mudflats

Map Sheet: 4724 I, 4725 II



0 1 2 Kilometers



Physical Status

The Krabi River estuary, where several rivers discharge into the sea, is covered with approximately 102.12 square kilometers (63,825 rai) of mangrove forests and with roughly 12 square kilometers (7,500 rai) of mudflats. The total length of the mudflats along the shoreline is approximately 26 kilometers. The mudflats appear during low tide and some are up to 2 kilometers wide. The mudflats between Krabi river estuary and Yuan River cover area of approximately 9.3 square kilometers (5,812.5 rai). The average depth of water at low tide is 2 meters, while channels are roughly 6-10 meters deep.

Biological Status

Mangrove forests of the area are dense. Although there was logging in the forest, some large trees can still be found. At least 19 plant species have been found, including *Rhizophora mucronata* and *R. apiculata* on the edges of the shoreline. The inner sections of the forests comprise of *Ceriops* spp., *Xylocarpus* spp., *Lumnitzera* spp. and *Phoenix paludosa*.

At least 221 species of birds, including 139 waterfowl and shorebird species, have been found in the mangrove forests, especially in the areas along Nai Moh and Klar Rivers. Of these, there are at least 137 residential species and 107 non-breeding migratory species such as little egret (*Egretta garzetta*), masked finfoot (*Heliopais personata*), Eurasian curlew (*Numenius arquata*), common sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) and common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*). Masked finfoot is the only globally threatened species and is an endangered species in Thailand. The vulnerable species found include brown-winged kingfisher (*Halcyon amauroptera*), white-backed woodpecker (*Dryocopus javensis*), mangrove pitta (*Pitta megarhyncha*), white-chested babbler (*Trichastoma rostratum*) and mangrove blue flycatcher (*Cyornis*

rufigastra), while the near-threatened species of the forests are cotton pygmy-goose (*Nettapus coromandelianus*), white-bellied sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*), oriental hobby (*Falco severus*) and great slaty woodpecker (*Muelleripicus pulverulentus*).

- At least 50 fish species have been found. Common commercial species of the area are milkfish (*Chanos chanos*) and *Lates calcarifer*. Other fish species include *Megalops cyprinoides* as well as several species of mullet (*Mugil* spp.), glassfish (*Ambassis* spp.) and slipmouth (*Leiognathus* spp.).
- Mammal species found in the mangrove forests include macaca irus (*Macaca fascicularis*) and *Aonyx cinerea*.

Values and Benefits

The mudflat system of the Krabi River estuary is one of the most important habitats for migratory birds in the southern region. The concession mangrove forest no.24 and 26 in the area are still in good condition. The forests have great biological diversity and are inhabited by shorebirds as well as various species of marine animals. The area is of great value for tourism and education by providing a site for bird watching that is close to the city area of Krabi province.

Threats and Management

- The area is under threat from discharge of urban wastewater through Yai Krabi River and solid waste from night markets.
- Sandy beaches, limestone mountains, mangrove forests, *Melaleuca* forests around Nang bay and the coastline that reaches Krabi River estuary are parts of the Hat Nopparat Tara - Mu Koh Pipi marine national park, while the mangrove forests of Krabi river estuary are concession forests of the Palain Project.