

## Ang Tropeang Thmor

Criteria A1, A3, A4i &amp; A4iii

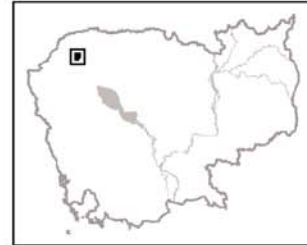
Province(s): Banteay Meanchay

District(s): Phnom Srok

Area (ha): 12,659

Altitude (m asl): 14 to 27

Central coordinates: 13°51'N 103°19'E



### General description

The IBA comprises the Ang Tropeang Thmor Sarus Crane Conservation Area. The IBA is centred on an artificial lake, located 70 km to the north-west of Tonle Sap Lake. During the Angkorian period, from the 10th to the 13th century AD, a major causeway was constructed through the area, which led to increased water accumulation to the north. In 1976, during Pol Pot's Democratic Kampuchea regime, forced labor was used to convert an 11 km stretch of this causeway into a dam and to build a 9 km dyke perpendicular to it. However, the planned irrigation reservoir was never completed. Consequently, during the dry season, only the south-eastern corner of the reservoir remains inundated, although, at the height of the wet season, over 80% of the IBA is inundated. Seasonally inundated areas support seasonally inundated grassland, the northern portion of which is inundated for a shorter period each year and has been extensively converted to wet rice agriculture. This land has, however, only been irregularly used for a number of years. In the extreme north of the IBA, the habitat grades into open deciduous dipterocarp forest.

The IBA is the most important non-breeding site for Sarus Crane *Grus antigone* in Cambodia and regularly supports a significant proportion of the global population of the eastern subspecies *G. a. sharpii*. In addition to Sarus Crane, the IBA regularly supports over 1% of the Asian biogeographic population of Lesser Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna javanica*, Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*, Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans* and Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*. Furthermore, a large number of globally threatened and near-threatened species have been recorded at the IBA, including Bengal Florican *Houbaropsis bengalensis* (which probably breeds), White-shouldered Ibis *Pseudibis davisoni* and Greater Adjutant *Leptoptilos dubius*. Additionally the globally threatened Pallas's Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* has been recorded at the site as a vagrant.

### Key bird species

| Common name           | Scientific name                    | IBA criteria |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Lesser Whistling-duck | <i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>        | A4i          |
| Comb Duck             | <i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>      | A4i          |
| Bengal Florican       | <i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>     | A1           |
| Sarus Crane           | <i>Grus antigone</i>               | A1           |
| Greater Spotted Eagle | <i>Aquila clanga</i>               | A1           |
| Imperial Eagle        | <i>A. heliaca</i>                  | A1           |
| Darter                | <i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>        | A1           |
| Black-headed Ibis     | <i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i> | A1           |
| White-shouldered Ibis | <i>Pseudibis davisoni</i>          | A1           |
| Spot-billed Pelican   | <i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>      | A1           |
| Milky Stork           | <i>Mycteria cinerea</i>            | A1           |
| Painted Stork         | <i>M. leucocephala</i>             | A1           |
| Asian Openbill        | <i>Anastomus oscitans</i>          | A4i          |
| Black-necked Stork    | <i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>  | A1           |
| Lesser Adjutant       | <i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>       | A1           |
| Greater Adjutant      | <i>L. dubius</i>                   | A1           |
| Asian Golden Weaver   | <i>Ploceus hypoxanthus</i>         | A1           |

**Biome restricted species**

Three species are restricted to the Sino-Himalayan Subtropical Forests, two to the Indochinese Tropical Moist Forests, seven to the Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry Zone and one to the Indo-Gangetic Plains (see Appendix 4).

**Globally threatened primate species**

Long-tailed Macaque *Macaca fascicularis*.

**Globally threatened elephant and ungulate species**

Eld's Deer *Cervus eldii*.

**Globally threatened turtle and crocodile species**

Asian Box Turtle *Cuora amboinensis*, Malayan Snail-eating Turtle *Malayemys subtrijuga* and Elongated Tortoise *Indotestudo elongata*.

**Threats to biodiversity**

Prior to the establishment of the Sarus Crane Conservation Area in February 2000, local people used to regularly hunt cranes using poison. In 1999, the main driving force behind this was a high demand from the wildlife trade in Thailand. Hunting of Sarus Cranes has now been largely curtailed through enforcement and awareness activities, although small-scale hunting of other species for food still occurs. Currently, the most significant threat is probably conversion of seasonally inundated grassland and open woodland to agriculture. A potential long-term threat may be the manipulation of water levels for irrigation downstream.

**Recommendations**

- Current enforcement activities at Ang Trapeang Thmor focused on controlling illegal hunting should be continued.
- A management plan that zones the Sarus Crane Conservation Area into different land uses, and, in particular, delimits rice cultivation areas, should be agreed on by all stakeholders as soon as possible and strictly enforced.
- Community development programmes should be initiated in villages inside and adjacent to the reserve, focusing on sustainable livelihoods.
- A tourism plan should be developed looking at the potential impacts of mass tourism on the Sarus Crane Conservation Area and the potential benefits of sustainable tourism development for local communities.
- Forest clearance and land encroachment in and around the IBA is a complex problem at the moment, therefore land tenure agreements are necessary to facilitate effective management of the Sarus Crane Conservation Area.

**References**

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- Goes, F. and Hong Chamnan (2001) *Ang Trapeang Thmor Sarus Crane Conservation Area: a major site for bird conservation in north-west Cambodia*. Phnom Penh: Wildlife Conservation Society.
- Sam Veasna (1998) *Report on research and survey towards the protection of Sarus Crane and other bird species. Ang Tropeang Thmor site, Banteay Meanchey province, Cambodia*. Unpublished report.
- Sam Veasna (1998) *Endangered birds in north-western Cambodia*. Paper presented at the Important Bird Areas Workshop, Phnom Penh, March 1998.
- Sam Veasna, Hong Chamnan, Thach Savany and Briggs, E. (1998) *Trip to Banteay Meanchay province, April 18-20 1998: report on the status of Sarus Crane in north-west Cambodia*. Unpublished report.
- Sam Veasna and Mundkur, T. (1998) New site of international importance for Sarus Crane discovered in Cambodia. Unpublished report.