

# CAMBODIA

**RAMSAR CONVENTION CAME INTO FORCE 1999**

**NUMBER OF RAMSAR SITES DESIGNATED** (at 31 August 2005) **3**

**AREA OF RAMSAR SITES DESIGNATED** (at 31 August 2005) **54,600 ha**

**ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION**

**Department of Nature Conservation and Protection, Ministry of Environment**

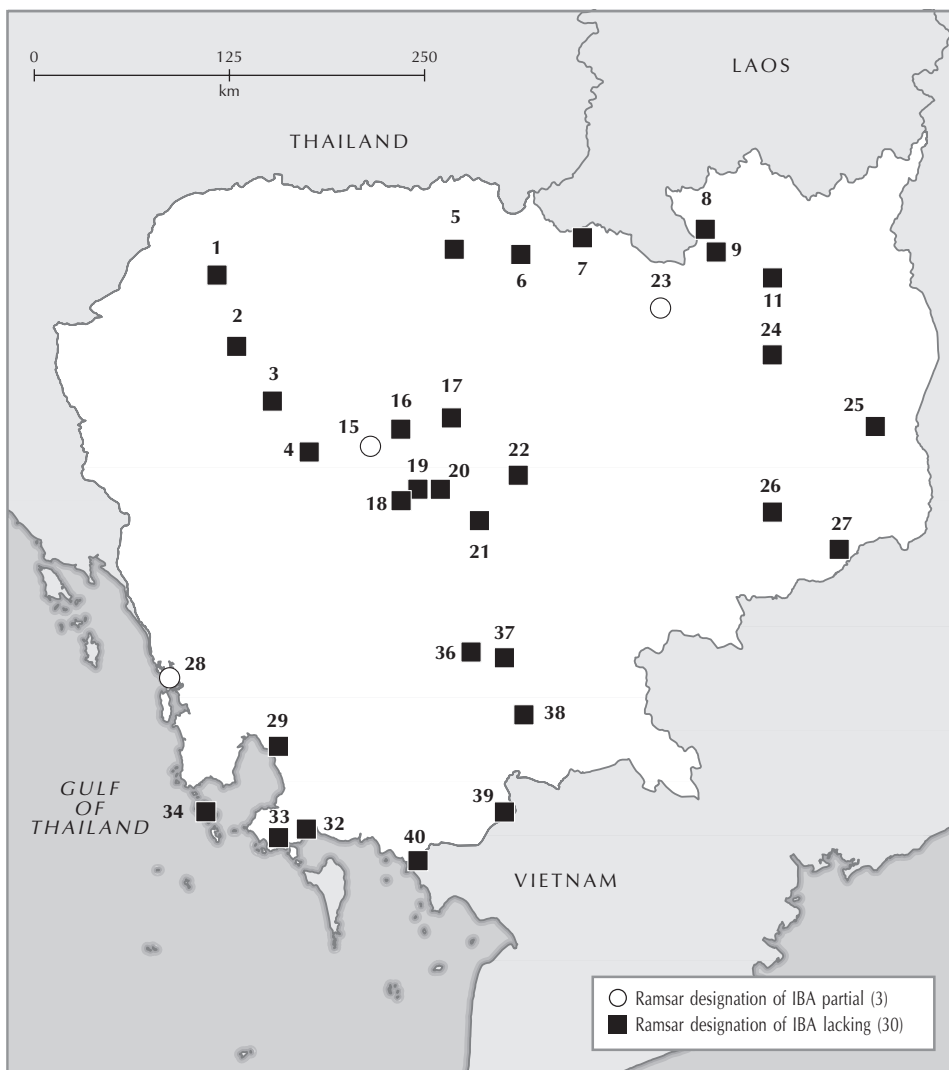
**RAMSAR DESIGNATION IS:**

**Partial in 3 IBAs**  
**Lacking in 30 IBAs**

About 90% of the land area of Cambodia lies within the Mekong drainage basin and most of the central and southern areas comprise part of the Mekong floodplain system (Scott 1989). Cambodia's northern and eastern plains are covered by a habitat mosaic of deciduous and semi-evergreen forests and seasonally wet meadows and other wetlands, and are the largest remaining example of a landscape that once dominated southern Indochina; this part of Cambodia supports many threatened wetland-dependent species, including the Critically Endangered Giant Ibis *Thaumatibis gigantea* and White-shouldered Ibis *Pseudibis davisoni*. Tonle Sap Lake, the largest freshwater lake in South-East Asia and the largest floodplain lake in the world, is surrounded by seasonally inundated swamp forest, grassland, scrubland and deepwater rice; it acts not only as a natural flood regulator but is also an important breeding ground of many threatened wetland-dependent birds, including Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis*, Greater Adjutant *Leptoptilos dubius* and Bengal Florican *Houbaropsis bengalensis*. The main channel of the Mekong River and its major tributaries

(the Sesan, Sekong and Srepok) support some of the fullest riverine bird communities remaining in mainland South-East Asia, including significant concentrations of several sandbar-nesting species. The coastal wetlands of Cambodia are relatively less studied, and their importance for migratory shorebirds and other coastal species is perhaps underestimated. A Wetland Action Plan for the Kingdom of Cambodia was published in 1997 by the Asian Wetland Bureau (now Wetlands International) on behalf of the relevant ministries and departments of Cambodia.

Three Ramsar Sites have been designated in Cambodia, all of which overlap with IBAs, and an additional 30 potential Ramsar Sites have been identified there. The three designated Ramsar Sites include examples of riverine and coastal wetlands, and a section of Tonle Sap Lake. There is currently virtually no coverage in Ramsar Sites of the globally outstanding wetlands on the plains of northern and eastern Cambodia, and there are also opportunities to increase coverage of Tonle Sap Lake (and its adjacent floodplains) and riverine wetlands.



**Location of Important Bird Areas in Cambodia that contain areas that qualify as Ramsar Sites.**

## Summary of Important Bird Areas that contain areas that qualify as Ramsar Sites in Cambodia.

Ramsar designation of IBA partial (3 IBAs)					
IBA	IBA name	IBA area (ha)	Ramsar Site name	Ramsar Site area (ha)	Ramsar criteria
					2 4 5 6
15	Boeung Chhmar / Moat Khla	39,405	Boeng Chhmar and Associated River System and Floodplain	28,000	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
23	Mekong River from Kratie to Laos	83,501	Middle Stretches of the Mekong River north of Stoeng Treng	14,600	✓ ✓ ✓
28	Koh Kapik	27,289	Koh Kapik and Associated Islets	12,000	✓ ✓ ✓

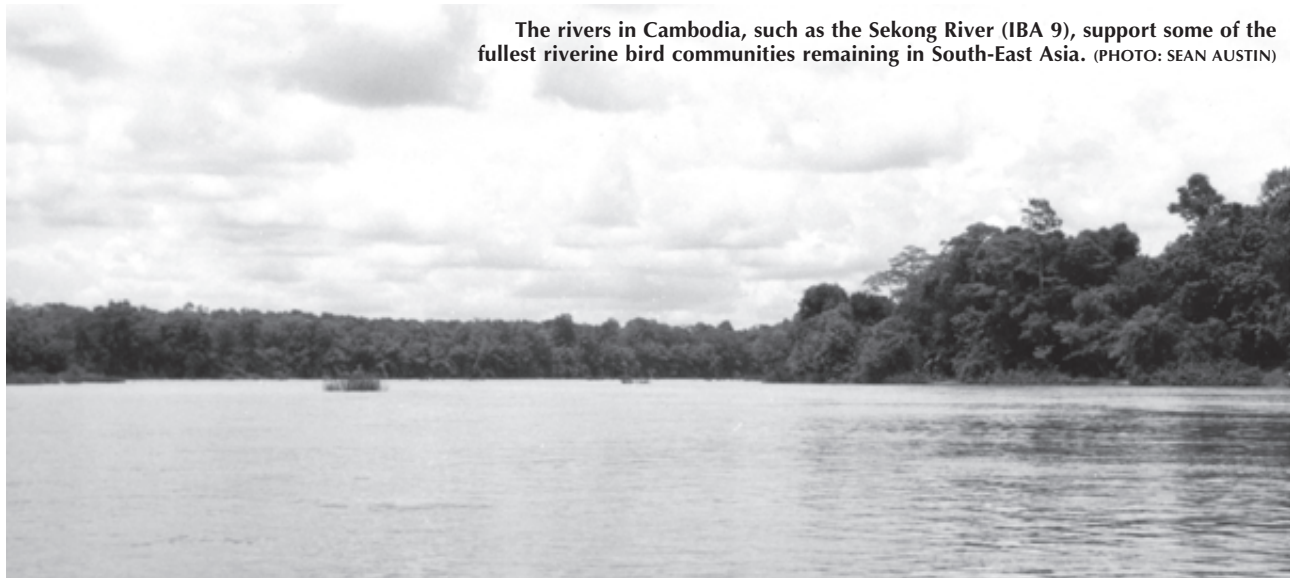
Ramsar designation of IBA lacking (30 IBAs)					
IBA	IBA name	IBA area (ha)			Ramsar criteria
					2 4 5 6
1	Ang Tropeang Thmor	12,659			✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
2	Preah Net Preah / Kra Lanh / Pourk	69,570			✓ ✓ ✓
3	Prek Toal	39,873			✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
4	Dei Roneat	7,251			✓ ✓ ✓
5	Upper Stung Sen Catchment	533,748			✓ ✓ ✓
6	O Skach	80,426			✓ ✓ ✓
7	Chhep	243,661			✓ ✓ ✓
8	Western Siem Pang	138,137			✓ ✓ ✓
9	Sekong River	14,116			✓ ✓ ✓
11	Sesan River	20,504			✓ ✓ ✓
16	Stung / Chi Kreng / Kampong Svay	53,543			✓
17	Stung / Prasat Balang	100,675			✓
18	Chhnuk Tru	2,357			✓ ✓ ✓
19	Lower Stung Sen	12,390			✓ ✓ ✓
20	Veal Srongae	5,873			✓ ✓ ✓
21	Stung Sen / Santuk / Baray	109,081			✓ ✓ ✓
22	Northern Santuk	24,312			✓ ✓ ✓
24	Lomphat	306,397			✓ ✓ ✓
25	Upper Srepok Catchment	507,711			✓ ✓ ✓
26	Mondulkiri / Kratie Lowlands	383,233			✓ ✓ ✓
27	Snoul / Keo Sema / O Reang	257,843			✓ ✓ ✓
29	Sre Ambel	8,068			✓
32	Stung Kampong Smach	13,790			✓
33	Prek Taek Sap	3,579			✓
34	Koh Rong Archipelago	10,561			✓ ✓
36	Basset Marsh	2,770			✓
37	Boeung Veal Samnap	11,286			✓
38	Bassac Marsh	52,316			✓ ✓ ✓
39	Boeung Prek Lapouv	9,276			✓ ✓ ✓
40	Kampong Trach	1,108			✓ ✓ ✓



Seasonally inundated grassland at Sre Ambel (IBA 29), the typical feeding habitat of Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*. (PHOTO: ANDREW TORDOFF)

Summary of the occurrence of globally threatened wetland-dependent bird species within the selected IBAs in Cambodia.

IBA	Spot-billed Pelican <i>Pelecanus philippensis</i> VU	Milky Stork <i>Mycteria cinerea</i> VU	Lesser Adjutant <i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i> VU	Greater Adjutant <i>Leptoptilos dubius</i> EN	White-shouldered Ibis <i>Pseudibis davisoni</i> CR	Giant Ibis <i>Thaumatibis gigantea</i> CR	White-winged Duck <i>Cairina scutulata</i> EN	Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i> VU	Imperial Eagle <i>Aquila heliaca</i> VU	Sarus Crane <i>Grus antigone</i> VU	Masked Finfoot <i>Heliopais personata</i> VU	Bengal Florican <i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i> EN	Spotted Greenshank <i>Tringa guttifer</i> EN	Manchurian Reed-warbler <i>Acrocephalus tangorum</i> VU	Total
1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓			9
2	✓									✓		✓			3
3	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓				5
4			✓	✓											2
5			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓					6
6							✓								1
7			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	7
8			✓		✓	✓		✓		✓					5
9						✓									1
11			✓												1
15	✓		✓	✓							✓				4
16	✓		✓	✓				✓		✓		✓		✓	6
17			✓	✓								✓			2
18	✓		✓	✓											3
19	✓		✓	✓											2
20	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓				✓		✓	7
21	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	10
22			✓	✓				✓				✓			4
23					✓										1
24			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓				6
25			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓				6
26			✓	✓		✓				✓					3
27			✓				✓								2
28													✓		1
29		✓	✓							✓					3
32	✓	✓	✓	✓											4
33	✓	✓	✓												3
36	✓														1
37	✓														1
38	✓														1
39	✓									✓		✓			3
40										✓					1
Total	15	6	22	12	8	7	4	8	2	13	4	8	1	4	



The rivers in Cambodia, such as the Sekong River (IBA 9), support some of the fullest riverine bird communities remaining in South-East Asia. (PHOTO: SEAN AUSTIN)