

SINGAPORE

LAND AREA 660 km² HUMAN POPULATION 4,010,000 (6,076 per km²)
NUMBER OF IBAs 3 TOTAL AREA OF IBAs 114 km² STATUS OF IBAs 3 partially protected



Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve in Kranji (IBA 1). (PHOTO: SUNNY YEO)

KEY HABITATS AND BIRDS

- Several areas of tropical lowland rain forest survive in Singapore and, although they are relatively small and fragmented, they support many of the characteristic species of this biome (*Biome AS14: Sundaic lowland forest*), including the threatened Straw-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus zeylanicus*. Some important studies have been conducted in Singapore on the effects of forest fragmentation on bird communities.
- Despite extensive reclamation, the coastal wetlands in Singapore remain important for migratory waterbirds, and support small numbers of the threatened Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes*.

CONSERVATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM

The Singapore Constitution does not contain any provisions on the environment, and there is currently no framework law on environmental protection and management. The environmental protection effort in Singapore is therefore almost exclusively administrative in nature, and is the responsibility primarily of the Ministry of the Environment (ENV). Planning and zoning laws aim for optimal usage of land and proper siting of pollutive industries. There is no mandatory environmental impact assessment (EIA) system, with EIAs required on an ad hoc basis at the discretion of the ENV. The Singapore Green Plan 2012 is Singapore's blueprint towards environmental sustainability for the next decade.

In 1990, Singapore passed a National Parks Act, which established the National Parks Board (of the Ministry of National Development) to develop and manage the country's national parks and other protected areas. These protected areas currently total 29.79 km², or about 4.5% of Singapore's land area.

OVERVIEW OF THE INVENTORY

- All three IBAs in Singapore support globally threatened and biome-restricted species, and two qualify as IBAs because they hold large congregations of waterbirds.
- The three IBAs have a total area of 114 km², which is just over 17% of the land area of Singapore.

Map 1. Location and size of Important Bird Areas in Singapore.



- All three IBAs have some wetland habitat and areas of Sundaic lowland rain forest.

CONSERVATION ISSUES

- Some parts of all three IBAs in Singapore are protected. However, they face various pressures for development imposed by land scarcity in densely-populated Singapore. The forest blocks contained within the IBAs are small and isolated, and as a consequence several forest bird species have become extinct in Singapore in recent decades.

SOURCES OF IBA DATA

This initial IBA list was completed for this publication by Lim Kim Keang, Lim Kim Seng, Sunny Yeo and Ho Hua Chew on behalf of the Nature Society (Singapore). Information on the conservation infrastructure and protected areas was downloaded on 7 July 2004 from the websites of the Ministry of the Environment (<http://app.env.gov.sg/>) and the ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity Conservation (<http://www.arcbc.org.ph/>).

Table 1. Important Bird Areas in Singapore.			
AP = IBA is wholly or partially an Asia-Pacific Waterbird Network site			
1	Kranji	Partially protected ^{AP}	A1 A3 A4i
Coordinates 1°25'N 103°43'E Altitude Unknown Area 200 ha Habitats Forest; Wetlands			
Threatened species <i>Egretta eulophotes</i> , <i>Aquila clanga</i> Biomes AS14: Sundaic lowland forest Congregatory waterbirds <i>Sterna bergii</i>			
2	North-East Conservation Area	Partially protected	A1 A3 A4i
Coordinates 1°25'N 103°58'E Altitude 0–80 m Area 8940 ha Habitats Forest; Shrubland; Wetlands			
Threatened species <i>Egretta eulophotes</i> , <i>Aquila clanga</i> , <i>Tringa guttifer</i> , <i>Eurynorhynchus pygmeus</i> , <i>Pycnonotus zeylanicus</i> Biomes AS14: Sundaic lowland forest Congregatory waterbirds <i>Sterna bergii</i>			
3	Central Forest	Partially protected	A1 A3
Coordinates 1°22'N 103°48'E Altitude 0–138 m Area 2,300 ha Habitats Artificial landscapes (terrestrial); Forest; Wetlands			
Threatened species <i>Pycnonotus zeylanicus</i> , <i>Rhinomyias brunneata</i> Biomes AS14: Sundaic lowland forest			