

TIMOR-LESTE

LAND AREA 14,609 km² HUMAN POPULATION 884,000 (61 per km²)
 NUMBER OF IBAs 16 TOTAL AREA OF IBAs 1,852 km² STATUS OF IBAs 11 protected; 5 unprotected



Saline lakes and savanna in Tasitolu Peace Park (IBA 13), which supports several restricted-range species of the Timor and Wetar Endemic Bird Area. (PHOTO: COLIN TRAINOR)

KEY HABITATS AND BIRDS

- Timor-Leste retains more extensive lowland monsoon forests and tall evergreen forests than western Timor (in Indonesia). It is likely to support the most important populations of some of the species endemic to the islands of Timor and Wetar (*EBA 164: Timor and Wetar*), including the threatened Slaty Cuckoo-dove *Turacoena modesta*, Wetar Ground-dove *Gallicolumba hoedtii*, Timor Green-pigeon *Treron psittacea* and Timor Imperial-pigeon *Ducula cineracea*. Timor-Leste still holds a healthy population of Yellow-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua sulphurea*, which has declined rapidly elsewhere because of

capture for the wild bird trade, and Timor Sparrow *Padda fuscata*.

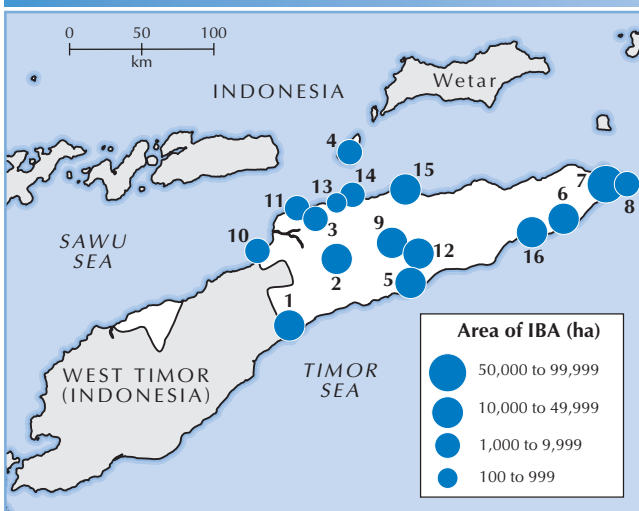
CONSERVATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM

The newly independent country of Timor-Leste has not yet developed comprehensive conservation legislation or acceded to any international conventions or other mechanisms. However, in 2000, 15 “Protected Wild Areas” were declared by the interim United Nations administration under Regulation No. 2000/19 (UNTAET 2000), many of which had been identified as conservation priorities by FAO/UNDP (1982). Regulation No. 2000/19 became law on the transfer of administration to the government of Timor-Leste in May 2002, but further legislation is required to provide for an operational national protected area system, and site boundaries and management requirements are still to be determined. Regulation No. 2000/19 also bans hunting, trade and keeping of all native Timor-Leste birds.

OVERVIEW OF THE INVENTORY

- Of the 16 IBAs in Timor-Leste, 14 support globally threatened species, 15 have restricted-range birds of the Timor and Wetar EBA and one also qualifies as an IBA because it holds large numbers of a congregatory waterbird. The highly threatened Yellow-crested Cockatoo is known from eight of the IBAs.
- The IBA network covers all major terrestrial habitats found in Timor-Leste, including extensive areas of both lowland and montane forest. It is therefore likely to support populations of all threatened and restricted-range forest birds found on Timor.

Map 1. Location and size of Important Bird Areas in Timor-Leste.



CONSERVATION ISSUES

- Further ornithological surveys are required to help develop the IBA network, as a contribution towards the establishment of the country's protected areas system and to clarify the status of the threatened and endemic birds.
- Eleven (69%) of the 16 IBAs in Timor-Leste are wholly within the "Protected Wild Areas" established under United Nations administration.
- A comprehensive new protected area legislation is required, as are site boundaries, management planning and protected area infrastructure.
- A planned hydroelectric programme needs careful impact assessment to safeguard against impacting the proposed Conis Santana National Park (IBA 7).

SOURCES OF IBA DATA

The information presented here is taken from BirdLife International (2003).

REFERENCES

- BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL (2003) *A preliminary list of Important Bird Areas in East Timor*. Report to BirdLife International Asia Programme.
- FAO/UNDP (1982) *National conservation plan for Indonesia: Nusa Tenggara*. Bogor, Indonesia: FAO/UNDP.
- UNTAET (2000) *Regulation No. 2000/19 on protected places, in East Timor*. Dili, East Timor.

Table 1. Important Bird Areas in Timor-Leste.

ID	Name	Conservation Status	Threatened Species	Endemic Bird Areas
1	Tilomar	Protected	A1	
Admin region Cova Lima Coordinates 9°20'S 125°12'E Altitude 0–1,000 m Area 12,800 ha Habitats Forest				
Threatened species <i>Cacatua sulphurea</i>				
2	Tata Mailau	Protected	A1 A2	
Admin region Ermera Coordinates 8°55'S 125°30'E Altitude 600–2,972 m Area 20,000 ha Habitats Forest				
Threatened species <i>Turacoena modesta</i> , <i>Gallicolumba hoedtii</i> , <i>Ducula cineracea</i> Endemic Bird Areas 164: Timor and Wetar				
3	Fatumasin	Protected	A1 A2	
Admin region Liquiça Coordinates 8°40'S 125°22'E Altitude 800–1,369 m Area 4,000 ha Habitats Forest				
Threatened species <i>Cacatua sulphurea</i> Endemic Bird Areas 164: Timor and Wetar				
4	Atauro Island-Manucoco	Protected	A1 A2	
Admin region Dili Coordinates 8°15'S 125°35'E Altitude 0–995 m Area 4,000 ha Habitats Artificial landscapes (terrestrial); Forest; Savanna				
Threatened species <i>Turacoena modesta</i> , <i>Treron psittacea</i> Endemic Bird Areas 164: Timor and Wetar				
5	Sungai Clere	Protected	A1 A2	
Admin region Manufahi Coordinates 9°04'S 125°58'E Altitude 0–100 m Area 30,000 ha Habitats Forest; Savanna; Wetlands				
Threatened species <i>Turacoena modesta</i> , <i>Treron psittacea</i> , <i>Cacatua sulphurea</i> , <i>Padda fuscata</i> Endemic Bird Areas 164: Timor and Wetar				
6	Lore	Protected	A1 A2	
Admin region Lautem Coordinates 8°40'S 126°56'E Altitude 0–500 m Area 10,200 ha Habitats Forest				
Threatened species <i>Turacoena modesta</i> , <i>Treron psittacea</i> , <i>Cacatua sulphurea</i> Endemic Bird Areas 164: Timor and Wetar				
7	Monte Paitchau (proposed Conis Santana National Park)	Protected	A1 A2 A4i	
Admin region Lautem Coordinates 8°27'S 127°12'E Altitude 0–960 m Area 50,000 ha Habitats Forest; Wetlands				
Threatened species <i>Turacoena modesta</i> , <i>Treron psittacea</i> , <i>Ducula cineracea</i> , <i>Cacatua sulphurea</i> Endemic Bird Areas 164: Timor and Wetar				
Congregatory waterbirds <i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>				
8	Jaco Island	Protected	A1 A2	
Admin region Lautem Coordinates 8°27'S 127°20'E Altitude 0–100 m Area 1,500 ha Habitats Forest; Wetlands				
Threatened species <i>Turacoena modesta</i> , <i>Padda fuscata</i> Endemic Bird Areas 164: Timor and Wetar				
9	Mount Diatuto	Protected	A1 A2	
Admin region Manatuto Coordinates 8°49'S 125°51'E Altitude 600–1,770 m Area 15,000 ha Habitats Forest				
Threatened species <i>Turacoena modesta</i> , <i>Treron psittacea</i> , <i>Ducula cineracea</i> , <i>Cacatua sulphurea</i> Endemic Bird Areas 164: Timor and Wetar				
10	Be Malae-Atabae	Unprotected	A2	
Admin region Bobonaro Coordinates 8°52'S 125°00'E Altitude 0–100 m Area 3,000 ha Habitats Forest; Wetlands				
Endemic Bird Areas 164: Timor and Wetar				
11	Maubara	Unprotected	A1 A2	
Admin region Liquiça Coordinates 8°36'S 125°15'E Altitude 0–500 m Area 2,000 ha Habitats Forest; Wetlands				
Threatened species <i>Turacoena modesta</i> Endemic Bird Areas 164: Timor and Wetar				
12	Mount Mak Fahik and Mount Sarim	Unprotected	A1 A2	
Admin region Manatuto Coordinates 8°53'S 126°01'E Altitude 400–1,000 m Area 10,000 ha Habitats Forest				
Threatened species <i>Turacoena modesta</i> , <i>Treron psittacea</i> , <i>Cacatua sulphurea</i> Endemic Bird Areas 164: Timor and Wetar				
13	Tasitolu Peace Park	Protected	A1 A2	
Admin region Dili Coordinates 8°34'S 125°30'E Altitude 0–403 m Area 700 ha Habitats Savanna; Wetlands				
Threatened species <i>Turacoena modesta</i> , <i>Padda fuscata</i> Endemic Bird Areas 164: Timor and Wetar				
14	Cristo Rei beach and hinterland	Protected	A2	
Admin region Dili Coordinates 8°31'S 125°36'E Altitude 0–500 m Area 2,000 ha Habitats Forest; Savanna; Wetlands				
Endemic Bird Areas 164: Timor and Wetar				
15	Mount Curi	Unprotected	A1 A2	
Admin region Dili; Manatuto Coordinates 8°29'S 125°56'E Altitude 0–1,320 m Area 10,000 ha				
Habitats Artificial landscapes (terrestrial); Forest; Savanna				
Threatened species <i>Turacoena modesta</i> , <i>Padda fuscata</i> Endemic Bird Areas 164: Timor and Wetar				
16	Irebere estuary and Iliomar forest	Unprotected	A1 A2	
Admin region Lautem Coordinates 8°45'S 126°44'E Altitude 0–500 m Area 10,000 ha Habitats Forest				
Threatened species <i>Turacoena modesta</i> , <i>Cacatua sulphurea</i> Endemic Bird Areas 164: Timor and Wetar				