

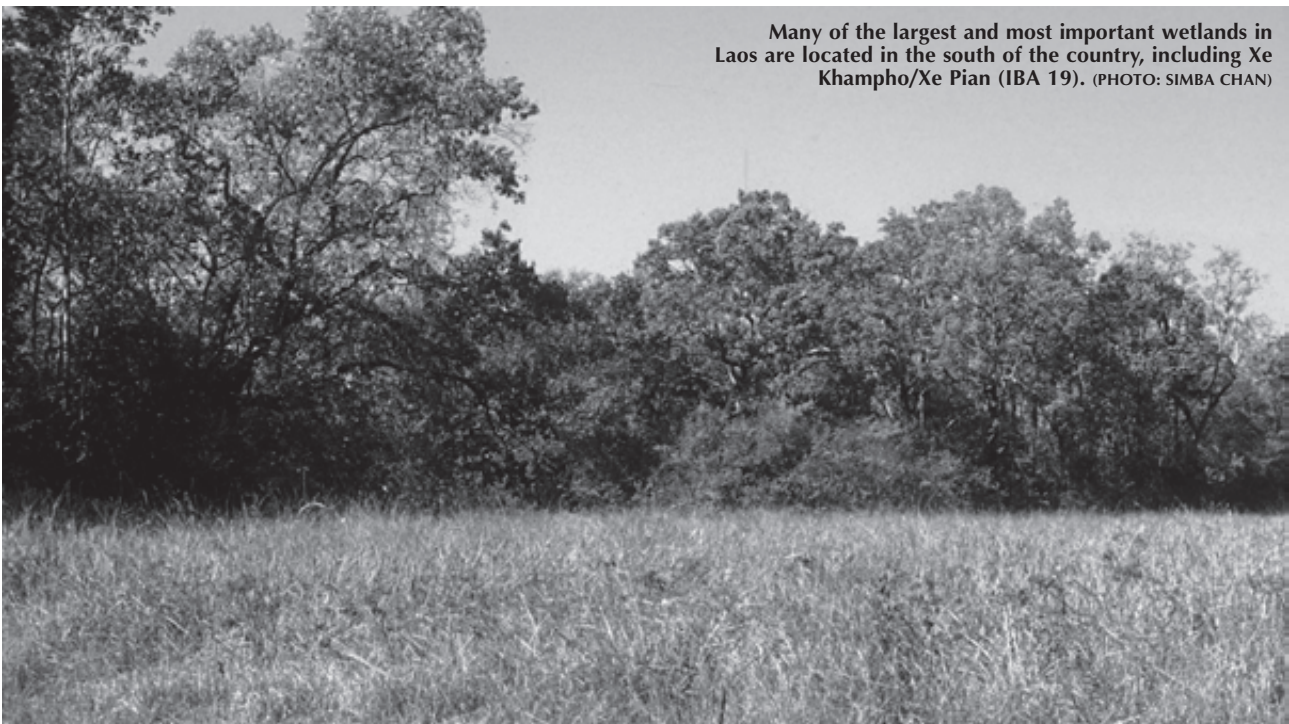
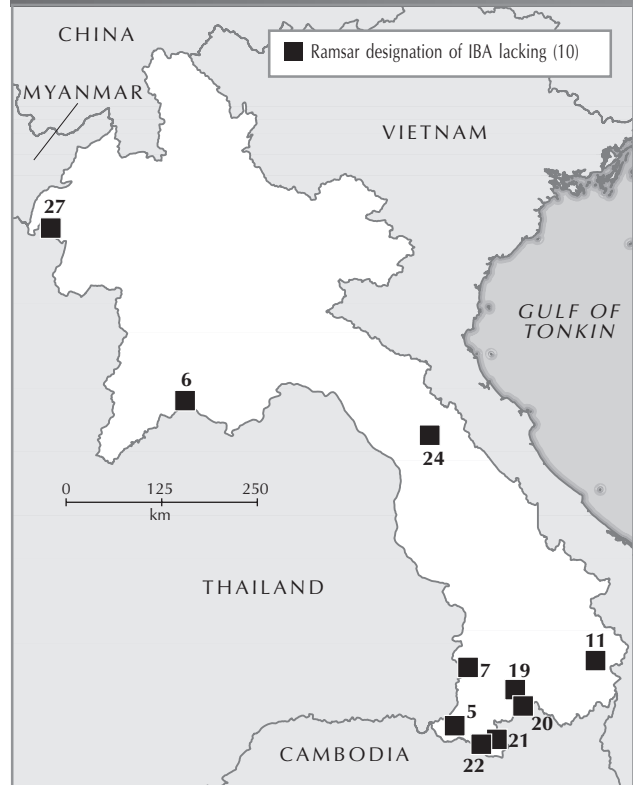
# LAOS

NOT A CONTRACTING PARTY TO THE RAMSAR CONVENTION (at 31 August 2005)

RAMSAR DESIGNATION IS:  
Lacking in 10 IBAs

Laos is a mountainous landlocked country, and most of the large and important wetlands are located along the Mekong River and its tributaries, particularly in the south near the border with Cambodia. The deciduous dipterocarp forests and associated wetlands in this part of Laos support several threatened waterbird species, including the Critically Endangered Giant Ibis *Thaumatibis gigantea* and White-shouldered Ibis *Pseudibis davisoni*. An inventory has been published of about 30 wetland sites in Laos (Claridge 1996). Laos was not a contacting party of Ramsar Convention as of 31 August 2005, but it plans to join in the near future. Ten potential Ramsar Sites have been identified in the country.

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



Many of the largest and most important wetlands in Laos are located in the south of the country, including Xe Khampho/Xe Pian (IBA 19). (PHOTO: SIMBA CHAN)

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

Ramsar designation of IBA lacking (10 IBAs)

IBA	IBA name	IBA area (ha)	Ramsar criteria			
			2	4	5	6
5	Dong Khanthung	191,560	✓	✓		✓
6	Mekong Channel upstream of Vientiane	18,230		✓		✓
7	Mekong Channel from Phou Xiang Thong to Siphandon	34,200		✓		✓
11	Upper Xe Khaman	34,780	✓			
19	Xe Khampho/Xe Pian	197,280	✓	✓		✓
20	Xe Kong Plains	37,150	✓	✓		✓
21	Dong Kalo	41,460	✓	✓		✓
22	Siphandon	37,320		✓		✓
24	Nakai Plateau	136,550	✓	✓		✓
27	Upper Lao Mekong	10,980		✓		✓

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

IBA	Lesser Adjutant <i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	White-shouldered Ibis <i>Pseudibis davisoni</i>	Giant Ibis <i>Thaumatibis gigantea</i>	White-winged Duck <i>Cairina scutulata</i>	Sarus Crane <i>Grus antigone</i>	Masked Finfoot <i>Heliopais personata</i>	Wood Snipe <i>Gallinago nemoricola</i>	Manchurian Reed-warbler <i>Acrocephalus tangorum</i>	Total
	VU	CR	CR	EN	VU	VU	VU		
5	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	5
11						✓			1
19				✓		✓			2
20	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			5
21	✓		✓						2
24				✓			✓		2
Total	3	1	3	3	1	4	1	1	

The deciduous dipterocarp forests and associated wetlands in southern Laos support several threatened waterbird species, including the Critically Endangered Giant Ibis *Thaumatibis gigantea*. (PHOTO: ELEANOR BRIGGS)

