required knowledge to address community resource management problems and there is also an insufficient budget to make major changes. There is no systematic plan of water usage and management for the private and industrial sectors.

Figure 2. Ampan Swamp, Ban Tal, Bamnet Narong District

Aside from the national observance of Buddhism, there are also local beliefs related to water in the area that influence society. One important aspect of the belief system is the respect of spirits. Locals believe that spirits protect and drive the area, including the spirits of ancestors, field spirits, wood spirits and water spirits. *Tao Luang Kong* or *Ta Luang Kong* is a holy water spirit over 2,000 years old. There have been local tales of residents hearing traditional Thai music, specifically *pipat* ensemble pieces (a favourite of the spirit), coming from the waters of Ampan Swamp. It is believed that these sounds help keep the community at peace. As a result of these beliefs, there is an annual ceremony in the sixth month of the Thai calendar to pay respect to *Tao Luang Kong*. This link between spirituality and the water has caused many locals to seek water from Ampan Swamp to help cure disease and bless crops. It is important then, not only for the quality of the water but also for the preservation and respect of people's beliefs that the water is not contaminated (Wutinan Pramajorn, personal communication, 2013).

La Han Luk Nok Swamp (Figure 3) is surrounded by Ban None Bradu to the North, Ban Na to the South, Ban Lueam to the East and Ban None Rai to the West. Each of these communities is characterised by its proximity to the swamp and the tributaries and streams running through it. The main professions are consequently fishing and agriculture. The swamp is approximately 4.8km^2. The area was made a bird sanctuary in 1960 and the most populous bird is the weaver. The swamp is