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Over One Hundred Sarus Cranes Return to Ang Trapeang Thmor Protected Landscape

One hundred and fifteen Globally Endangered Sarus Cranes (*Antigone antigone*) have returned to Ang Trapeang Thmor Protected Landscape (ATTPL) for feeding after their breeding season is over. These are the first of at least 350 Sarus Cranes that return to the site every year, making ATTPL the most important habitat for Sarus Crane in Cambodia.

ATTPL protects 12,650 hectares of wetlands and dry forest and supports half of Cambodia's Sarus Crane population during the non-breeding season, together with thousands of other waterbirds including storks, pelicans and ducks. These species and the beautiful wetlands attract thousands of tourists each year.

Conservation activities in the ATTPL would not be possible without the generous support of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies. [Read full story](#)



Red-headed Vulture Nests Protected in the Northern Plains

Two nests of the Critically Endangered Red-headed Vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*) have been located in Chhep Wildlife Sanctuary in the Northern Plains of Cambodia. WCS has employed four local community members to protect these nests, and will be attaching “predator exclusion belts” to nesting trees, preventing terrestrial carnivores such as civets from scaling nesting trees to feed on eggs.



Critically Endangered Red-headed Vulture is laying on the nest situated inside the Chhep Wildlife Sanctuary. © Tan Sophan / WCS

Cambodia’s vultures are threatened by food shortages caused by low numbers of wild and domestic cattle. Vulture restaurants - providing a dead cow for the vultures to feed on - are regularly conducted in Chhep Wildlife Sanctuary to supplement the vultures’ diet. As well as helping vulture populations, the restaurants provide WCS research teams the opportunity to monitor vulture numbers. [Read full story](#)



Royal Turtle Nest Located in the Sre Ambel River System

One nest of Royal Turtle with 14 eggs was found by a villager along the Kaong River, the only place the species is still found in Cambodia. The Royal Turtle conservation team from the Fisheries Administration (FiA) and the WCS went to check the nest; built the wood fence to protect the eggs, and has hired a villager to guard the nest until the eggs have hatched.



FiA, WCS, and local communities were checking Royal Turtle eggs after they were found on the riverbank of the Kaong River. © In Hul / WCS

Hatchlings from the protected nest will be taken to the Koh Kong Reptile Conservation Centre, where they are raised until several years old and then released into the wild when they are better able to survive.



World Wetlands Day Celebration at Ang Trapeang Thmor Protected Landscape

More than 500 people from the Ministry of Environment (MoE), provincial, district and local authorities, WCS, monks, local community, teachers and students marked the celebration of World Wetlands Day 2017 at the Ang Trapeang Thmor Protected Landscape (ATTPL) in Banteay Meanchey Province.



Deputy Governor of Banteay Meanchey Province distributed posters and notebooks to students to increase their understanding about importance of wetlands. © Eng Mengey / WCS

“Birds, turtles, otters and other wild animals depend on wetlands. These animals can only survive in wetlands where they are protected from harm,” said Simon Mahood, Senior Technical Advisor for WCS Cambodia. “We all have a role to play in the conservation of wetlands.” [Read full story](#)



WCS Conservation Hero: Nut Menghor

WCS has recognized the efforts and commitment of Nut Menghor in conducting wildlife research for more than 10 years, researching key wildlife species in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary that provides important information to protected area managers.



Nut Menghor (left) standing with his wildlife research colleagues inside the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary.

“Wildlife research and monitoring requires me to spend many days and nights in the forest. Sometimes, I have to stay in the forest for more than 10 days at a time. It is so difficult, especially during rainy season. But, it has always been worth it, because I love wildlife, nature and would like to see Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary well protected and numbers of key wildlife species increasing,” said Nut Menghor. [Read full story](#)



Globally Endangered Banteng Poached inside Wildlife Sanctuary

A Banteng (*Bos javanicus*) was poached inside Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary in Siem Reap Province despite efforts by the government rangers and community rangers to patrol and monitor the area. Tragically, it is demand for endangered wildlife meat and wildlife trophies that is driving illegal poaching such as this. Please stop eating bush meat and help conserve Cambodia's wildlife.



Banteng meat and other parts were collected from the Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary.

Illegal Electro-fishing Killing Royal Turtle

A Critically Endangered adult female Royal Turtle, which was over 11 years old and weighing 9kg, was found dead on the Kaong River. Fisheries Administration (FiA) and WCS staff who found the turtle believe it was killed by illegal electro-fishing due to marks on its head.



In Hul, FiA Officer, is scanning ID micro-chips on the Royal Turtle's leg. © Som Sitha / WCS

Cambodia's Royal Turtle (*Batagur affinis*) is one of the world's most endangered turtles and faces numerous threats to its survival. These include habitat loss, caused by sand dredging and illegal clearance of flooded forest, and accidental capture or death through illegal fishing. The dead turtle is one of 21 Royal Turtles that the FiA-WCS conservation team released in 2015. [Read full story](#)

Stop Illegal Fishing Activities to Rescue Royal Turtles From Extinction.

