



Pulling Together to Rescue 11 Asian Elephants

The rescue of 11 Asian Elephants (*Elephas maximus*) from a mud hole inside the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary, Mondulkiri Province on 24th March 2017 avoided a tragedy for wildlife conservation in Cambodia.

"If the community had not got together with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), ELIE and the Department of Environment to rescue these 11 Asian Elephants, this would have been a tragedy" said Tan Setha, WCS Technical Advisor to the protected area. "This herd, representing roughly 10% of the elephant population at Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary, consisted of three adult females and eight juveniles of various ages, including a male that had almost reached maturity. These elephants represent an important part of the breeding population in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary, and their loss would have been a major blow for conservation", added Tan Setha.



The mud hole where the elephants were trapped was a bomb crater left over from the Vietnam War that had been enlarged by farmers to store water. © Khang Soeung / WCS

Camera Trap Confirms Birds Using Feeding Stations

Pictures from camera traps have confirmed that Bar-bellied Pitta (*Hydornis elliotii*; popular with tourists), Siamese Fireback (*Lophura diardi*), Red Jungle Fowl (*Gallus gallus*), and Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*) are using the bird feeding stations in the forest surrounding Jahoo Gibbon Camp. Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus*



Female Bar-bellied Pitta, popular with tourists, was photographed by the camera trap. © WCS

Bengalensis) and Northern Pig-tailed Macaque (*Macaca leonina*) were also spotted nearby. The Jahoo Gibbon Camp is a community run eco-tourism lodge. These results show that the bird feeding stations are successfully attracting birds and also demonstrate the importance of the forest for mammals. The bird feeding stations will hopefully provide reliable bird viewing for tourists, encouraging more people to visit this lovely area of forest and contribute to its conservation

Orange-necked Partridge Surveyed At Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary

The Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary monitoring team are conducting village surveys in the south of the protected area, to find out if villagers recognise the sight and sound of the Orange-necked Partridge (*Arborophila davidi*). This species occurs mostly in Vietnam and in Cambodia is restricted to a small area in the east of the country that is under threat from land clearance. The information from villagers, combined with satellite imagery and habitat data, will allow the team to identify an area in which to look for the species. A full species survey, using recordings of the bird's call played to provoke a response call from wild birds, will be conducted once this area is identified.



Research team interviewed local villager about presence of Orange-necked Partridge near their village.

Community Patrol Team Stop Illegal Forest Clearing inside the Sanctuary

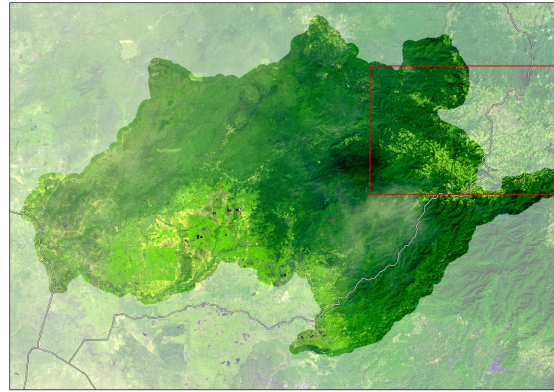
The community patrol team from Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary did a great job in forest and wildlife protection. With support from Ministry of Environment officials and military police, they stopped illegal forest clearing activities for grabbing land inside the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary in Pukong Village, Srae Preah Commune, Keo Seima District, in Mondulakiri Province. The patrol team seized six chainsaws, 15 axes, one air gun, eight snares and one motorbike, as well as sending two illegal loggers to court.



Six chainsaws, 15 axes, one air gun, eight snares and one motorbike were seized. © Em Tray / WCS

Mondulkiri's Unique and Beautiful Ecosystem Grassland Is Threatened By Bauxite Mining Development Plans

Because rain clouds usually obscure the view from space, we seldom see the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS) in its full wet-season color. This year, due to a late wet season, we were treated this spectacular view of KWS in full green!



The map shows unique and beautiful ecosystem grassland that is situated in Mondul Kiri province, most of them are in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary.

This has provided a particularly rare glimpse of the hill-top grasslands in the north of KWS at their most vibrant stage. Unfortunately, this unique and beautiful ecosystem - a familiar site for visitors to Mondul Kiri - is threatened by plans to develop bauxite mining in the area. WCS and local communities united in opposing this development.

Authorities and Communities Learning About Keo Seima REDD+ Project

WCS, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, organized a dissemination workshop on the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary REDD+ Project in Mondul Kiri province. Presided

over by H.E. Cheng Sochantha, Deputy Governor of Mondul Kiri Province, and H.E. Chuop Paris, Deputy Secretary General of National Council on Sustainable Development (NCS), and attended by 70 stakeholders and local community members, this workshop aimed to inform relevant stakeholders of the current status of KWS REDD+, disseminate information on the REDD+ benefit sharing mechanism and conservation activities that are being implemented, and seek cooperation with local government, relevant stakeholders and communities for effectively reducing of deforestation and forest degradation in KWS.



More than 80 participants from MoE, authorities, NGOs, and communities joined the Keo Seima REDD+ Workshop. © Eng Mengey / WCS

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.

“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](#)



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



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