



Newsletter

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KEO SEIMA REDD+



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Critically Endangered Giant Ibis Recorded in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary



Critically Endangered Giant Ibis spotted in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary. © Sot Vandoeun / WCS

Two pairs of the Critically Endangered Giant Ibis have been found in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KSWs), the WCS and MoE Wildlife Monitoring Team confirms. These are the first seen at the site in ten years.

This finding confirms once again that KSWs is a biodiversity hotspot and vital for conservation of globally threatened mammal and bird species.

Giant Ibis (*Thaumatibis gigantea*), Cambodia's national bird, is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List. The species now occurs only in Cambodia, with very few recent records from Lao People's Democratic Republic and Vietnam. Cambodia has around 99 percent of the global population, estimated at 194 mature individuals, making it the most important country in the world for Giant Ibis conservation. [Read full story](#)

REDD+ Taskforce visits Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary



REDD+ Taskforces visit Elephant Valley Project. © Yeang Donal / WCS

Fifty-five members of Cambodia's REDD+ Taskforce, Taskforce Secretariat, Technical Teams, and REDD+ Consultation Group visited the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KSWs) during their 9th Cambodia REDD+ Taskforce meeting in Monduliri province. During the visit, they learned about the ecotourism at the Elephant Valley Project (EVP), Indigenous Community Land Title in Pu Trom communities, and related REDD+ activities in KSWs.

Under the REDD+ national program, the representative of WCS was elected to chair the REDD+

Consultation Group (CG) which plays a significant role in connecting REDD+ programmes to local communities, Indigenous Groups, NGOs, civil society, and other key stakeholders.

Conservationists and Artists Join Force to highlight the Snaring Crisis in Asia's Forest

International conservation NGOs, including Wildlife Alliance, WCS, WWF, Conservation International, FFI, BirdLife and Free the Bears join forces with Cambodian Artists to organize an awareness event, the Capture Project, highlighting the snaring crisis in Asia's forest at Aeon Mall.



Young elephant was killed by snare inside the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary. © Sot Vandouen / WCS

Highlighting the critical threat to Southeast Asian wildlife from poaching snares that kill millions of animals every year, this art project features photographs of Cambodian models and celebrities with simulated injuries similar to those of snared animals.

Wildlife in South East Asia is declining faster than anywhere else in the world. A recent study demonstrated that all large-bodied mammals in the region have lost more than 80% of their geographic ranges since 1900.

Joint Efforts Countering Threats on Keo Seima's Forests and Wildlife

With joint efforts between the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and community rangers, as well as technical and financial support from WCS, over 130 chainsaws, 400 snares, 85 motorbikes, and other equipment being used for illegal activities were confiscated inside Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KSWS) from July to September, while six people were arrested and sent to the provincial court. This has been one of the most successful periods for law enforcement in KSWS so far this year, although continuing and increased law enforcement is needed to conserve KSWS' forest and wildlife.



Community patrol team in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary confiscated chainsaws and other illegal equipment. © WCS

"This result would not be possible without strong support and cooperation from everyone ranging from law enforcement team to local community level. Special thank goes to rangers who have been working so hard to combat illegal logging and poaching inside KSWS," said Tan SETHA, WCS's Technical Advisor KSWS. "They have played a key role in securing KSWS's forests and biodiversity over the past decades."

Cambodia - Vietnam Joint Efforts to Combat Transborder Wildlife Trafficking

Mondulkiri Department of Environment, in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), organized a third bi-lateral meeting since 2015, between four provinces of Cambodia (Mondulkiri and Kratie) and Vietnam (Binh Phuoc and Dak Nong) on wildlife trafficking. The meeting, “Combatting illegal wildlife trafficking between Cambodia and Vietnam”, was opened by the Deputy Provincial Governor of Mondulkiri and participated in by more than 52 participants from national and subnational government agencies from both countries, including the Department of Environment, Police agencies, Customs, Border Army, Forestry officials, protected area directors, and the provincial judiciary.



Fifty-two participants from national and subnational government agencies of Cambodia and Vietnam. © Kong Sothin/ WCS

“The main purpose of this meeting is to develop cooperation between local authorities in four border provinces of Viet Nam and Cambodia in the fight against wildlife trafficking,” said Sarah Brook, Technical Advisor for Counter Wildlife Trafficking for the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). “The Eastern Plains landscape is a very important area for biodiversity conservation in Cambodia with populations of many threatened species that have been extirpated elsewhere, and unfortunately that makes it a hotspot for illegal poaching and cross border trade.” [Read full story](#)

Wild Animals Released into Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary

Ministry of Environment (MoE), WCS and Wildlife Alliance (WA) released over twenty animals back to the wild in Keo Seima Wildlife sanctuary, Mondulkiri Province. Those wild animals included one tortoise, four primates, four monitor lizards, six snakes, and five common palm civets.



Conservationists from MoE, WA and WCS released rescued wild animals into Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary. © WCS

Villagers Learned about Market Chain

Cambodian Rural Development Team (CRDT) oriented over 80 local people in three villages of O’rana, Sre Khtum and Andoung Kraloeng in

Mondulkiri province about marketing and market chains. The purpose of this meeting is to make them all aware of marketing network and to strengthen their market chain development.

After the meeting, 10 local farmers have prepared their business plan to increase products and to contact buyers directly for sell their product.



CRDT organized a dialogue on the market strategy with villagers. © Hach Chhorn / WCS



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