



**KSWS  
REDD+**



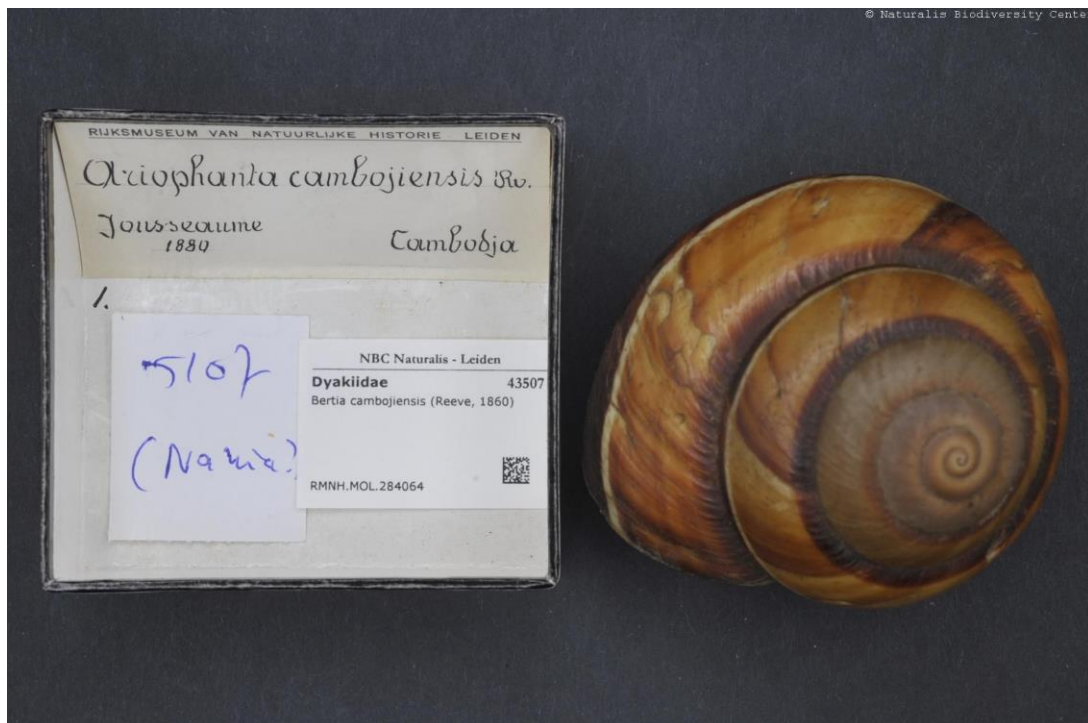
## គម្រោង រដបូក កែវសីមា

Quarterly Newsletter

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### Discovery of rare giant snail brings total of Critically Endangered species in KSWS to 10

A [recent paper](#) published in the [Cambodian Journal of Natural History](#) describes the discovery of the [Critically Endangered giant land snail \*Bertia cambojiensis\*](#) in O Reang district in KSWS, the first time that this species has been recorded in Cambodia. After its first description from Vietnam in 1860, the snail was not recorded again for many years, and was thought to be extinct. In 2012, it was found in one location in Vietnam. Live specimens of this snail were recently found in O Reang district. The snails can grow very large; their shells can reach up to 8 cm across! The shells are commonly seen outside houses, showing that this species is frequently eaten by local people in KSWS.



## CPA members sell sustainably harvested bamboo

Community members from three villages inside KSWS have teamed up to manage a community protected area (CPA) to protect their local forest and provide a sustainable source of income. Bamboo is harvested from the CPA and processed into sticks and slats to sell in neighboring provinces. In January, the community sold 94 bundles of bamboo, generating over US \$400. Bamboo is a fast growing species that provides important habitat in the forest and useful ecosystem services such as prevention of soil erosion. Members of the CPA have been trained in sustainable harvesting techniques to ensure that they preserve their bamboo source for the future. They also collect bamboo seedlings that are cultivated in community nurseries before being replanted in areas of the forest that were cleared before the CPA was created. In two to five years, these replanted stands will also be ready for harvesting, ensuring that income generation can continue.





## Members of newly formed community patrol teams join the mission to protect KSW

Several villages in KSW have decided to form community patrol teams to help protect their local forest and resources. With the support of WCS and the provincial Department of Environment (DoE), patrol team members are learning how to plan, carry out, and report patrols. This training includes how to use a GPS to collect location information, and what to note down when an illegal activity is encountered. Information collected by the community patrol teams will be passed to DoE so that illegal activities can be acted on immediately. Information about the area patrolled and any observations made will also be recorded using the [Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool \(SMART\)](#), which helps law enforcement officials to plan patrols based on previous intelligence. Since receiving their training, some of the teams have already carried out patrols and reported crimes to the park director and law enforcement team.



## Trapped elephant rescued from hole near KSWs

In February, a young adult male elephant made headlines after he was [rescued from an irrigation pool](#) on the edge of KSWs. The elephant probably went into the water to cool down in the mud, but was unable to get out again because the sides were too steep. He was trapped for 12 to 18 hours, but luckily a local resident went to check the pool after hearing a noise there the night before. The resident alerted park authorities who were able to coordinate a response involving the provincial Department of Environment, WCS, the local fire department, and local residents. A fire truck sprayed the elephant with water to keep it cool while others were able to dig out one side of the pool to form a slope. Thanks to everyone's hard work the elephant is now safely back in the forest. Irrigation pools are a hazard for elephants near KSWs, especially in agricultural land that has recently been converted from forest, as they are often on elephants' traditional movement routes, may be the only sources of water nearby, and often have steep sides making them difficult to escape from.





## REDD+ verification underway for 2018–2019

The KSWs REDD+ project is currently undergoing its third verification, for 2018–2019. During each period that the project sells carbon credits, the project must be verified by an external auditor. This is to make sure that activities continue to meet the commitments that were made when the KSWs REDD+ project received certification under the [Verified Carbon Standard](#) and the [Climate, Community, and Biodiversity \(CCB\) Standards](#). These certifications are voluntary and encourage REDD+ projects to strive for best practice. During verification, there is a public comment period, where the public are invited to comment on project documents, usually online. Getting on the internet isn't an option for many residents in KSWs so the team have been holding consultations in-person to ensure everyone gets their chance to contribute.



## Upskilling community members to improve non-timber forest product incomes

Currently members of Sre Preah CPA make a moderately low income from their sustainably harvested bamboo because they are selling mainly unprocessed materials. Processing the bamboo into different products would add value and allow the community to target different markets and increase their revenue. Members recently attended a five-day training course on treating bamboo using natural substances and crafting various products including kettles, cups, glasses, tissue boxes, pencil cases, and speaker stands, all from bamboo. Participants are looking forward to putting their training into practice and creating some sustainably sourced local handicrafts that they hope to sell through Mondulkiri's responsible tourism hub Hefalump Café, located in Sen Monorom.





## **Species population and distribution surveys begin across KSWs**

Every two years, transect surveys take place across KSWs to provide estimates of population and distribution of 13 key species. The surveys for 2020 have just begun, and the wildlife monitoring team will collect data from across KSWs on birds (e.g., green peafowl), primates (e.g., yellow-cheeked crested gibbon and black-shanked douc), and other mammals (e.g., northern red muntjac (see photo), and Eld's deer). There are 40 transects across KSWs, and each one is surveyed eight times. This means that the team will walk more than 1,200 km in total during the survey! So far, they have completed 22 transects and have spotted almost 1,000 individual animals. They aim to finish the surveys in June, when the data can then be analyzed using a method called “distance sampling” to estimate the population sizes of the 13 species. This information can help to evaluate the impact of conservation activities in KSWs, by comparing with results from previous years.





## Improving law enforcement planning and action in KSWs

Staff from WCS, law enforcement rangers, and community members recently attended a workshop on risk assessment and building law enforcement capacity. Participants used the Law Enforcement Planning Toolkit (LEPT) to undertake an in-depth analysis of wildlife crime in KSWs, prioritize key targets, identify gaps in current law enforcement practice, and assess training and mentoring needs of protected area staff. The information will be used to develop a Law Enforcement Strategy and Action Plan for KSWs, which will help to increase the effectiveness of KSWs management practices, particularly in relation to law enforcement and reducing illegal activities. The procedure is also a useful way for staff to focus on long-term goals and strategies for the protected area.



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