



**KSWS
REDD+**



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Quarterly Newsletter

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US Ambassador to Cambodia visits KSWS

In June, the US Ambassador to Cambodia spent three days visiting the KSWS REDD+ project. Along with representatives from USAID, the ambassador visited the park headquarters to learn from the Ministry of Environment and provincial Department of Environment about management of the project and some of the challenges faced by the teams. He also visited Jahoo Gibbon Camp in Andoung Kraloeng, an ecotourism destination that is generating income for the local indigenous community through primate-watching, and met with the community to discuss their hopes for the future.



Yellow-cheeked crested gibbon confiscated and released into KSWs

At the beginning of June, rangers from the provincial Department of Environment rescued a yellow-cheeked crested gibbon that was being kept illegally as a pet in a village near KSWs. The rangers explained the importance of this species in the wild to the people that were keeping it and reminded them that it is illegal and dangerous to keep wild animals as pets. KSWs is home to the world's largest population of yellow-cheeked crested gibbons, which according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species are [Endangered](#). Mating pairs of gibbons sing a song every morning to cement their bond and declare their territory. This haunting song is part of the soundscape of the forest in KSWs. Unfortunately, yellow-cheeked crested gibbons are threatened by habitat loss and poaching. The KSWs REDD+ project works hard to protect their forest and keep them safe for future generations to enjoy. Thankfully, the confiscated gibbon was healthy and able to be released back into the wild shortly after it was rescued.



Boundary posts installed along northern edge of KSWS

While much of the world has been in lockdown due to the COVID-19 outbreak, rangers from the provincial Department of Environment have been working hard with local communities to clearly mark out the boundary of the protected area. Concrete posts colored red and white are used to mark the boundary so that anybody moving through the area knows when they are entering KSWS. This is important to help reduce the threat of forest clearance in KSWS as the posts clearly inform everyone of the boundary where the protected area starts and therefore where the provisions of the Protected Area Law apply. KSWS covers a huge area, much of which is difficult to access, so it takes a long time to make sure that the whole boundary is clearly marked.



KSWS REDD+ staff discuss wildlife conservation on national television

In early June, the law enforcement advisor from the KSWS REDD+ project joined a TV panel discussion with H.E. Net Pheaktra from the Ministry of Environment and Bun Salout, chief of the forest monks of Banteay Meanchey province in northwest Cambodia. The [feature](#) was aired on Bayon TV, a national television channel. Following the killing of an [Endangered banteng](#) by a snare in the monks' forest, guests discussed wildlife conservation efforts across Cambodia, including protected area coverage. WCS has worked with the government for many years to support wildlife research, monitoring, and protection across Cambodia. The KSWS REDD+ project is an excellent example of this partnership and demonstrates how the government and NGOs can collaborate to ensure local communities benefit from wildlife conservation through initiatives such as ecotourism, bird nest protection schemes, carbon credit sales, and sustainably harvesting non-timber forest products to sell at local markets.



Cambodia joins international network of biodiversity data sharing

We recently shared that WCS Cambodia had become the first Cambodian organization to publish data (from KSWs) through the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), an international network and research infrastructure funded by the world's governments and aimed at providing anyone, anywhere, open access to data about all types of life on Earth (newsletter #16). Now, [Cambodia has joined the GBIF network](#) as an associate participant. It is the fourth country in Asia, and sixtieth in the world, to do so, following the signing of a memorandum of understanding in May. Cambodia's membership will support the development of a national biodiversity database to improve storage of, access to, and impact of biodiversity data for managing protected areas in Cambodia. The KSWs REDD+ project continues to support sharing of research and monitoring data to inform effective management of KSWs, and WCS Cambodia continues to support capacity building of the Royal Government of Cambodia and other partners on data mobilization and use of the GBIF platform.



Village outlines plan for investing community income from ecotourism

The community committee in Andoung Kraloeng recently unveiled their latest plan for spending income from ecotourism that is earmarked for community development. Visitors to Jahoo Gibbon Camp pay an extra contribution to Andoung Kraloeng’s “Gibbon Fund” if they manage to see either of the Endangered primates found in the forest near Jahoo, the yellow-cheeked crested gibbon and the black-shanked douc langur. These extra payments go into the community bank account and are used for projects that benefit the whole village, ensuring that everyone profits from local efforts to protect the forest and wildlife. A large part of the money currently in the fund will go towards supporting residents to protect their community land through regular patrols and land inspection. Some will be put towards meetings and training of community members. The committee have also decided to spend some of the income on scholarships to disadvantaged children in the village and on providing support to the elderly. Spending will begin soon, under the supervision of committee members assigned to oversee each theme. We hope to be able to share some updates on these activities with you next time.



Residents consider collective land title available for indigenous communities

Local residents of Sre I village in KSWs recently met with KSWs REDD+ staff and the director of KSWs to learn more about the process of community land titling. As an indigenous community, people from this village are entitled to apply to the government for the legal rights to collectively manage an area of forest and land near their village that they have traditionally used in the past. The land title would allow residents to take a more active role in forest conservation and make decisions about how the land will be managed in future. It is also an important way in which the community can preserve their cultural heritage, ensuring that sacred areas such as spirit forests are protected. If the community receives the title they will be supported by the KSWs REDD+ team to develop a management plan to guide activities in the area, as well as a committee to take decisions on behalf of all participating community members.



Jahoo Gibbon Camp featured in national travel magazine

Jahoo Gibbon Camp in Andoung Kraloeng features in the latest issue of Discover magazine, as part of a four-page feature on responsible tourism in Mondulkiri. Discover is published annually and provides readers with detailed information on the latest tourist attractions and activities. It is available in print in various outlets across Cambodia. The article on Jahoo Gibbon Camp describes the adventure of hiking through the forest searching for wildlife and eating traditional Bunong food with the community guides.



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CAMPAS PROJECT

