



**KSWs
REDD+**



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Quarterly Newsletter

Issue No. 24
July–September 2021

Ride-hailing app Grab offers customers chance to offset carbon emissions from their journeys

The Grab ride-hailing app is available in two cities in Cambodia and is widely used by the public to take motorbikes, rickshaws, and taxis to get around the city. Users now have the option to choose to offset the carbon emissions from their journey, paying a voluntary additional fee that is then used to purchase carbon credits from the KSWs REDD+ project. This helps to raise awareness of the importance of the forests of KSWs with the general public, giving them an opportunity to directly engage in protecting the natural heritage of Cambodia, while also playing a role in tackling global climate change.

WCS / Adam Roberts



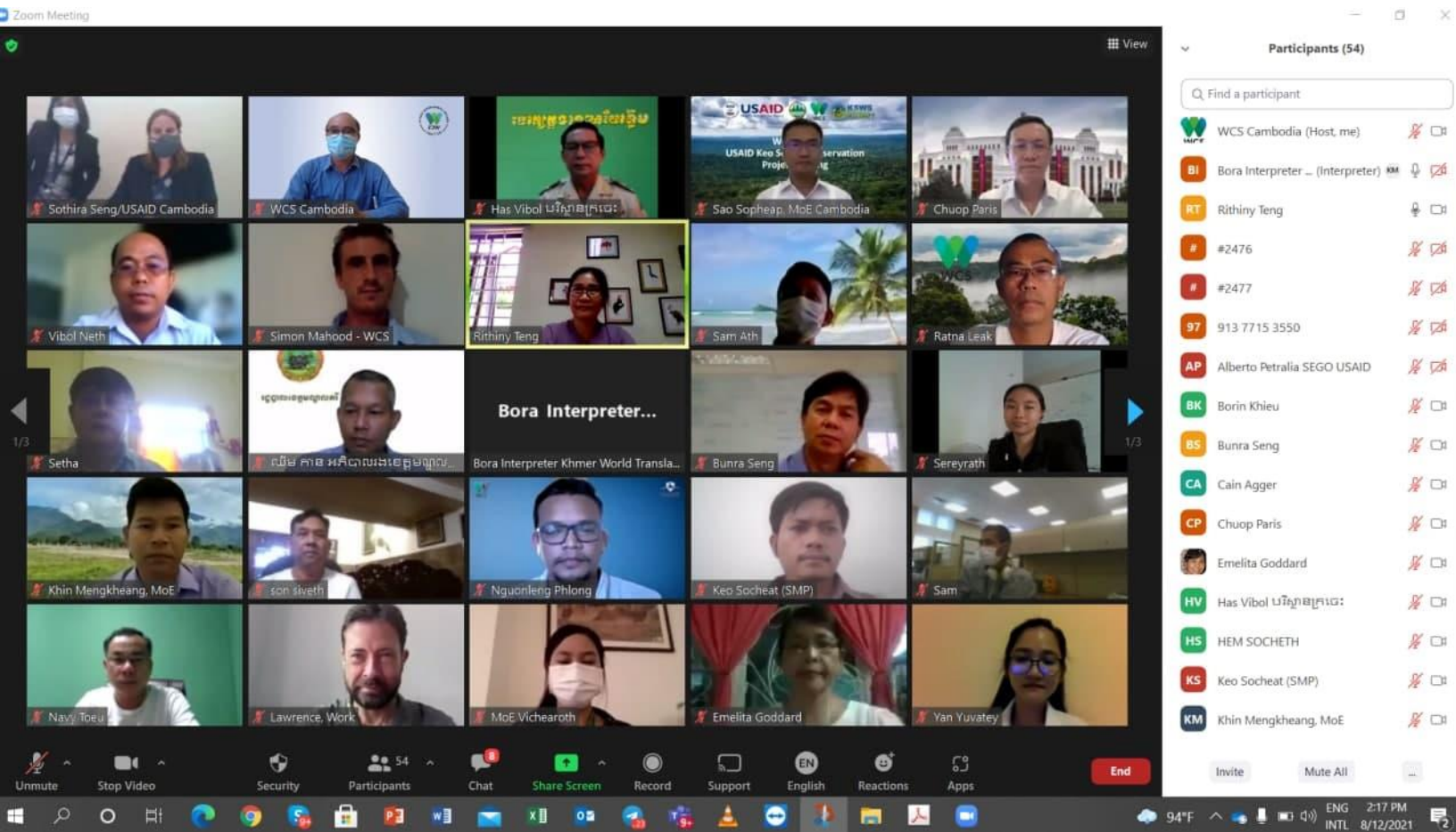
Community plants bamboo to regenerate illegally cleared forest

Members of Sre Preah community protected area (CPA) often gather bamboo cuttings from their forest, bringing them back to the village to be grown in community-run nurseries. These cuttings are collected sustainably, in a way that allows the parent bamboo plant to continue to grow and replace the harvested cuttings. Once the cuttings have spent a few months in the nurseries and have developed into strong seedlings, they are replanted in the CPA, in areas where the forest has been illegally cleared. Bamboo can grow quickly and helps to anchor soil, which can be washed away when there are no trees. As the bamboo grows, it provides shade, which gives an ideal habitat for forest-dwelling species—many of these grow best in shade. This helps to regenerate forest. In August, members planted 623 bamboo seedlings in an area of approximately 3 hectares inside Sre Preah CPA. The planted seedlings will be monitored to ensure that they survive. Now that these seedlings have left the nursery, there is space to cultivate more, so new young cuttings will be gathered from mature bamboo stands in healthy parts of the CPA.



USAID Keo Seima Conservation Project successfully completed

Mid-August marked the successful completion of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Keo Seima Conservation Project (KSCP). Running over the last three years, this project has protected biodiversity and promoted sustainable livelihoods and inclusive governance of Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KSWS). Due to the current COVID-19 situation in Cambodia, this occasion was celebrated through an online event. The key aims of the project were to improve biodiversity conservation and ecosystem health, sustainable and equitable economic opportunities, community livelihoods, and natural capital reinvestment, and to strengthen inclusive landscape governance in KSWS and the Eastern Plains, Cambodia. A key outcome of the project was reaching the milestone of securing sustainable finance for managing KSWS, news that we shared earlier this year. The team have been busy planning the next few years of activities to follow up on the success of the USAID KSCP.





Community contributes REDD+ benefit sharing funds towards installation of clean drinking water system

Residents of Sre I village in KSWS decided to use some of the proceeds from REDD+ benefit sharing to put towards the installation of a clean water system in their village. An NGO working in the area, Caritas, had already secured funding from donors to cover most of the costs, and organized installation of the system. Thanks to the new set-up, clean water is now being supplied to 47 households, the local primary school, the local health post, and two community meeting halls. Villages that participate in the REDD+ project receive a share of the financial benefits each year, which they use to improve their communities and promote sustainable development. Each village chooses their own priorities for funding, and installing clean water systems is often a high priority.

REDD+ benefit sharing funds improve access to healthcare in four villages

Residents of four villages in KSWs decided to spend their REDD+ benefit sharing funds to pay for a mobile health clinic to visit the village once every three months. Access to healthcare in KSWs is difficult, and many ailments go untreated until they are so serious that they require expensive medical intervention. WCS has partnered with [CIAI](#), the Italian Centre for Aid to Children, to improve access to basic healthcare in villages in KSWs. CIAI works with the Department of Health to provide a mobile clinic to the villages that have requested this service, funded by each village's REDD+ benefit sharing funds. The mobile health clinic gives basic health checks to adults and children and can provide a medical consultation to those with health issues. A range of medicine is available for those that require it, to treat the most common ailments. All of these services are free at the point of access, paid for entirely with the REDD+ benefit sharing funds. If the mobile health clinic is unable to treat an illness, then they will refer the patient to the nearest health center for treatment.





Nest protection program helps Cambodia's national bird

The nest protection program for threatened birds operates in KSWs on a model that was first tested by WCS in the Northern Plains in Cambodia. Staff and local residents search the forest for nests of threatened birds, and when found, these nests are entered into the protection program. Local residents are employed to protect the nest until all chicks have fledged. Many threats can cause nests to be unsuccessful, and this program helps to increase the success of nests of species with small populations. So far this breeding season, one protected giant ibis chick has successfully fledged and another is still being protected in its nest. Giant ibis is the national bird of Cambodia, so it is a great honor to be helping this species to survive in KSWs. Seven lesser adjutant nests are also under the protection scheme at the moment. We hope to have some more fledged-chick news to report to you next time!

Village focal points recruited as liaisons for REDD+ activities

We recently told you how excited we were to have secured sustainable financing for KSWs from the REDD+ project. This means that we can scale up our activities and add new initiatives. In recognition of the increase in the scope of the project, focal points are currently being recruited in all participating villages. These village focal points, all of whom will be normal, full-time residents of their respective villages, will help to ensure that the KSWS REDD+ team stays up to date with the local situation in each village, including development priorities, unforeseen challenges, and visions for the future. They will act as a dedicated liaison between residents and the KSWS REDD+ team, so that even when the team is not in the village, residents can share their concerns or access information. Interviews to select candidates are currently underway, and the successful applicants will receive mentoring to carry out their new role.



SMART helps rangers target hotspots of crime

A recent update to the Khmer language version of the SMART Mobile app now allows users to navigate to a specific location that can be given ahead of time, for example in a patrol plan, or provided on an ad hoc basis, such as when intelligence is received. Rangers working across KSWs have been given training at their ranger stations to help them use this new functionality in the app to improve the effectiveness of law enforcement patrols. Combined with the overarching SMART Connect database, it will be easier for the park director to manage patrol team activities and make sure that teams patrol in target areas, which is important in working towards an efficient and integrated system of law enforcement across KSWs. This in turn will help to better protect the forest and wildlife, and ensure that communities' rights to natural resources are respected.



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