



KSWS
REDD+



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Quarterly Newsletter

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REDD+ benefit sharing supports new primary school feeding program

Residents of Gati village, nestled in the forest in KSWS, recently outlined their latest plans for spending benefit sharing funds from REDD+. One of their top priorities was supporting a feeding program at their local primary school. Now that schools have returned to in-person teaching, the feeding program is underway. Almost fifty students, more than half of whom are girls, have been enjoying breakfast at school twice per month thanks to the launch of the new program. The village's REDD+ benefit sharing funds are paying for rice, meat and vegetables, as well as a payment for the cooks who prepare the food. This ensures that all students get a good meal before they begin learning, which will help them to try their best and encourages them to attend school.





Success for lesser adjutant nests in 2021 breeding season

The breeding season for lesser adjutants (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) in KSWs is drawing to a close. This threatened bird, listed as [Vulnerable](#) on the IUCN Red List, is threatened by habitat loss and illegal egg collectors. Residents in KSWs have been working with KSWs REDD+ staff to find lesser adjutant nests and protect them. Individual community members have been employed to protect each nest from human interference. Thanks to this program, 16 nests were protected this year, and 14 chicks were successfully fledged, meaning that they have now left their nests. This is really great news for the lesser adjutant population in KSWs and testament to the hard work and dedication of the guards employed to protect them.

Climbing training delivered in preparation for installing acoustic monitoring equipment

KSWS REDD+ project staff, staff from project partner World Hope International, and community members from Andoung Kraloeng village recently received training in safely climbing trees in the forest surrounding Jahoo (an ecotourism site). A new collaboration with Cornell University will see the installation of acoustic monitoring equipment that will be used to study the behavior of yellow-cheeked crested gibbons living in the forest in KSWS. Because gibbons live high in the trees, the equipment needs to be installed high up as well. To allow the team to install these units safely, they took part in training given by a climbing expert, learning how to use ropes to climb trees, set up equipment, and safely climb back down again. Everyone passed with flying colors and is excited to get up in the canopy soon to launch this new collaboration.





Another community protected area in KSWS nears establishment

The latest community protected area (CPA) under establishment in KSWS is nearing approval. Members of O Mpek Lvie CPA have developed bylaws to guide management of their future CPA, which have been submitted to local authorities for approval. The Ministry of Environment visited the CPA and, together with members, marked the boundary of the proposed area. Based on a map that was drafted with the community, the visitors also inspected locations that might be suitable for ecotourism. The KSWS REDD+ team is supporting the community through all the stages of establishment and management, drawing from expertise developed during work with other CPAs in KSWS.



Selfie spots installed ready for return of tourism to KSWs

In preparation for the return of tourists to KSWs as travel and holiday restrictions ease in Cambodia, several selfie spots have been installed across the protected area. These signboards tell visitors more about KSWs and the REDD+ project, as well as ways in which visitors can contribute to protecting the forest. The boards have been erected at popular tourist sites, including a waterfall and a forest viewpoint. Visitors are encouraged to take pictures of themselves with the boards and share them across social media using the hashtag #ILoveKSWs. The board locations are signposted from the main road that runs through KSWs, so keep an eye out for them next time you visit!

Preparing for community land inventories in KSWs

Residents in several villages in KSWs have received training over the last few months on how to carry out a land inventory. This process involves recording all of the different uses of community land, and needs to be repeated at intervals to update information. Trainees learned about the purpose of land inventories, and how to use a GPS unit to record the information needed for the inventory. Participants also got some hands-on practice, measuring out small plots of land next to the classroom to practice using the information sheets to record data. Next year, the trainees will use everything that they have learned to work with the KSWs REDD+ team and local authorities to update information on local land use.





Students from the city immersed in nature during study tour

Students from four high schools in Phnom Penh recently joined a study tour with the Ministry of Environment, visiting KAWS to learn about natural resource management, biodiversity, and community livelihood improvement in the REDD+ project. The students and their teachers visited the community ecotourism site [Jahoo](#) to see wildlife, some waterfalls, the [Elephant Valley Project](#), and Sre Preah community protected area bamboo enterprise. All of the students took notes on what they learned and explained how excited they were to have been given this opportunity to visit the natural heritage of Cambodia and learn more about the environment. They are looking forward to sharing all of their new knowledge with their classmates back in the city. We hope that we can welcome more of these students to KAWS soon.

Location of IBIS Rice farmland inspected before rice harvest

Farmers who have signed up to grow organic, wildlife-friendly [IBIS Rice](#) have recently been inspected in advance of the coming rice harvest. In order to qualify for premiums when selling their rice, farmers must abide by conservation regulations agreed to when they join the program. These include avoiding the use of chemicals, not hunting wildlife, and refraining from clearing additional land for cultivation. To check compliance with this last condition, the geoinformatics team provided maps that farmers, members of the Village Marketing Network, community patrol teams, and staff used to confirm whether individuals have increased their farmland during the last monitoring period. Some locations were identified for further investigation. Any farmers that have broken the terms of their agreement will not be eligible for the premium price during this harvest, but will be allowed to re-register next year, as long as they give back any land that they shouldn't have cleared. Farmers that have met all of the terms of their agreements will be eligible for premium payments for this harvest.



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