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White-shouldered Ibis Nests Located in the Northern Plains

So far this year, three nests of the Critically Endangered White-shouldered Ibis (*Pseudibis davisoni*) have been located in Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary of the Northern Plains of Cambodia. WCS employs local community members to protect these nests and attaches “predator exclusion belts” to White-shouldered Ibis nesting trees to reduce egg predation.

In Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary, monitoring of ibis nests is paid for by a community fund raised by Tmatboey eco-tourism in collaboration with WCS partner, Sam Veasna Centre, providing sustainable finance for the conservation of one of Cambodia’s most enigmatic and threatened birds.

Some of these nest protectors were previously hunters, but the alternative livelihoods provided by the nest protection programme incentivises local communities to protect the threatened birds and habitats that are integral to the livelihoods of both the wildlife and people who rely on the Northern Plains.



Endangered Turtles Were Rescued and Released Into the Wild

Ten Vulnerable Malayan Snail-eating Turtles (*Malayemys subtrijuga*) and an Endangered Yellow-headed Temple Turtle (*Heosemys annandalii*) were rescued by Ministry of Environment's Rangers and Community Patrol Team inside the Prek Toal Core Area and Ramsar Site of the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve while the teams were patrolling.



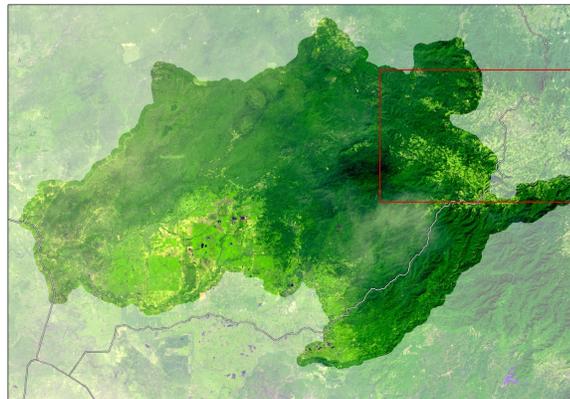
Ministry of Environment's Rangers released the Endangered Yellow-headed Temple Turtle into the water after confiscated. © Long Kheng / WCS

Conservation Activities at Prek Toal Core Area and Ramsar Site would not be possible without financial supports from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies. [Read full story](#)



Mondulkiri's Unique and Beautiful Ecosystem Grassland Is Threatened By Bauxite Mining Development Plans

Because rain clouds usually obscure the view from space, we seldom see the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KSWs) in its full wet-season color. This year, due to a late wet season, we were treated this spectacular view of KSWs in full green!



The map shows unique and beautiful ecosystem grassland that is situated in Mondulkiri province, most of them are in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary.

This has provided a particularly rare glimpse of the hill-top grasslands in the north of KSWs at their most vibrant stage. Unfortunately, this unique and beautiful ecosystem - a familiar site for visitors to Mondulkiri - is threatened by plans to develop bauxite mining in the area. WCS and local communities united in opposing this development.



Sarus Cranes return to the Northern Tonle Sap Protected Landscape

Thirty-five Sarus Cranes have returned to the Northern Tonle Sap Protected Landscape (NTSPL) in Kampong Thom and Siem Reap Provinces for feeding at the end of their breeding season. These are the first of at least 50 Sarus Cranes that return to the site every year, making the NTSPL a critical habitat for the Sarus Crane, as well as the most important breeding site for the Critically Endangered Bengal Florican. The cranes typically arrive in the NTSPL in December, and stay until late May, when they go to the Northern Plains for breeding.



Sarus Crane is a large and elegant non-migratory crane standing up to 180cm tall. © Ashish John / WCS

Conservation activities in the NTSPL would not be possible without the generous support of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies and Foundation Ensemble. [Read full story](#)



WCS Conservation Hero: Dep Oun

WCS has recognized the leadership of Dep Oun in developing the community-based Tmatbouy Ecotourism project.

When talking about the challenges he has overcome in achieving conservation in Tmatbouy, Dep Oun said, "First, I thought it would be difficult to get my people to understand the importance of forests and wildlife and change their behavior because they have relied on those natural resources to make a living for many years. But, people have changed and now join our patrolling, have stopped poaching and are benefiting from the ecotourism.

In 2006, Dep Oun was elected as Chief of the Tmatbouy Ecotourism Community Protected Area. In this role, he has led community members to protect forests and wildlife while developing an ecotourism project with partners WCS and Sam Veasna Center that generates extra income for local people.

"I am committed to protecting the forests and wildlife around the village for the next generation" he said. [Read Full Story](#)



Dep Oun (right) pictured with his idol, Preah Sovat, the Cambodia's most popular singer, after both of them receiving gold medals from Ministry of Environment.



Boundaries Set for a New Wildlife Sanctuary

The Preah Roka Wildlife Sanctuary (PRWS) is a new protected area (PA) joining two existing PAs in the northern plains of Cambodia to form the largest area - over 500,000 ha - of dry deciduous forest protected in the region. Stakeholders from the Department of Environment, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), District and Commune authorities, and local people recently worked closely together to install posts to mark the PRWS boundary.



Stakeholders worked hard to finish the process of verifying the UTM locations for Preah Roka Wildlife Sanctuary's boundary within five days. © Kong Socheat / WCS

"Preah Roka Wildlife Sanctuary is a really significant addition to PAs in Cambodia" said Alistair Mould, WCS Technical Advisor to the project. "We now have linked two large PA and also protected the largest stand of semi-evergreen forest left in this part of Cambodia" he added.

The establishment of this new PA would not be possible without the generous support of the Rainforest Trust, and conservation activities in the PRWS are also supported by the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies and the MacArthur Foundation. [Read Full Story](#)



Critically Endangered Royal Turtle Rescued

A male Royal Turtle, over 10 years old and weighing 12 kg, was recently rescued by a fisherman and handed to staff from the WCS team in Koh Kong Province. The turtle was recovered from a small tributary of Kaong River in a weak state and was transferred to the Koh Kong Reptile Conservation Centre, a joint project between the Fisheries Administration (FiA) and WCS.



This male turtle will be released into the wild after it is fully recovery. © In Hul / WCS

"I am happy to see local people understanding the importance of the Royal Turtle and taking part in conserving the species" said In Hul, FiA counterpart to WCS on the project. "If this fisherman had not rescued this turtle and handed to us for rehabilitation, it would have died" he added. The Royal Turtle is a Critically Endangered species and also Cambodia's National Reptile.



You can help save Cambodia's Royal Turtle. Stop eating turtle meat and eggs.



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