



Newsletter

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KEO SEIMA REDD+



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Two Critically Endangered Giant Ibis Chicks Recorded in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary

A nest and two chicks of the Critically Endangered Giant Ibis have been found in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KSWs) for the first time, Ministry of Environment (MoE) and WCS's research team reveals. This finding makes KSWs one of the few remaining breeding sites for the species in Cambodia.



Giant Ibises on the nest in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary. © Sot Vandoeun / WCS

“After finding two pairs of Critically Endangered Giant Ibis in late August, our team continued searching for the species and its nest, because we know KSWs is a very good natural habitat and ideal for their feeding and breeding,” said Sot Vandoeun, WCS's Wildlife Research and Monitoring Team Leader in KSWs. [Read full story](#)

Jahoo Gibbon Camp Shortlisted for Euro Award

Jahoo Gibbon Camp, in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary, has been shortlisted out of 131 projects from around the world for a \$35,000 award from the European Outdoor Conservation Association.



Tent in Jahoo Gibbon Camp inside Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary. © Olly Griffin / WCS

If the project wins the vote, the funds will be used to support Ministry of Environment ranger patrols around Andong Kraloeng where Jahoo Gibbon Camp is located, and to support gibbon habituation at the community ecotourism project. Jahoo Gibbon Camp community members would also benefit directly from capacity building and from payments to the gibbon habituation team, as well as from a study trip to another successful ecotourism project to allow them to share ideas and experiences.

New Recording Tool Introduced to Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary's Conservationists

Taking advantage of advances in cloud and mobile computing platforms, CyberTracker, a third-party software application, was introduced by WCS Cambodia to over 30 conservationists from Ministry of Environment's law enforcement teams, community patrol teams and wildlife research staff operating inside the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KSWS) in Kratie and Mondulkiri Provinces.

With this application, they record patrolling information, human activities, wildlife observations and other observations inside the KSWS and transmit this information along with GPS coordinates and digital photographs directly to a cloud-based spatial monitoring system. This system is an advancement of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) that has been in operation in KSWS since 2014. The enhanced software, called SMART Connect, allows for real-time reporting of field observations through mobile devices, a time savings over labor intensive use of paper field notebooks which previously were manually entered into SMART on a monthly basis.



CyberTracker field practice inside KSWS after two-day training. © Kong Sophalrachana / WCS

Jahoo Gibbon Camp Attracts More Visitors

Jahoo Gibbon Camp - Andoung Kralong's community-based ecotourism project inside Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary - is increasingly attracting tourists' attention after being operated by community members for four years and provide unique ecotourism opportunities. These include watching Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon, Black-shanked Douc Langur and beautiful wild birds, visiting wonderful natural waterfalls and evergreen forest, and staying in natural ecotourism accommodation.



A very beautiful natural waterfall inside KSWS near Jahoo Gibbon Camp. © Sot Vandoeun / WCS

This year to date, more than 250 national and international tourists have visited the Jahoo Gibbon Camp compared to 185 tourists in 2016. This has allowed the community to generate over \$6,000 for project staff incomes and over \$3,100 for the village's Community Development Fund. If you would like to be immersed in the forest and see the wildlife of Jahoo Gibbon Camp, contact SVC or visit samveasna.org for detail.

New Project Strengthens Capacity Building for Ecosystem-based Adaptation

WCS in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and the Forestry Administration (FA) launched a new project “Capacity Building for the Ecosystem-based Adaptation in O Por Catchment Subproject of the Biodiversity Conservation Corridors (BCC)” in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary, Mondulkiri Province. The project will establish a community NTFP enterprise under a community NRM scheme supporting Pu Kong, O Chrar and Pu Char villages.

Funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB), this two-year project will focus on the development of key skills and experience of both local communities and local, provincial, and national government to sustainably manage natural resources for increased resilience to climate change.



Participants from MoE, FA, WCS, authorities and communities joined the project launch. © Sun Ratha / WCS

Young Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon Rescued in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary

Two villagers from Andoung Kralong handed the conservationists of WCS and Ministry of Environment in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KSWS) a young Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon on 24 November 2017.



This young gibbon is now safe and staying at Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescued Center. © Harriet Ibbett / WCS

Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon (*Nomascus gabriellae*) is listed on the IUCN Red List as Endangered. Its global population has been rapidly declining over the past decades, with hunting and habitat loss being the big threats. KSWS is a very important area for the species, where more than 2,500 Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbons fill the forest with their haunting territorial song. This female gibbon is about six-week years old and was sent to Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescued Center for rehabilitation and care.

Wildlife Monitoring Team Preparing Plots for Wildlife Survey in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary

Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary's Wildlife Monitoring Team prepare to conduct the bi-annual wildlife surveys. These intensive surveys involve teams walking a total of more than 1,200 km around 40 squares in the protected area, observing and recording any key wildlife species they encounter. Using mathematical models, it is then possible to estimate the abundance of each of the key species found in this special area, including Black Shanked-douc Langur, Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbons, and many others. These figures allow protected area managers to evaluate their project's success, and to alert them to any changes or declines in populations.

This month the team will finish preparing the 40 squares, and next month they will begin their wildlife observations.



Research team made sign for wildlife survey in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary. © Toeou Bann / WCS

Local Villagers Access to Clean Water Supply

Over 110 families in two villages of Pu Char and O Char, Srae Preah Commune, Keo Seima District, Mondulkiri Province, and inside the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary, have been given access to a clean water supply system, organized by the Cambodian Rural Development Team (CRDT). This system gives them access clean water for daily consumption as well as for irrigation of crops. This will significantly contribute to improving local health, which is a component in reducing illegal logging and poaching inside the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary, as sometimes villagers resort to illegal activities to pay expensive, unplanned healthcare costs. CRDT has provided training to villagers to manage and maintain the water supply system.



CRDT team checking quality of water from the water supply system. © CRDT

Trees Planted in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary

Over 100 people from the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with JCI, WCS, provincial authorities, private sectors, local communities, and students planted trees in Keo Seima district of Mondulkiri province, inside Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary. As planned by JCI, about 50,000 trees will be planted inside the sanctuary by the end of 2018.



Participants planted tree in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary. © Toeun Bann / WCS

The purpose of planting these trees is to promote environmental awareness among local communities within Keo Seima district participating in the Keo Seima REDD+ project in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment.



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