

The REDD+ Project

REDD+ (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) is a mechanism to create an incentive for developing countries to protect, better manage and wisely use their forest resources, contributing to the global fight against climate change. The KSWS REDD+ project started in 2010 and focuses on a core region (166,983 hectares) of the protected area. The project includes 20 villages, home to around 18,000 people that benefit from better management of the protected area and support for community development.

The Royal Government of Cambodia's Ministry of Environment (MoE) in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), has sold nearly \$4 million worth of carbon credits to date. Revenue from these carbon sales is now being used to support a full range of conservation and forest management activities including the training of Cambodian government staff in forest and wildlife management. Revenue has also been shared with communities to improve their livelihoods by funding development projects of their choice such as toilets, wells, bridges, meeting halls, and mobile health clinics.



166,983
hectares

REDD+
project area



\$4
Million

Carbon credits
sold



20

REDD+
communities

Funding

Conservation in KSWS is currently supported by funds from carbon sales, the USAID Keo Seima Conservation Project, AFD-FFEM, USFWS and CAMPAS. We are grateful to all our donors and supporters, past and present.



Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary

A Global Treasure and Last Sanctuary for Some of Asia's Most Spectacular Wildlife



Established in 2002 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KSWs, formerly known as the Seima Protection Forest) is one of 56 protected areas in Cambodia and is managed by the Ministry of Environment with support from WCS. Part of the Eastern Plains Landscape, KSWs is situated in the foothills of the Annamite Mountains and encompasses a total area of 292,690 hectares, covering parts of Kratie and Mondulkiri provinces.

With over 950 recorded species, KSWs is considered of great global importance for its rich biodiversity. It is also home to Bunong communities that have depended on the forest economically, culturally and spiritually for many generations.

Cover: Black-shanked douc langur © Eleanor Briggs
Back: Forest in KSWs © Donal Yeang



Biodiversity

More species have been recorded in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary than in any other protected area in Cambodia, with a total of 959 flora, fauna and fungi species to date. The area is of international importance for the conservation of primates including the world's largest known populations of black-shanked douc langur and southern yellow-cheeked crested gibbons, as well as populations of Asian elephants, wild cattle, 23 carnivore species, and the highest number of bird species recorded for any site in Cambodia. A total of 75 animal and plant species are listed as threatened on the IUCN Red List.



Communities

More than 18,000 people live in 20 villages located in or adjacent to KSWs. Most of these people are dependent on the forest of KSWs for resources including food, timber for construction of homes, traditional medicine, and spiritually important plant species. Non-timber forest products including resin are an important source of income in some communities, and allow people to obtain a sustainable income from the forest. KSWs is home to a significant number of Bunong indigenous people, whose spiritual beliefs are closely connected to the forest. WCS has helped the Bunong to obtain Indigenous Community Titles that confer legal tenure over their traditional lands.



Andoung Kraloeng community © Eleanor Briggs

Challenges & Risks

Forest Clearance: Illegal land clearance, typically for cash crops like cassava, or due to speculation, is currently the greatest threat to KSWs. Illegal logging for luxury timber is draining the forest of these rare and precious trees resulting in forest degradation and removing key food sources for wildlife.

Illegal Hunting: Illegal hunting for meat and traditional medicine, is an acute, direct threat to wildlife. Hunting occurs mainly in response to commercial demand from markets that may be hundreds, or even thousands, of miles away. Lines of wire snares indiscriminately trap deer, medium-sized carnivores, ground birds, and even elephants, causing slow, painful, unintended deaths. Hunting with dogs is an increasing problem, despite clear laws on the issue.

Unsustainable Development: Development is a vital process to improve the Cambodian people's welfare, but must be planned and implemented in a manner that works in the long-term and does not come at the expense of Cambodia's natural resources, wildlife, and indigenous people.

Climate Change: Illegal forest clearance has already caused noticeable localized changes in climate and hydrology. Increasing greenhouse gas levels across the globe will, more gradually, cause dramatic changes to an already weakened system. The KSWs REDD+ project has already led to emission reductions of 14 million tonnes CO₂e to date, with impacts measurable on a global scale.