



## Nine New Royal Turtle Hatchlings Taken to Conservation Center in Koh Kong

After being protected for three months, nine new hatchlings of Royal Turtle successfully hatched and were taken to Koh Kong Reptile Conservation Centre, Koh Kong Province, for feeding, raising and possibly breeding in the future.

The Royal Turtle, also known as Southern River Terrapin (*Batagur affinis*), is one of the world's most endangered freshwater turtles and is listed on the IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered. The species is also Cambodia's National Reptile.

In February 2017, one nest of Royal Turtle with 14 eggs was found by a villager along the Kaong River, the only place the species is still found in Cambodia. Royal Turtle Conservation Team from the Fisheries Administration (FiA) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) went to check the nest; built a fence to protect the eggs; and hired a villager to guard the nest until those eggs are hatched. [Read full story](#)

## Wildlife Photographs in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary Confirms Site's Importance for Conservation

Recent images from hidden cameras placed in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KSWS), in Kratie and Mondulkiri Provinces, have confirmed the protected area's ongoing importance for many of Cambodia's most charismatic species. Wildlife recorded include Asian Elephant, Guar, Banteng, Sambar, Wild Pig, Leopard Cat, Macaque species (Pig-tailed, Long-tailed and Stump-tailed), East Asian Porcupine, Large Indian Civet, Lesser Oriental Chevrotain, Green Peafowl, Germain's Peacock Pheasant and other wild birds.



*Asian elephant recently photographed in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary. © WCS*

“This study again confirms that key wildlife species are still living in KSWS, making it a very important protected area in Cambodia for wildlife conservation,” said Sot Vandoeun, WCS’s Wildlife Research and Monitoring Team Leader. [Read full story](#)

## Celebrating International Biodiversity Day!

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and its partner Ibis Rice through funding from European Union (EU) joined the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and 500 high school and university students to celebrate International Biodiversity Day 2017. The event aims to increase public understanding and awareness of the importance of biodiversity conservation.

WCS displayed a series of awareness materials, including mammal and bird books, to highlight Cambodia's unique biodiversity and our need to conserve it. Ibis Rice displayed its Wildlife Friendly and Organic rice products and explained to students how this conservation enterprise protects wildlife and improves livelihoods at the same time.



*WCS displayed publications to educate young Cambodians about wildlife and its conservation in Cambodia. © Eng Mengey / WCS*

## WCS Conservation Hero: Seng Neil

WCS has recognized the hard work and commitment of Seng Neil who gave up being a poacher to join in wildlife conservation efforts as a nest protector.

"In 2013, I was invited to join a community awareness raising session organized by WCS. We learnt to understand the importance of forests and wildlife and as a result I stopped poaching," Seng Neil said.

"When I was a poacher, I felt bad because I killed animals. But now I am a nest protector, I feel good and am proud of what I do. I think what I have achieved also benefits other people in the village," he added. [Read full story](#)



*Seng Neil (right), and Sok Khoeun are standing in front of Sarus Crane eggs they work hard to guard. © Rours Vann / WCS*

## Marking Migratory Bird Day at Prek Toal

More than 250 participants from Ministry of Environment (MoE), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), local authorities and communities, teachers and students marked the celebration of the World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2017 at Prek Toal Core Area and Ramsar Site of the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve, Battambang Province.

This celebration highlighted the need for conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. It called for support and involvement of local communities in conserving the birds that live in Prek Toal such as Spot-billed Pelican and Great Adjutant stork.

The Prek Toal Conservation Project is currently supported by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), Margaret A Cargill Philanthropies, MacArthur Foundation and the Kering Foundation.



*Awareness materials are given to teachers and students to increase their understanding about importance of bird conservation. © Sun Visal / WCS*

## A Globally Vulnerable Sarus Crane Returned to the Wild

A confiscated Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*), a globally Vulnerable species, was returned to its wild habitat in Ang Trapeang Thmor Protected Landscape in Banteay Meanchey Province.

The release was a collaboration between the Provincial Departments of Environment of Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey Provinces, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Angkor Center for Conservation of Biodiversity (ACCB).

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*Sarus crane is standing in the grassland of Ang Trapeang Thmor Protected Landscape. © ACCB*

In 2016, the Deputy Governor of Siem Reap Province, H.E. Chhaiheng Kim, handed the Sarus Crane to the ACCB team for treatment and rehabilitation, after it had been confiscated from a family keeping it as a pet.

## Protect Cambodia's national reptile by not buying or eating it's meat or eggs!



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