



Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary Goes Viral for Ecotourism Development

After being recognised for its global importance for biodiversity conservation, Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KSWS) is now becoming known for ecotourism due to the presence of endangered wildlife, panoramic evergreen forest views, and over 10 wonderful waterfalls.

Many media outlets, including PNN, CNC, Radio France International (RFI), Women Media Center Radio, Phnom Penh Post, Khmer Times, Koh Santepheap, Rasmei Kampuchea, etc. published a series of articles about KSWS's ecotourism potential after WCS, in collaboration with Ministry of Environment (MoE), hosted a press trip for a group of 10 journalists from TV, radio, newspaper and online media to explore the sanctuary.

During this three-day visit, journalists were briefed about conservation activities and results in KSWS that WCS and MoE have made for over 15 years, whilst touring around KSWS's station to see confiscated equipment, including car, timber and chainsaw, and visiting some iconic evergreen forest, wildlife and waterfalls. To visit KSWS and experience this natural world for yourself, book a tour with SVC (samveasna.org) or visit the Hefalump Café, Mondulkiri's responsible ecotourism hub, in Sen Monorom town. [PNN TV reported about importance of Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary for biodiversity conservation and ecotourism](#)

US Ambassador Visited Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary

Conservationists from the Ministry of Environment and WCS welcomed Ambassador William A. Heidt, U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia, and his embassy colleagues to Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KSWS), Mondulkiri Province. During the trip, the Ambassador was briefed about the background of KSWS and its global importance for wildlife conservation.

Importantly this visit focused on the progress of the REDD+ project that sustainably funds the conservation activities in KSWS and improves livelihood of local villagers.

At the end of the trip, the KSWS team gave the ambassador and his colleagues a tour around the KSWS's head quarters to see confiscated equipment, including trucks, luxury timber, chainsaws, snares, and others material stored as evidence.



Ken Sereyrotha (right), WCS Cambodia Country Director, gave photo gift to H.E. William A. Heidt, U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia. © Eng Mengey

Mammal Survey of Phnom Tbeng Natural Heritage Park

Research teams from the Ministry of Environment, WCS and local communities have initiated a camera trapping study to better understand the small to medium sized mammal species inhabiting Phnom Tbeng Natural Heritage Park (PTNHP) situated in Preah Vihear Province.

PTNHP contains some of the last remaining evergreen and semi-evergreen forest habitats in northern Cambodia and is of high importance for wildlife conservation and provision of ecosystem services. Numerous wildlife species including pileated gibbon, bear and Indochinese silvered langur are known to exist in the forests.



Twent-four camera traps are placed by research team to photograph wildlife inhabiting PTNHP. © Thong Sokha / WCS

“With good collaboration between stakeholders, we completed the camera trap deployment in PTNHP over four days,” said Mao Khean, WCS’s Wildlife Research Project Coordinator in the Northern Plains of Cambodia. [Read More](#)

Key Coverage:

1. [Rasmei Kampuchea](#) 2. [DAP News](#) 3. [Women Media Center](#) 4. [VAYO FM](#) 5. [Khmer Times](#)

Educating Villagers about Linkages between Forest Clearing and Health

WCS's Wildlife Health Program team visited five villages in the Preah Vihear (Roveang district) and Mondulkiri province (O'Chra, Gati, O'Rona and Pouy Douem Svay districts) to raise awareness about the risk of zoonosis related to forest disturbance and clearing, under the EU-funded LACANET project.



Wildlife health team educated villagers about the risk of zoonosis related to forest disturbance and clearing. © WCS

Zoonoses are the diseases that humans acquire from animals. The WCS team, along with colleagues from Institut Pasteur du Cambodge and the National Animal Health and Production Research Institute (NAHPRI), were particularly interested in diseases from rodents, and how activities of forest clearing may change the circulation of pathogens in the rodent population and the humans living in the same areas. Results show that forest clearing is greatly changing the rodent populations, and result in an increase circulation of a number of pathogens that can cause disease in human.

These communities had great interest in the findings and highlighted the importance of bringing back this information to them after the research is conducted. The researchers from WCS, IPC and NAHPRI hope to come back to share more information with these communities as they continue to learn more about the risk of disease related to environmental changes.

Community Members Confiscate over 500 Snares and 80 Chainsaws in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary

Over 500 snares and 80 chainsaws confiscated in 2017 by community patrol teams, led by Ministry of Environment's (MoE) officials with members from local communities, show the commitment of local people to crack down on illegal activity that degrades their legally owned land, kills Seima's rare wildlife, and causes conflict within communities.

More efforts are needed to safeguard the sanctuary's forests and wildlife into the future.



Community patrol team stand in front of confiscated motor, chainsaws, and snares inside Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary. © Em Try / WCS

The community patrol teams, with support from WCS, have actively patrolled in KSWS to prevent forest and wildlife crimes. In 2017, they patrolled 52 times, spending a total of over 150 days staying in the forest. As a result, they arrested seven offenders, issued 57 warning letters to those whose committed illegal activities in KSWS, and seized many pieces of equipment, such as 86 chainsaws, 513 snares, six homemade guns, 72 machetes and axes, and 17 motorbikes. [Read more](#)

IBIS Rice Supports Conservation in Stung Treng Province

Farmers in Khek Svay village in Stung Treng's Siem Pang District will help conserve Cambodia's national bird, the giant ibis, and its forest home Western Siem Pang wildlife Sanctuary. They will do this by selling their rice crop into a premium rice scheme known as "Ibis Rice" which aims to increase household income and reduce food insecurity. In return villagers must respect the wildlife sanctuary laws.



Tey Phar is harvesting her Ibis rice at Khek Svay, Siem Pang District of Stung Treng Province. © BirdLife International

Recognizing the important role that local villagers could play in its conservation, BirdLife launched a number of livelihood initiatives in the villages that surround the protected area boundary. Initially BirdLife sought an activity that could contribute to livelihoods and improve food security on existing rice fields lying outside the boundary that could be an incentive to prevent encroachment in the sanctuary and reduce the impact of other harmful activities like hunting. The answer came through a partnership with Ibis Rice and WCS to establish their already successful scheme, which was underway in Preah Vihear Province. [Read More](#)

[To learn more about Ibis Rice and Sansom Mlup Prey \(SMP\).](#)

Key Coverage:

1. [Phnom Penh Post](#) 2. [Radio Free Asia](#) 3. [Women Media Center](#) 4. [Kley Kley](#) 5. [Khmer Times](#)

Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary Holds Potential for Further Ecotourism Development

Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KSWS), formerly known as Seima Protection Forest, is home to more than 60 species of animal and plants on the global Red List that are threatened with extinction, according to the criteria of IUCN. The area is of international importance for the conservation of primates (including the world's largest known populations of black-shanked douc and southern yellow-cheeked crested gibbons), wild cats, Asian elephants, wild cattle and several species of birds. A series of study have shown KSWS is potential for future ecotourism development.



An unknown fungi species photographed in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary. © Sot Vandouen / WCS

"Through 10 years' experience in KSWS, I observe that KSWS is an amazing wildlife sanctuary in Cambodia. Besides providing support to important wildlife, this sanctuary has many rare wild trees and flowers, especially over 10 waterfalls that national and international visitors have never seen

before. KSWS has great potential for ecotourism development that will generate funding to support conservation and local livelihoods in the future,” said Sot Vandoeun, WCS’s Wildlife Monitoring Team Leader for KSWS.

To visit KSWS and see some of this natural world for yourself, book a tour with SVC (samveasna.org) or visit the Hefalump Café, Mondulkiri’s responsible ecotourism hub, in Sen Monorom town.

A young Asian Elephant found dead inside Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary

A young male wild elephant, age about one year old, was found dead trapped in a hole near O’Am village, Sre Ktum commune, Keo Seima district, Mondulkiri Province inside the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KSWS). It is a tragedy for wildlife conservation in Cambodia that requires strong conservation efforts to conserve the species from future extinct.



Villagers and rangers pull the young elephant out of hole. © Tan Setha / WCS

Listed as Globally Endangered, Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) are some of the largest mammals on the planet, but have a declining global population. As estimate, there are about 250-500 wild elephants in Cambodia, while fewer than 115 individuals are in KSWS. [Read more](#)

Help save Cambodia's wildlife from extinction by not purchasing or eating wild meat!

[Download our e-newsletter for January 2018 in PDF file!](#)



©2018 WCS Cambodia | Phnom Penh, Cambodia

[Web Version](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)