



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Highlight Key Achievements





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BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL: VISION AND MISSION

BirdLife International has its origin in the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP), founded in 1922. In 1993, the ICBP was restructured to create a global partnership of national conservation organizations and was renamed BirdLife International. Today, the BirdLife International Partnership is a global network of national, membership-based NGO Partners, who are working in over 100 countries for sustainable use and management of the world's natural resources. Together the BirdLife International Partnership forms a powerful global conservation movement working at local, national, and global levels.

BirdLife International's involvement in Cambodia dates back to the mid-1990s, when it was among the first international conservation NGOs invited to work in the country. BirdLife has had a permanent presence in Cambodia since 2001, when it embarked upon a collaborative project with the Forestry Administration, Department of Nature Resource Conservation and Protection and other partners to identify and document Cambodia's Important Bird Areas (IBAs). Subsequently, the focus of BirdLife's work shifted to taking conservation action on the ground for selected IBAs, with the Eastern Plains Dry Forest Ecoregion becoming a major focus. BirdLife's current work program in several Cambodian IBAs is divided into four goals: 1) Preventing extinction, 2) Site planning, protection and management, 3) Community-based conservation approaches, and 4) Awareness and education.



BirdLife administrative & finance team and Lomphat Project team

BirdLife's Vision is of a world rich in biodiversity, with people and nature living in harmony, equitably and sustainably.

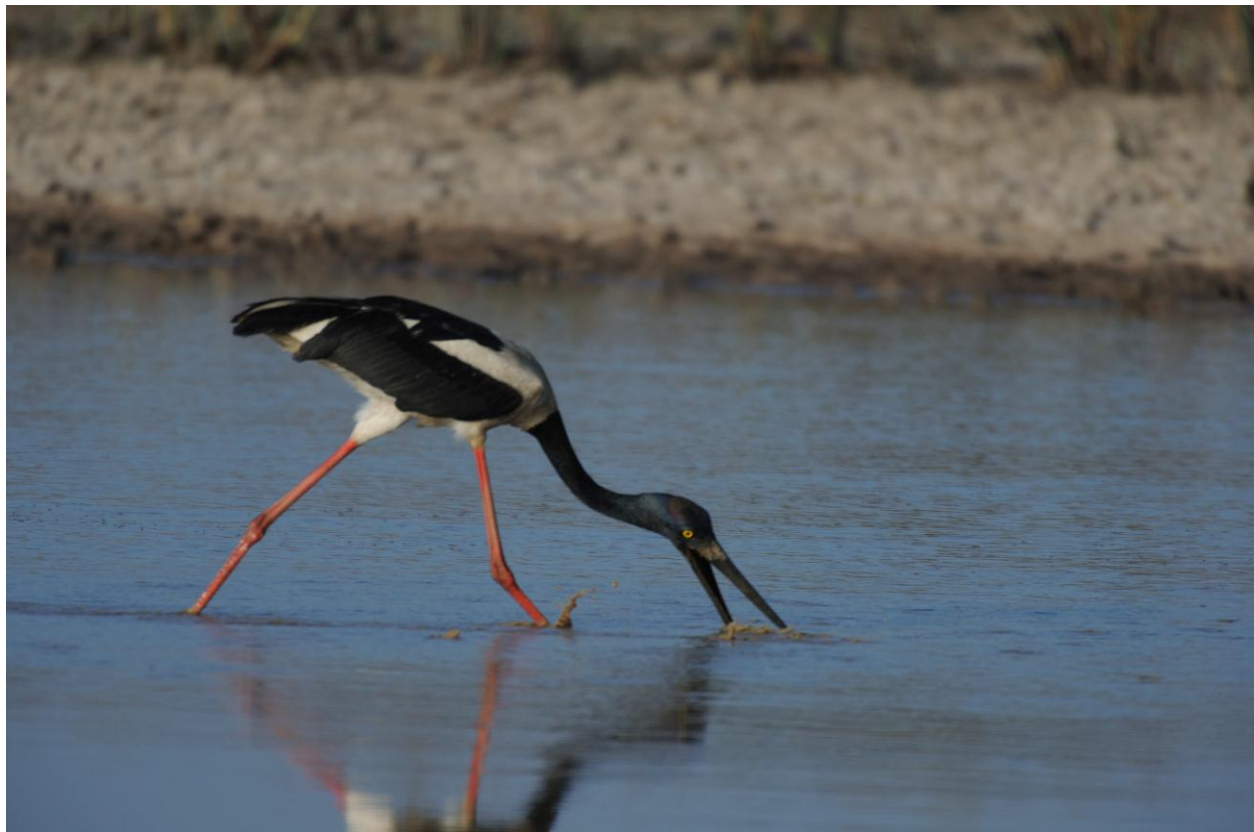
Our Mission:

BirdLife is a worldwide nature conservation Partnership that works locally, nationally and globally for birds, for nature, and for people. Nature is crucial to people's quality of life and the planet's life support systems. Saving nature is a moral imperative. BirdLife's work embraces all nature, with a special focus on birds – which are a wonderful window into the environment, inspiring, popular and beautiful, and an integral part of the web of life.

HIGHLIGHTS KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF EACH PROJECT

WESTERN SIEM PANG (SIEM PANG KANG LECH WILDLIFE SANTUARY-SKLWS)

Western Siem Pang Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) located in Siem Pang district, Stung Treng Province. The IBA is an excellent example of the dry forest ecosystem of central Indochina. It supports an astonishing five Critically Endangered species: White-shouldered Ibis *Pseudibis davisoni*, Giant Ibis *Thaumatibis gigantea*, White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*, Slender-billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris* and Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus*; of these, it has the most important remaining population of the White-shouldered Ibis. The presence of five Critical bird species is globally unique to this small part of Cambodia and southern Laos. Other threatened bird species include Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus*, Sarus Crane *Antigone antigone sharpii* and Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*. Moreover, it also supports a range of threatened mammal species including Eld's Deer *Cervus eldi*.



Black neck stork in Western Siem Pang

Key Achievements within 2018:

- *Ibis Rice scheme* - An ethically-driven conservation enterprise that improves the livelihoods and food security of local people through growing premium jasmine rice. Where rice producers can demonstrate that their rice has been grown sustainably, and that they have not cleared forest to plant additional rice paddies, the rice will be purchased and sold for a premium price (up to 20% more) as Ibis Rice, thanks to wildlife-friendly and organic certification. BirdLife partnered with Ibis Rice and brought the scheme to Western Siem Pang, and it is proving very successful: of the 188 families currently enrolled, only four broke the conditions, and the rest are proud of their efforts to save Cambodia's ibises. In 2018, 166 families sold a total of 44 Tons of rice with a 25% premium price. Furthermore, WSP is one of the first sites in Cambodia where the rice was certified organic (by ECOCERT/USDA) after only two years of implementation.
- *Institutional structures* – Establishment of a SKLWS Stakeholders Forum and seven Village Forums. These instances meet every quarter to discuss issues and opportunities surrounding the management of SKLWS.
- *Zoning of SKLWS*– Official zoning map of SKLWS approved at provincial level on 13th November 2018. The process continues at national level through the establishment of a national zoning working group and the zoning map will be ratified as a sub-decree early 2019.
- *Rice field mapping* – BirdLife provided technical support to the Stung Treng Department of Land Management for the mapping of 719 rice field parcels for 488 families in the villages of Khes Svay, Khe Kraom, Pong Kriel, and Nhang Sum.
- *Cattle vaccination* – In 2018 BirdLife supported the Department of Agriculture for the vaccination of about 450 cows and 500 buffalos in six villages from Siem Pang District.
- *Trapeangs digging* – 10 Trapeangs were dug in and around SKLWS.
- Confiscated destroyed and removed: 2 cars, 19 hand tractors, 1 motorbike, 2 boats, 9 manmade guns, 5 sawmills and machines, 20 chainsaws, 1638 snares, 9 bunch of bird catching nets, 99 live animals, 253kg bush meat, 6 electric fishing gears, 106 illegal camps, 127 pieces of timber,
- Remove 5 houses and hundreds poles from 91 places of illegal land encroachment points with 25 warning contracts to those offenders.
- Filed complain to the court for two cases: 1). illegal using of sawmill inside the sanctuary. 2). illegal land grabbing.
- The breeding season 2017-2018, found 25 of White-shouldered Ibis nests. Each nest had been monitored once per week and confirmed 18 nests successfully fledge with 34 chicks and seven nests failed (4 nests unknown reason, 2 nests cause of human disturbance and a nests cause predation, found piece of adults bonds, wing and feathers)
- Field Monitoring Team break the record, found 16 of Giant Ibis nests in 2018, 12 nests fledged with 16 chicks, four nests failed (three nests not reason and a nest found evidence of people disturbance).
- Thirteen Vulture nests found in SKLWS in 2018 including ten Slender-billed Vulture and three Red-headed Vulture. After monitoring period completed, we confirmed nine nests successfully fledged and four nests failed.
- The White-shouldered Ibis census was undertaken between 15 and 16 from July to October 2018 and the highest count in October 2018 was 320 birds.

- We conducted 19 vulture restaurants around the 10th and the 20th of each month and the highest count was on 10th September 2018 with 113 vultures (2 Red-headed Vulture, 37 Slender-billed Vulture and 74 White-rumped Vulture).
- Vulture census had been conducted five times throughout the year and the highest count was on the 10th June 2018, 98 Vulture including 7 Red-headed Vulture, 32 Slender-billed Vulture and 59 White-rumped Vulture.
- Recorded carcasses in total 15 times throughout the year and recorded 17 of Red-headed Vulture, 75 and Slender-billed Vulture and 138 White-rumped Vulture consumed to those carcasses.
- Organize International Vulture Awareness Day on 13 September 2018 in cooperate with Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fishery of Stung Treng and SKLWS Office at Pong Kriel Primary School.
- Publish three scientific papers:
 - Attracting White-shouldered Ibises to safe roosting sites in Siem Pang Kang Lech Wildlife Sanctuary, Cambodia
 - Mammal records and conservation threats in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary and Siem Pang Khang Lech Wildlife Sanctuary, Cambodia
 - Impact of experimental domestic water buffalo *Bubalus bubalis* grazing on waterhole dynamics in north-eastern Cambodia



Ibis rice at Kek Krom Village of Western Siem Pang



Agricultural training to local household at Western Siem Pang



Cars and hand tractors confiscated



Boats and homemade guns confiscated



Chainsaws and snares confiscated



Live animals confiscated and released back to the wild



Dead animals confiscated and destroyed



Electric fishing gears confiscated



Illegal houses removed



Stop land encroachment



A white-shouldered ibis's chick fell down from the nesting tree

LOMPHAT WILDLIFE SANCTUARY-LWS

Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary covers with approximately of 250,000 ha of where the current BirdLife's project utilizes of five field monitoring staffs and four technical staff to work and cover some parts of this huge landscape. This sanctuary is an important habitat of many globally threaten mamal species including banteng, gaur, wild dogs, bears, leopards, Eld's deer, Samba deer and five critically endangered birds species including the giant ibis, white shouldered ibis, and three vulture species as well as other rare bird species such as green peafowl, sarus crane, black-necked stork, lesser adjutant. The Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary is recognized as the second most important habitat for white shouldered Ibis (Wright et al., 2012).



A family of Giant Ibis in Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary

Key Achievements within 2018:

- Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary (LWS) stakeholder meeting was organized regularly, once for every six months. The meetings were chaired by deputy provincial governor and deputy general director of general department of administration for nature protection conservation (GDANCP). Threats and issues had been discussed and addressing. This is a platform for improving the collaboration with all stakeholders to protect the natural resources in this protected area
- Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary forest cover change study was conducted and the report was finalized
- Management and conservation operational plan for core zones and conservation zone of LWS (Khmer and English version) is finalized and used as guiding in monthly the law enforcement.
- 199 information signed boards were printed and installed at LWS core zone and conservation zone and along national road No.76.

- Fifty-five warning signboard were installed along national road No.76, Srepork River and key trails inside LWS
- Capacity of BirdLife's staff working to support Lomphat landscape is improved of which staff got trained and support to deliver their role and responsibilities effectively.
- Signed grant agreement with CAMPAS project to support LWS rangers for scale up the law enforcement action at both sites (Ratanakiri and Mondulkiri Province).
- Confiscated, destroyed, and removed: 20 chainsaws, 112 snares, 22 illegal camps, 2 automatic guns and manmade guns, life and dead wildlife and illegal fishing gears
- Vehicles and infrastructure provided: 12 motorbikes, one boat with engine, and one rangers station.
- 2 big cases of land encroachment were successful cracked down.
- Fifteen white-shouldered ibis nest found and monitored for 2017-2018 breeding season. Three nests completely failed because human disturbance. There's total of 18 chicks were successfully fledge from remaining twelve nests.
- In 2014 the maximum recorded of white shouldered ibis in this landscape was 318 individual while in 2016 we recorded only 144 individuals and continue to drop down to 27 individuals in 2018, this is a worrying trend. This dramatically drop down may link to two threat factors: 1.) some known roost with good count were transferred to WWF team to avoid any overlap effort at the area lie between Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary and Sre-Pork Wildlife Sanctuary; 2.) Many roosting trees from previous year at both Sre Angkrong and Sre Chrey were burned down during dry seasons, 3.) Increase human disturbance during rooting period.
- Sixteen Giant Ibis nests were found and monitored by project staff during 2018 breeding season. Two nests completely failed because human disturbance and other one was abandoned. Total of 19 chicks were successfully fledge from remaining thirteen nests. This is new maximum recorded of Giant Ibis nest finding in Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary. If we compare the 2016 nest finding result, it increased 800% and if compare to 2017 nest find result it also increased 178%.
- Fourteen Lesser Adjutant nests were found and monitored during 2018 breeding season. Three nests were abandoned and eleven nests were success with 15 chicks fledged. It's proved that this species breeds year round within this landscape; some nests finished some other begin.
- Three Woolly-necked Stork nests also found. Two nests were success with three chicks fledge.
- One nest of Sarus Crane was found in Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary with two chicks.
- Both CPAs (Veal Kambor and O'Rey CPA) management plan were endorsed by General Director of General Directorate of Local Community of Ministry of Environment.
- Both CPAs (Veal Kambor and O'Rey CPA) have signed agreement for fifteen years on Community Protected Area Management with General Directorate of Local Community.
- Second round of CPA small grant was released for both CPAs to implement priority activities as state in management plan (i.e. forest patrol, networking, education..).

- Sre Chrey Biodiversity Conservation Group was established for supporting the biodiversity monitoring and this community based organization also received small grant from project to conduct biodiversity survey and forest patrol within their sustainable use zone. An information center of this local group was completely built.
- Veal Kambor CPA headquarter was completely built for use as office, information center and meeting hall. In addition, project also provided one big pond for water containing and serving the tree nursery and a toilet for tourist using in the future.
- With support from project, Veal Kambor CPA was selected as target investment site of ERECON (an organization) who provided tree nursery (size 7m x 16m). There were 2300 seedling of five native tree species (Beng (Afizelia xylocapar), Kokoh (Sindora cochinchinensis), Kantuot Prey (Phyllantus emblica), Sro mar (Terminalia chebula Retz) and Cashew.) at Veal Kambor CPA headquarter.
- Lomphat community based ecotourism committee were formed with participation of Veal Kambor CPA, O Rey CPA, and Srey Chhrey Biodiversity Conservation Group.
- Training related to bird identification, hospitality, and watching gears using were provided to service providing group of Lomphat community based ecotourism committee.
- Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary CPA alliance was established and two CPA committee chiefs (Veal Kambor and O'Rey CPA) were elected as chief and vice chief.



Land encroachment crack down



Lomphat stakeholder meeting preside by deputy provincial governor of Rattanakiri



Law enforcement team of Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary support BirdLife



Ranger Install signed board to stop illegal land encroachment



Provided motorbikes and rangers conduct regular patrolling



Giant Ibis nest in Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary



Whit-shouldered Ibis nest at Sre Chrey of Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary



Workshop to finalize CPAs management plans



Veal Kambor CPA headquarter



Veal Kambor's headquarter inauguration ceremony presided by H.E Sem Yaren, under Secretary of state, MoE.



LWS ecotourism management committee meeting at Veal Kambor CPA headquarter

BOEUNG PREK LAPOUV PROTECTED LANDSCAPE -BPL

Boeung Prek Lapouv (BPL) Protected Landscape is one of the few remaining seasonally inundated grasslands in the Cambodian Lower Mekong. The site is 8,305 ha and supports rich biodiversity, including black-faced spoonbill, greater adjutant, and Bengal florican. It is also a vital feeding ground for the declining South-East Asian population of sarus crane. Over 6,000 people are dependent upon BPL for their livelihoods, with local natural resources making up 74% of food provisioning services for local people. BPL is located in the Koh Andeth and Borey Chulsar districts of the Takeo province in the western floodplain of the Bassac River, a tributary of the Mekong River.

Birdlife International, Cambodia Programme implement this project in partnership with the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT).



Painted stork at Boeung Prek Lapouv

Key Achievements within 2018:

Outputs of BirdLife's leading component

- Sarus Crane Census have been organized. The maximum recording of Sarus Crane in 2018 was 100 individuals.
- 5 pregnant buffalo were provided to local communities as part of buffalo bank initiative which aim to improve the local livelihood and secure the long term cost of biodiversity monitoring, conducted by local field monitoring team (local group).

- Structure and term of reference of field monitoring team have been improved in order to ensure the effectiveness.
- Furniture and accessories including meeting desks, solar energy, water pumping generator has been provided to Boeung Prek Lapouv Headquarter for daily used.
- Two years water management trial was completed with notably result: **water inside the managed trial plot could maintain only two week later than outside, sarus crane accessed this trial plot, other bird species such painted stork also accessed this plot.** Recommendation for further action: this water management trial should continue with human intervention (i.e. feeding water to trial plot).
- Water management trial plot was repaired and process the year 3 experiment action
- Habitat restoration by using buffalo grazing method was completed with inclusive result due to it was influenced by rapid increase of buffalos access to Boeung Prek Lapouv without predicted.
- Introduce the sarus crane and environment lessons to two primary schools (Kdol Chhrum and Sangkum Meanchey) and support them to integrate it to their school teaching curriculum.
- Build capacity teachers and support of both primary schools to teach lessons related to sarus crane ecology and environment.
- Develop and printing awareness: 100 copies of Sarus crane and Environmental Education book, and other papers to support teaching process.
- Produce Sarus Crane film, each topic of this film length about 5 minutes, the first topic focus on ecosystem service, second topic is about Sarus Crane ecology and the last one is on conservation action in Boeung Prek Lapouv and Anlung Pring Protected landscape. The objective of the film is to promote the unique value of wetland and Sarus Crane ecology to local communities, decision-makers and motivated kids to protect their wetland and Sarus Crane.
- Conduct sarus crane film show to local communities and primary school kids to improve the people understand on value of wetland linked to their livelihoods.
- Capacities building for two junior staffs by providing opportunity to join training on project management, bird survey, bird fair organizing, communication, and world urban forum .
- Train university students and develop short film about invasive species (*mimosa pigra*) control
- Awareness raising event (Welcome to the Birds) has been organised in Kdolchrum Primary School to inform kids about the important of Boeung Prek Lapouv linked to sarus crane and their community livelihood.

Outputs of WWT's leading component

- Alongside the IUCN's Mekong WET project, and in association with the Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative, WWT have produced a Vulnerability Assessment of Boeung Prek Lapouv (cover page and contents page). This report has reviewed climate change

projections for the region and predicted the anticipated impact of climate change on key species, habitats and rural livelihoods. The assessments included community consultations through Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRAs) to understand how communities are likely to respond to the pressures created by climate change. This report will feed into future climate change resilience strategies within future Management Plans.

- Baseline data on current and historical biodiversity and human land-use has been collated and consolidated onto maps to provide key information for the MoE zonation of BPL (attached). This has utilised monitoring and satellite data, helping to identify key habitats for core protection areas and exact data on agricultural use and recent land encroachment.
- DoE ranger patrols have been financially supported and coordinated throughout 2018, conducting regular patrolling and producing patrol reports through the SMART monitoring system each month. The Rangers have reported illegal encroachment and illegal fishing, and when possible have approach and addressed the offenders. The Rangers have supported other ongoing conservation work at the site, including illegal fishing crackdowns, alien species clearance, MoE zonation consultations, and Vulnerability Assessments.
- Community-based biodiversity patrolling was financially supported and coordinated by the project partnership.
- The annual Liaison Panel meeting was conducted in ere conducted with relevant stakeholders in February 2017.
- An illegal attempt to convert biodiversity habitat to agricultural land was addressed by project-supported DoE Rangers (attached). Working alongside the Provincial Authorities, and excavator was confiscated and there is now legal action in process.



Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment
Boeung Prek Lapouv Protected Landscape, Cambodia

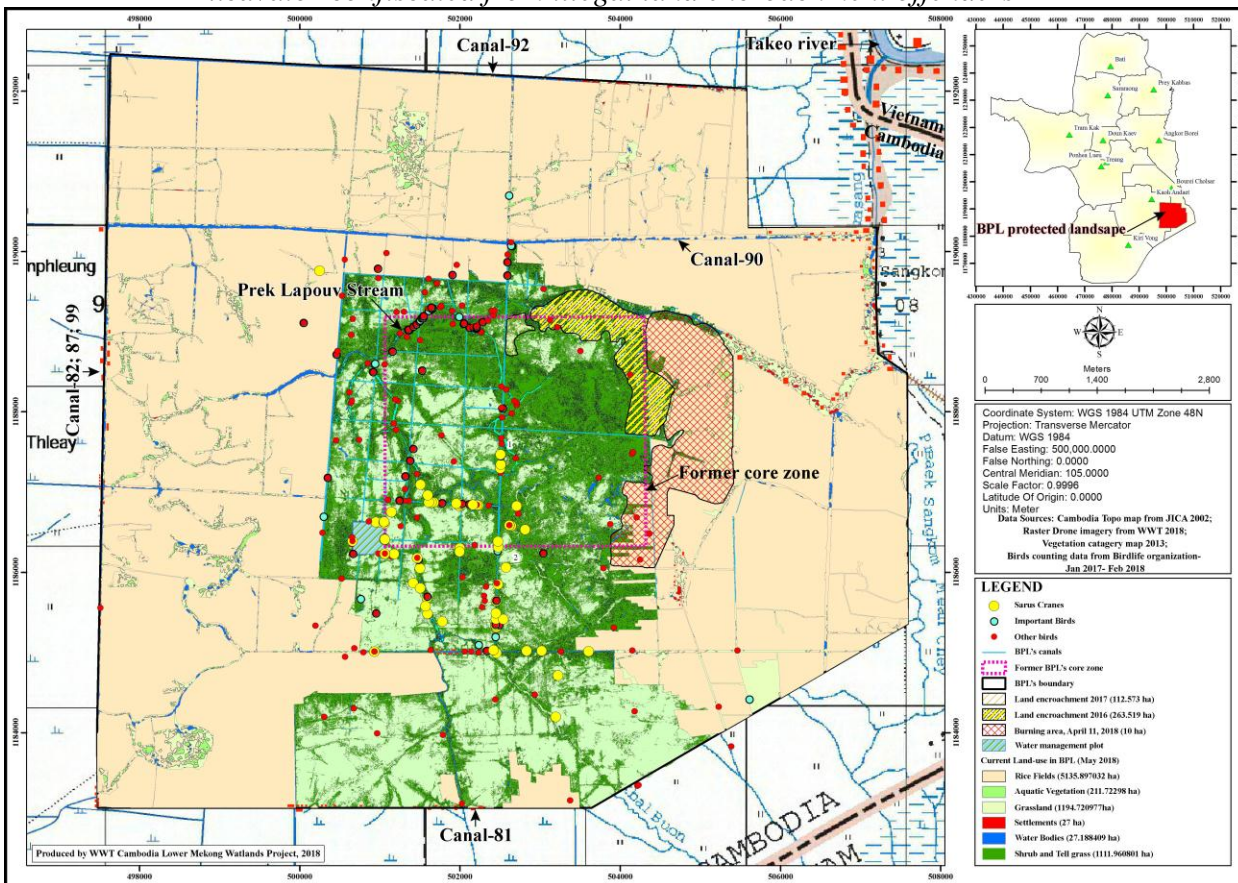


Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), Cambodia
Ly Sophanna, Hour Pok, Tomos Avent

Climate change vulnerability assessment cover



Excavator confiscated from illegal land encroachment offenders



Map: Land used and sarus crane and other birds recorded



Sarus Crane education film development



Sarus crane and environment lessons were taught at Kdol Chhrum primary school



Education film show at Boeung Prek Lapouv



Arial photo of the water management trial plot in January 2018, showing a clear contrast between the water remaining inside compared with outside the plot.



Building capacity of local group (field monitoring team) in Boeung Prek Lapouv to conduct monthly biodiversity monitoring



Pumping water to feed the water management trial plot

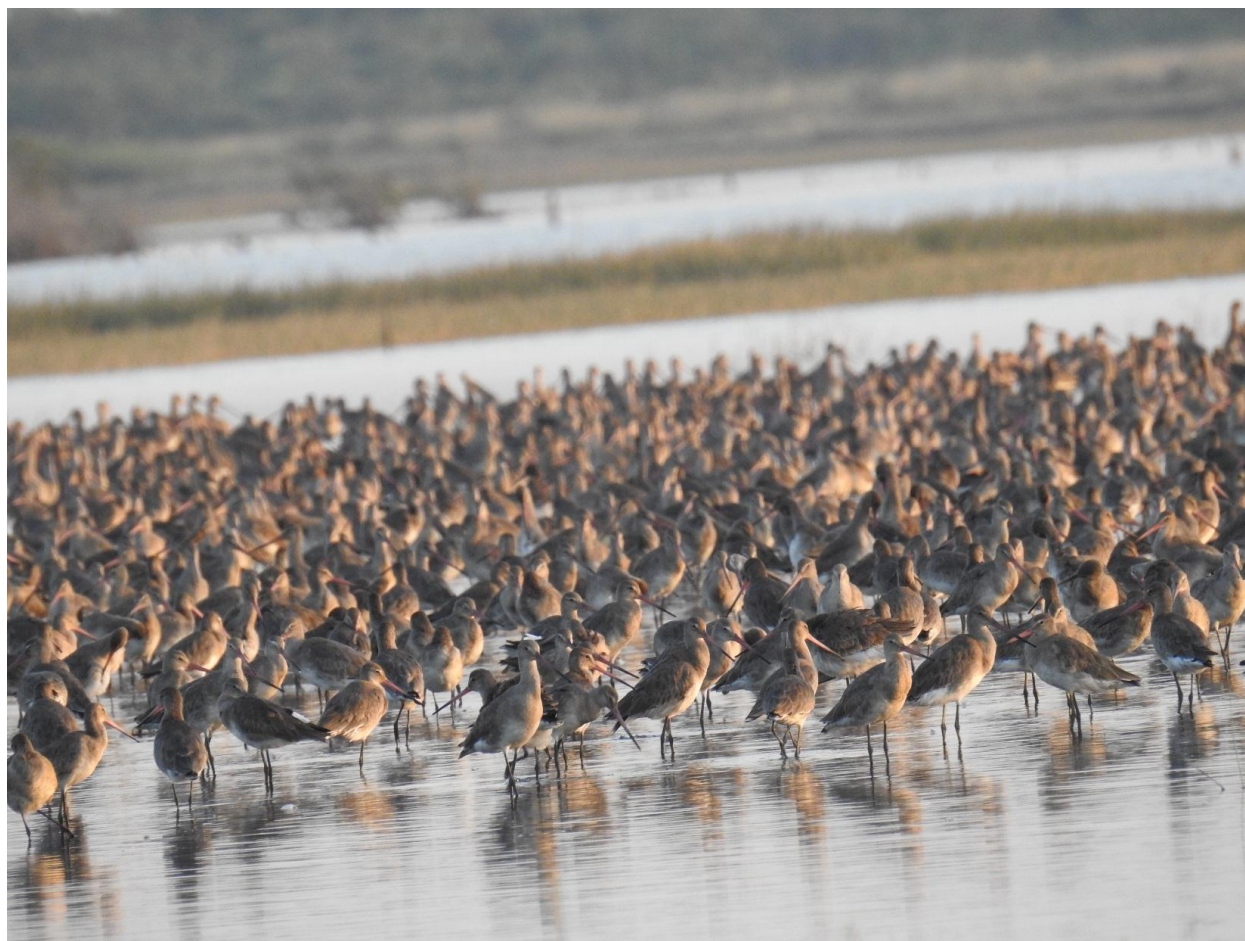


Buffalo bank piloting in Dey Leurk Village of Boeung Prek Lapouv

ANLUNG PRING PROTECTED LANDSCAPE - AP

Anlung Pring (AP) Protected Landscape had been established and managed by Forestry Administration (FA) of Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (MAFF) with the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust and BirdLife International Cambodia Programme (BirdLife) between 2004-2016. This site was transferred to the Ministry of Environment (MoE), WWT and BirdLife in early 2016. The Protected Landscape is located in Kampong Trach District of Kampong Province and covers a total area of 217 ha, approximately one kilometer from the border with Vietnam within the lower Mekong Floodplain. The area is low-lying with an elevation range of 0.0–3.5m above sea level and is influenced by a small river that experiences tidal influences, even though the site is approximately 20 km from the Gulf of Thailand.

Characteristic habitat of this site is mostly sedges, interspersed with *Melaleuca* scrub. It is a prime feeding ground for the South-East Asian population of sarus crane between the months of November and May. This conservation area is divided into two parts by a road embankment; the first of which is Northern part covers 33ha and other parts of which Southern part covers 184ha.



Migratory shore bird in Anlung Pring Protected Landscape

Key Achievements within 2018:

Output of BirdLife's leading component

- Sarus Crane census have been organized. The maximum recorded of Sarus Crane in 2018 was 156 individual.
- 8 Sarus Crane, a little Egret and wood Sandpiper was found sick and dead in Anlung Pring Protected Landscape. After doing necropsy, we confirm that these cranes died because of toxic (can be a natural toxic or chemical toxic). Reason of dead is in process investigation.
- The vegetation survey was conducted in 60 quadrats in the core area every two months to detect any changes in response to fluctuations in the water level. This found that coverage of *Eleocharis dulcis*, the water plant which produces the tubers as the primary food source of Sarus Cranes, declined from 11.5% (average height 18 cm) in January 2017 to only 2.58% (average height 6 cm) in 2018. This may be linked to a reduction in the water level caused by the new road embankment and the permanent closure of the water gates to keep freshwater upstream for human consumption. The decline in *Eleocharis dulcis* may led to the observed decline in the number of Sarus Cranes at AP from 229 in 2016 to 140 in 2018.

- Wetland manager capacity building: 7 Ramsar site and protected landscape managers visited to Anlung Pring Protected landscape. Wetland wise use guideline, result of habitat and water quality monitoring, experience in collaboration with local communities and non-governmental organizations were shared during this study trip. Networking among wetland managers were built during this study visit and plans for more exchange visits in the future
- Sharing experience and lesson learn about sarus crane and wetland conservation with other BirdLife partners in Asia. BirdLife partners from Thailand, Myanmar, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Srilanka, and Singapore visit to Anlung Pring to learn about sarus crane conservation achievement and challengs.
- World Migratory Bird Day awareenes raising event has been organised to inform about the value of sarus crane and the threats to this site.
- National consultation workshop to designate Anlung Pring as first flyway network site in Cambodia & flyway information sheet was submitted to EAAFP secretary for approval.
- Awarenes raising material: 1000 sheets of leaflet about the negative impact of using chemical pesticide were printed and circulated to local communities with purpose to reduce the poisoning incidents and contribute to agriculture hazardous waste management.
- Impact of using chemical pesticide consultation whorkshop has been organised to inform about negative impact of chemical pesticide and collect inform about current practise of local communities in manage agriculture hazardous waste. Result of workshop was used to develop the community based agriculture hazardous waste management protocol.
- Conduct film show (Sarus Crane film) for primary school kids to improve their understanding on value of wetland linked to their livelihoods.

Output of WWT's leading component

- Community based ecotourism (www.mekongcrane.com) continues to develop at Anlung Pring with funds contributing to reserve management and a community fund. WWT still supports >90% of staff and operational costs for the CBET.
- DoE ranger patrols have been financially supported and coordinated throughout 2018, conducting regular patrolling and producing patrol reports through the SMART monitoring system each month. The Rangers have monitored the growing shrimp farm development around the Southern section of the Protected Landscape, especially in relation to damage to the dyke between the protected Landscape and the farms, and in relation to a new laterite road built close to the site.
- A meeting was held, facilitate by the Kampot deputy governor, concluding that an Ecological Impact Assessment would be required for shrimp farm development, and that all work should be halted until the EIA has been completed (attached).
- Multi-media education and awareness events were coordinated at the site.
- Community-based biodiversity patrolling was financially supported and coordinated by the project partnership.
- The annual Liaison Panel meeting was conducted in ere conducted with relevant stakeholders in February 2018.



Provincial meeting to address shrimp farm issue



Community consultation meeting on negative impact of chemical pesticide using



Wetland sites managers conducted study visit to Anlung Pring Protected Landscape



BirdLife Asia Partners conducted study visit to Anlung Pring Protected Landscape



Building capacity of Local group (field monitoring team) in Anlung Pring to conduct monthly biodiversity monitoring



World migratory bird day celebration



Sarus crane education film show for primary school kids at Anlung Pring



National consultation workshop to designate Anlung Pring as flyway network site

RAMSAR SITES –TONLE SAP

This project implemented in collaboration with Department of Freshwater Wetland Conservation (Ramsar Administration Authority in Cambodian). With funding support from the Japanese Ministry of Environment, this one-year project ended in March 2018. Main objectives of this project were: 1). Hold a national meeting and promote the designation process of Stung Sen Wetland as a Ramsar site and 2). Conduct training to build capacity in monitoring of birds for wetland managers.



The unique inundated forest in Stung Sen Ramsar site

Key Achievements from 2018:

- Complete designation Stung Sen Core Area and Surrounding Area as Ramsar Site with sub-decree from Prime Minister and Ramsar Certificate from Ramsar Secretariat along with press release in local and international public media of this newly designated Stung Sen Ramsar Site.
- Organized the dissemination workshop on designation of Stung Sen Core Area and Surrounding Wetland as Cambodia fifth Ramsar Site in Kampong Thom Province with participants from local authorities, local communities, media, national authorities and national and international organizations.
- Installed newly design Stung Sen Ramsar Site information signboard at Stung Sen City of Kampong Thom Province and at Stung Sen Ramsar Site.
- Distributed the newly designed Stung Sen Ramsar Site posters and Ramsar information leaflets to local communities around Stung Sen Ramsar Site.
- On job training to Stung Sen Ramsar Site rangers on biodiversity monitoring, bird identification technique and using GPS and providing GPSs, binoculars and laptop.



Launching information signboard on Stung Sen Ramsar Site in Stung Sen City, Kampong Thom Province



Dissemination workshop on newly designated Stung Sen Ramsar Site



Training Stung Sen Ramsar Site rangers on using GPS and bird ID skills for monitoring biodiversity



Distributed Stung Sen Ramsar Site information posters to communities around Stung Sen Ramsar Site

CAMBODIA VULTURE CONSERVATION

Vulture conservation project is implemented by a partnership (BirdLife, WWF, WCS, and ACCB). Based on partnership MoU, BirdLife Cambodia assigned to be a coordinator for this partnership since 2013.

Key Achievements from 2018:

- Management Structure of Cambodia Vulture Working Group (CVWG) was formed. Co-chairs of working were nominated and BirdLife International Cambodia Programme was nominated as working group coordinator. The members of CVWG was increased.
- 2016 & 2017 Cambodia vulture conservation report was finalized and circulated to relevant stakeholders and CVWG members.
- The first International Vulture Awareness Day was successfully organized at Eoan Mall-Phnom Penh with leverage funding support from CVWG members
- The International Vulture Awareness Day were organized at all key vulture sites with target to minimize poisoning incidents.
- Videos to improve public knowledge about the importance of vulture and encourage to stop poisoning were developed by CVWG members and strategic action for media released was developed and released during International Vulture Awareness Day.
- Vulture restaurants minimized from 6 only 4 sites (i.e. Chheb Wildlife Sanctuary, Siem Pang Kang Lech Wildlife Sanctuary, Srepok Wildlife Sanctuary, and Mekong Flooded Forest) due to number of vulture access Sesan and Lomphat vulture restaurant were significantly drop down.
- In 2017-2018 breeding season country wide, a total of 22 nests of all three vulture species were found. 13 vultures nests (3 RHV and 10 SBV) were found at Western Siem Pang, 4 nests were found at Chheb Wildlife Sanctuary (all RHV), one RHV nest was found at Sesan, and 4 nests (2WRV, 2 RHV) was found at Mekong Flooded Forest. The extensive protected area landscapes in Ratanakiri Province and Mondulkiri have not recorded any vulture nests.
- The cow bank for vulture piloting project at Western Siem Pang was closed with lesson learns taken to account while introduce the new circle of cow bank initiative.
- Core members of CVWG secured fund to support vulture restaurant and other site vulture conservation activities until the end of 2019.
- Four core members of CVWG joined annual SAVE meeting in Nepal. Profile of CVWG was raised with expected for more supporting.
- Vulture restaurant and census: Each site conduct vulture restaurant at least once per month, census restaurant five times per year (March, twice on June, September, and December).
- The highest record of vulture population 2018 census is 141 birds (22 red-headed vultures, 32 slender-billed vultures and 87 white-rump vultures).

- There is no evident show diclofenac causing the vulture decline yet however CVWG is worrying since this veterinary drug now found in Cambodian market.
- Advocacy actions was done in order to ban the import of diclofenac however we need more times and efforts to work with Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fishery.



2018 International Vulture Awareness Raising Day celebrate at Aeon Mall- Phnom Penh



Senior government officer and co-chair of CVWG accessed the vulture ecology photos fair during event at Aeon Mall- Phnom Penh



International Culture Awareness Raising Day at Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary



CVWG core members meeting, presided by co-chair



CVWG met with secretary of state of Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fishery to advocate for Diclofenac veterinary drug banning



Core member of CVWG join 8th SAVE annual meeting in Nepal

NATURELIFE CAMBODIA ESTABLISHMENT

This project was developed in accordance to the result of meeting between BirdLife Cambodia staff with BirdLife International senior management team (consist Dr. Hazel Thomson, Richard Grimmett, and Cristi Nozawa) during their visit to Cambodia in 2014. With small grant support from IUCN/CEPF small grant to BirdLife International Cambodia Programme.

NatureLife has successfully secured some fund raising from National Geographic Grant, Royal Society for Birds Protection and Cun Cao Xin Association for spoonbilled sandpiper and other migratory bird survey at Koh Kapik Ramsar Site, organizing welcome to the birds and organizing 1st Cambodia Bird Fair.



1st NatureLife Board meeting chaired by Dr. Srey Sunleang, chair of NLC governing board

Key Achievements of NatureLife's project from 2018:

- Secure funding for NatureLife's project from National Geography Grant, RSPB and Cun Cao Xin association.
- Co-organising the 1st Cambodia Bird Fair with Ministry of Environment, BirdLife, CBGA and SVC at Wat Phnom Park with participants from BirdLife partners in Asia, bird conservation associations or organization in Cambodia and China, students, youths, kids, and publics around 2500 people, more than 50 exhibition booths and Cambodia birds photo exhibition and other bird's education activities.
- Finalize NatureLife's 10 years strategic plan and fundraising plan
- Conducting Spoon billed Sandpiper (SBS) and other migratory birds survey in Koh Kapik Ramsar Site.
- Organizing Welcome to the birds with BirdLife International Cambodia Programme in Boeung Preklapouv Protected Landscape.
- Sign partnership MoU with Wildfowls and Wetlands Trust and BirdLife International Cambodia Programme for Anlung Pring Protected Landscape and Boeung Preklapouv Protected Landscape conservation.



Conducted SBS and other migratory birds survey at Koh Kapik Ramsar Site, Koh Kong Province



1st Cambodia Bird Fair at Wat Phnom Park with more than 50 exhibition booths



Group photos of organizer and international participants in 1st Cambodia Bird Fair at Wat Phnom Park



Welcome to the birds at Boeung Preklapoww Protected Landscape

STORY OF THE YEAR

Local communities sign community-protected areas (more than 7500 hectares) agreements in Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary



Three Community Protected Areas (CPA) situated in Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary, Ratanakiri province celebrated their management agreement signing ceremony with the Cambodian Ministry of Environment (MoE) on 4 July 2018. Two of three, Veal Kambor and O Rey CPAs, were established since 2013 with the support from BirdLife International Cambodia Programme, while O Koki CPA was supported by Save Cambodia's Wildlife. "My communities are delighted to receive endorsement from the MoE to co-manage forest in the wildlife sanctuary" said Tuy Sophan, chief of the O Rey CPA committee.

Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary is located in north-eastern Cambodia covering 250,000 hectares. It is a home to five Critically Endangered bird species, including White-shouldered Ibis, Giant Ibis, White-rumped Vulture, Slender-billed Vulture, and Red-headed Vulture and other global threatened species including: Gaur, Eld's Deer, Banteng, Sambar, Sarus Crane and Green Peafowl. These, CPAs include critical roosting, nesting and foraging habitats for those key species. Despite key conservation-actions being undertaken these habitats and species are still threatened by illegal hunting, snaring, logging, and land encroachment. Participation in joint management with surrounding local communities is viewed as a way to address these issues.

With a total area of 2,680 hectares, the O Rey CPA is located along the Sre Pok River and surrounded by three economic land concessions. Veal Kambor CPA covers 2,982 hectares located along the new national road number 76 connecting Ratanakiri to Mondulakiri provinces. "Both CPAs are dominated by dry dipterocarp forests, semi-evergreen and riverine forests with

small grasslands, seasonal pools that provided best habitat supporting all above key wildlife species especially the two critically endangered White-shouldered Ibis and Giant Ibis” said Dy Samy, chief of Veal Kambor CPA committee.

Since 2011, at least 50,000 hectares of the wildlife sanctuary were allocated as economic land concessions to companies from Vietnam, China and Cambodia and have been negative impacted as a result.

“Thanks to His Excellency, the Minister of Environment for approving the bilateral CPA management agreements for these CPAs”, said Mr. Sum Phearun, Lomphat Project Manager, BirdLife International. “The involvement of local communities, in natural resources management will hopefully result in their conservation.”

Under this management agreement, local communities have right to manage and sustainably harvest the timbers and non-timber forest product within their CPAs based on their 5-years management plans as endorsed by MoE. In addition, the Rattankiri CPAs provincial alliance is establishing in objective to share the concerns and bring communities’ voice on natural resource protection issues to provincial government. “We are pleased to support this platform for communities to join the protected area management and hope that the provincial governor will issue the “*Prakas*” to recognize the CPAs provincial alliance within this year”. Said Mr. Bou Vorsak, BirdLife International Cambodia Programme Manager.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and CAMPAS project are key donors for BirdLife work in establishing and strengthening community protected area in Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary.

International Vulture Awareness Day: Concerning news for Cambodia’s lucky vultures!



Phnom Penh (01st September 2018) - Vultures bring good luck! They play a very important role in ecosystem functioning – acting as nature’s clean-up crew. They don’t kill, they eat the flesh of other dead animals (carrion), thus help to reduce the spread of disease and can generate sustainable income for local communities through ecotourism.

Unfortunately, Cambodia’s vultures are facing an increasingly high risk of extinction and continuous monitoring surveys have shown a 50 percent decline in number since the late 2000’s. This decline has been particularly noticeable across the vast forested areas in the Eastern Plain Landscape; where historically more than 30 individuals were regularly recorded in one count, now the highest total count barely reaches 10 individuals. It is of great concern that only 121 of these majestic birds were recorded in this year’s national census, the lowest number on record since 2003. Recent assessments indicate that poisoning is the major threat to vulture populations in Cambodia.

With global populations declining at an alarming rate, Cambodia’s three vulture species - Red-headed (*Sarcogyps calvus*), Slender-billed (*Gyps tenuirostris*), and White-rumped Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) - are all listed on the IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered.

“Northern Cambodia is the only place in Southeast Asia where vultures can still be found in large numbers, tourists come to see them at our vulture restaurant at Dong Phlet in Chhep Wildlife Sanctuary,” said Simon Mahood, WCS’s Senior Technical Advisor.

But during the past five years, at least 30 vultures have been killed in Cambodia due to widespread indiscriminate use of deadly poisons and pesticides across the country, which is severely impacting the vulture populations and also threatening human lives too.

Besides poisoning, Cambodia’s vultures suffer from habitat loss and food shortages caused by low numbers of wild ungulates and domestic cattle: Increased levels of forest loss, land conversion and poaching as a result of Economic Land Concessions, land encroachment and selective logging negatively impact the birds through loss of nesting sites and reduction in natural prey availability as snaring for wild meat has dramatically increased across Cambodia. This has not only resulted in a dramatic decline of wild ungulates – a major food source for vultures- but also threatens many globally threatened species such as banteng, guar, elds deer and leopards. Additionally, numbers of domestic livestock have declined due to agricultural and infrastructure modernization alongside economic and social changes and increasing risks (such as cattle theft and poisoning), leading to further reduction in food availability for vultures in many areas across their range.

“The low number recorded this year and the 50% decline since 2000 in Cambodia’s vulture population, is an alarming trend and we have to increase more efforts to address the root causes to this decline; otherwise this important and rare bird species will be disappeared from the only place in Southeast Asia where we can still see them” said Mr. Seng Teak, WWF’s Country Director.

Even more concerning news for Cambodian vulture conservation this year is that the veterinary drug diclofenac is now available in Cambodia. In India, this drug is responsible for a decline of more than 90% of the country’s vulture populations. “If a cow or a buffalo had been treated with

diclofenac shortly before its death and vultures then feed on the carcass, they will die as diclofenac is highly toxic to vultures, even in very small amounts”, said Dr. Julia Stenkat, ACCB’s veterinarian. Given that Cambodia’s vultures are currently at the edge of extinction, the Cambodian Vulture Working Group strongly request to the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries to ban the import of livestock treatment drugs that contain diclofenac to prevent from further decline as seen in India before.

It is important to promote the conservation of vultures to a wider audience and highlight the important work being carried out by the Cambodia Vulture Working Group, and International Vulture Awareness Day is a great opportunity to spread the message. Core members include Ministry of Environment and Forestry Administration, BirdLife International, WCS, WWF, and ACCB, the Cambodia Vulture working group has been working to conserve Cambodia’s vultures by raising awareness, supplementary feeding with dead domestic cattle at “vulture restaurants,” and providing nest and habitat protection.

“Results of vulture census in last five years shows a worrying trend, as less than 130 birds were counted in 2017 and 2018” Said Mr. Bou Vorsak, Cambodia Programme Manager of BirdLife International. “To save our lucky bird from extinction, we need all kinds of conservation support and participation from local communities at vulture target sites, decision makers, and Cambodian people” he added.

This year’s **International Vulture Awareness Day is on the Saturday 1st September**. The aim is for each participating organization to carry out their own activities that highlight vulture conservation and awareness. At national level a joint event will be held in Phnom Penh on 7th September 2018 at AEON Mall I. At vulture target sites more awareness raising activities such as village and school meeting, night education film show ... will be organized for local communities and authorities.

International Vulture Awareness Raising activities were joined organized by Cambodia Vulture Working Group which consist Ministry of Environment, Forestry Administration, BirdLife International, WWF, WCS, ACCB, and NatureLife Cambodia. The Cambodia vulture conservation project is funded by Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, MacArthur Foundation, the Royal Society for the Protection of Bird, Wildlife Reserves Singapore, Allwetterzoo Münster, Humanscale and currently in Chhep Wildlife Sanctuary by the Sam Veasna Center and Margaret A Cargil Philanthropies.

Delegates from six Southeast Asian countries gather in Phnom Penh to plan a better future for the globally endangered Eld's deer



On 27th November, approx. 50 officials, scientists and conservationists from the six Eld's deer range countries, namely Cambodia, China, India, Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand will gather at the Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh to convene a 3-day workshop on Eld's deer conservation. The workshop is jointly organized by Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (a Hong Kong-based NGO) and BirdLife International Cambodia Programme. The workshop aims to share information and lessons learned among Eld's deer conservation managers and researchers from throughout the species' native range, and develop effective conservation strategies for the highly threatened species.

Eld's deer (*Rucervus eldii*), a deer species once widely distributed across lowland dry forests in tropical Southeast Asia, has been greatly decimated by habitat loss and hunting. These threats have exacerbated in recent years as the once rural countryside had undergone rapid urbanization and agricultural intensification and expansion. Wild populations have been extirpated from Thailand and Vietnam, and most Eld's deer remaining in China are protected in fenced nature reserves. The remaining populations in Cambodia, Laos and India are also highly threatened and fragmented. Therefore, reinvigorated and collaborative conservation efforts and increased public awareness are urgently needed.

“There is a general lack of focused attention from governments, scientific and conservation sectors on this highly threatened species, which is fast disappearing from many suitable habitats throughout the range countries under our eyes. This workshop is a rare and timely opportunity for key stakeholders to sit in one room and discuss the various issues of Eld's deer conservation,

and hopefully come up with tangible solutions to turn the tide.”, said Dr. Bosco Chan from Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden.

The estimated global wild population of Eld’s deer is around 3000. Even though the species is protected by national wildlife protection laws in all range countries as well as by CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), forests with surviving Eld’s deer, even inside protected areas, are still prone to illegal activities, and the species’ curious and gentle nature makes it an easy target for hunters. Potential areas for enhanced collaboration include cross-border study and conservation, genetic study, captive deer exchange or translocation, and awareness raising.

“Sharing the same threats as other range countries, the Eld’s deer population in Cambodia is also decreasing rapidly. Therefore, we have to make more effort to address the root causes of the decline; otherwise, this important species will disappear from the region, including Cambodia.” said Mr. Bou Vorsak, Cambodia Programme Manager of BirdLife International.

“Deer are facing a mixed future globally; in parts of Europe and the US they are so numerous, as a result of predator removal, and are causing damage to habitats, that their populations are culled” said Sarah Brook, IUCN Red List Coordinator of the IUCN-SSC Deer Specialist Group (Old World Deer).”However, despite their importance as prey animals, and for subsistence needs of local communities in some areas, in Asia they are among the most endangered and least studied species, suffering from a lack of focused conservation efforts. Consequently unless the situation changes we are, unfortunately very likely to see the loss of further deer species in Asia. Recovery is possible though and hopefully through concerted and collaborative actions inspired by this workshop we can reverse the decline of Eld’s deer” .

Stung Sen, a unique wetland in Tonle Sap Great Lake, was internationally recognized as a fifth Ramsar Site in Cambodia

The tallest and pristine seasonally flooded freshwater swamp forest of the Tonle Sap Great Lake, the 9,293 hectares Stung Sen has been designated as a Wetland of International Importance (also known as a ‘Ramsar Site’), by the Royal Government of Cambodia and recognized by the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The declaration of Cambodia’s fifth Ramsar Site was made on 2 November 2018 by Prime Ministerial Sub-Decree.

Stung Sen Ramsar Site is located along the south-eastern edge of the Tonle Sap Great Lake, and is a typical representative of inland forest wetland in the Tonle Sap Freshwater Swamp Forests biogeographic region. The site is characterized the old grow natural seasonally flooded forest, which is widely recognised as the most species rich ecosystem type in the Tonle Sap landscape and is a threatened forest assemblage in Southeast Asia. Additionally, low-stature shrub land, and surrounding natural grasslands are crucial as foraging area and refuge for many waterbirds, mammal, fishes, and others. The site also play an important role in flood mitigation during the rainy season, water regulation, groundwater recharge to surrounding areas, water purification through aquatic plant and flooded forest, and water provision for living and agriculture. Because of these values and importance, Stung Sen has received recognition as a Ramsar site.

“It is delighted to see the Ramsar designation of Stung Sen wetland as a result of co-operative and continuous effort amongs various stakeholders” said Mr. Masaru Horikami, Director of the Wildlife Division, Ministry of the Environment of Japan, “we have supported this designation process and capacity building of the site managers since 2016 to ensure the ecosystem services of Stung Sen wetland will be sustainably managed for the benefit of both biodiversity and local livelihood”

“We congratulate the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia for putting forward Stung Sen as a new Ramsar Site”, said Mr. Suh Seung Oh, Executive Director of Ramsar Regional Center East Asia. “Stung Sen is significantly important in the region as habitats for a number of globally threaten species, the migratory pathway and feeding ground for water birds, and important habitat for mammals. The Ramsar Convention Secretariat is looking forward to work with the Royal Government of Cambodia to ensure sustainable wetland management and to promote the wise use of wetlands for benefits for local people and designate more Ramsar Sites, as important wetlands like Stung Sen, in the future” said Ms. Reiko Iitsuka, Senior Regional Advisor for Asia/Oceania of the Ramsar Secretariat.

30% of Cambodia is covered by wetlands and the majority of them have been identified as globally important, owing to the ecosystem services that they provide and populations of threatened species that they support. In 1999 Cambodia became a Contracting Party to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and four Ramsar Sites had been designated. They are:

- Boeng Chhmar and Associated River System and Floodplain (Ramsar Site no. 997, <https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/997>);
- Koh Kapik and Associated Islets (Site no. 998, <https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/998>), and;
- Middle Stretches of Mekong River North of Stoeng Treng (Site no. 999, <https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/999>).
- Prek Toul Ramsar site (Site no. 2245, <https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/2245>)

Ministry of Environment of the Roul Government of Cambodia and BirdLife International have been working together towards designating more wetlands as Ramsar Sites in Cambodia since 2006. For wetland conservation, it is crucial to designate biodiversity-rich areas as a Ramsar site while allowing their “wise use” by various stakeholders with appropriate wetland management.

“To support the designation process, biodiversity survey and consultation meetings have been done since 2016” said Mr. Bou Vorsak, Programme Manager of BirdLife Intenational Cambodia Programme “ the boundary of Stung Sen Ramsar site have been drawn with endorsement from local communities and local authorities ranging from commune to provincial level”

“Receive recognizing as internationally important wetland will bring significant benefit to this site including more protection support from international, national, and local communities. I also expect contribution to conservation of critical biodiversity and endangered species through sustainable use of this wetland, including eco-tourism” said Dr. Tsubasa Iwabuchi, Senior Programme officer, BirdLife International Tokyo, which supported the designation process with Ministry of the Environment of Japan.

“Recognizing Stung Sen as a Ramsar Site not only draws attention to the international importance of this wetland but it will be a bridge for Cambodia to nominate more wetlands as

Ramsar Sites in the future”, said H.E. Say Samal, Minister of Environment of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Each Contracting Party to the Ramsar Convention designates at least one wetland for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance, and these sites are selected by the Party based on the site’s international significance in terms of their vital ecological function, their biological diversity value, and their economic, cultural and recreational value. Worldwide, there are 2,331 Ramsar Sites, making this the largest network of wetland managed for conservation.

BirdLife International Cambodian Programme received financial support from Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan, BirdLife International Tokyo – Gala Dinner Fund, and Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia for working with Ministry of Environment of Cambodia to designate Stung Sen as Ramsar site.



PROGRAMME FINANCIAL REPORT**FINACIAL STATEMENT IN 2018****RECEIPTS**

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Funds receive from donor | \$704,455 |
| Other income | \$11,932 |
| Total Receipts | \$716,387 |

DISBURSEMENTS

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Personnel costs | \$536,465 |
| Office Supp/Mater/Util | \$11,897 |
| Telecom/Post/Internet | \$5,578 |
| Community conservation | \$101,568 |
| Workshops/meetings | \$106,108 |
| Equipment & Supplies | \$52,376 |
| Travel | \$42,317 |
| Audit | \$2,500 |
| Overhead | \$28,605 |
| Total Disbursements | \$887,413 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) of receipts over disbursement | \$ (171,027) |
| Fund balance as at begging of the year | <u>\$ 730,903</u> |
| Fund balance as at end of the year | <u>\$ 559,876</u> |

PARTNERS AND DONORS

BirdLife International Cambodia Programme would like to acknowledge the support and advice from following partners and donors:

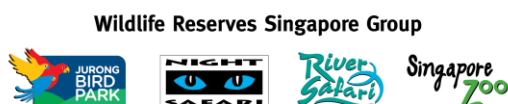
Government Partners

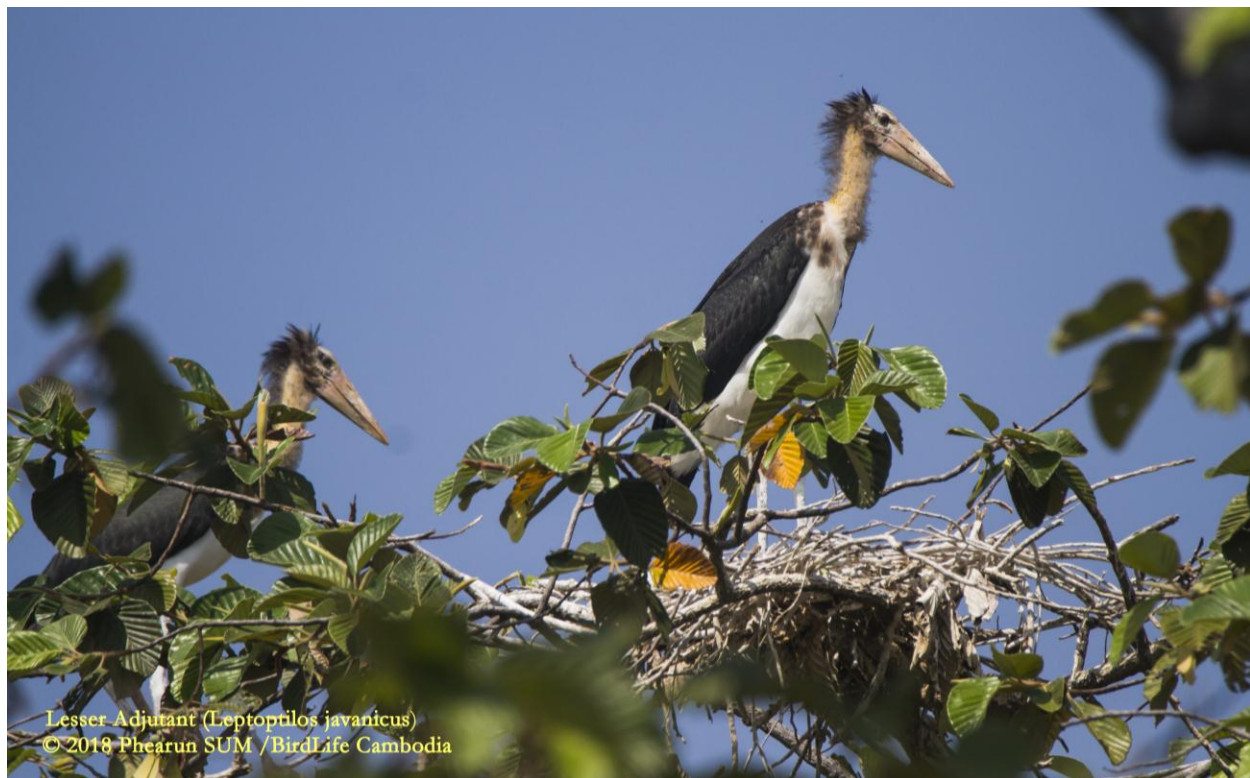


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Donors





Lesser Adjutant (*Leptopriilos javanicus*)
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White-shouldered Ibis and Woolly-necked Stork
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