ANNUAL REPORT 2019
Highlight Key Achievements
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BirdLife International has opened its office in Cambodia in 2004 under the Memorandum of Understanding with the Cambodian government, signed on 25 February 2004. In the past 15 years, BirdLife has been working closely with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry Administration to conserve the globally threatened species and their habitat. Our notable achievements include 1. Designated Anlung Pring and Boeung Prek Lapouv as protected landscapes for Sarus Cranes, 2. Designated Prek Toal and Stung Sen as the fourth and fifth Ramsar site of Cambodia, 3. Supported the development of on the zoning plan of Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary to protect the core integrity of this protected area, which was endorsed by the Prime Minister of Cambodia, and 5. Designated Western Siem Pang as a wildlife sanctuary. BirdLife International is playing a significant role in leverage resources for vulture conservation through coordinating the Cambodia Vulture Working Group (CVWG).

In 2019, BirdLife Cambodia team’s strong commitment to contribute to biodiversity conservation in Cambodia has continued and have achieved the following results:

The 7th May 2019 saw the nomination of the Anlung Pring Flyway Network Site, the first migratory bird site in Cambodia. This achievement was the result from two years of advocacy work with Cambodian government focal points, local authorities, and local communities. With this new status, Anlung Pring receives more attention from donor communities, policymakers, and researchers in conserving its unique biodiversity, including the vulnerable Sarus Crane population. The establishment of this first migratory bird site will also pave the way for the Cambodian government to nominate more international important wetlands as flyway network sites in the future.

Cambodian banned the import and the use of Diclofenac Veterinary medicines on 15th July 2019. The Cambodia Vulture Working Group coordinated by BirdLife has contributed to this by working with General Directorate of Animal Health and Production (Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fishery). This ban makes the first critical step to better protect the Cambodian vulture population and BirdLife will continue supporting the enforcement of this decree in the following years.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank all our donors for their financial support the Ministry of Environment and our NGO partners for their collaborative effort. We are hopeful that Cambodia’s endangered species and their habitats will be further conserved in the following years to come. Last but not least, we are also proud of the strong commitment of our programme staff who are working delicately to achieve BirdLife’s mission.
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’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 SANCTUARY)

Western Siem Pang Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) is 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 bird 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*.

BirdLife International- Cambodia Programme implements this project in partnership with Rising Phoenix.

Guar in Western Siem Pang

Key Achievements in 2019:

Law enforcement result

- In 2019 a total amount of 200,000USD was spent supporting the law enforcement operation at Siem Pang Kang Lech Wildlife Sanctuary (SPWS). This saw a total of 14 law enforcement officers (from Stung Treng Department of Environment and Royal Gendarmerie) who each spent 20 days each month patrolling in the Wildlife Sanctuary.
The results of law enforcement officers patrolling was stored in Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tools (SMART). There was a large amount of illegal activities encountered and dealt with as shown in table 1. There were 55 cases of poaching of live animals, most of which were confiscated and released back into the wild. Among the 55 cases poaching of live animals, there were 29 Bengal and water monitor lizards, 5 pythons, 16 birds, 4 turtles, and 1 pangolin (table 2). In addition to the poaching of live animals, there were 11 incidents of bush-meat (carcass recorded) which were identified as poaching cases on species of wildlife including eld’s deer and vulture which are endangered (EN) and critically endangered (CR) in the IUCN red list.

Funding was invested to purchase new equipment for the law enforcement officers to support them in their patrolling. A new boat was purchased for riverine patrolling and a radio communication system was established with 27 radios purchased. Two container offices were brought and installed to serve as an operating room to support the law enforcement, as well as a storage room for equipment and confiscated materials. 23 signboards were produced and installed around the Wildlife Sanctuary.

A Protected Area Law Enforcement specialist Mark Bowman (Frontline) was contracted to develop a Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary Protections & Enforcement Plan to support the law enforcement effort to become more effective and professional. Law enforcement management training was delivered for core members of the law enforcement team.

Our patrolling results and data from January to December 2019 has been recorded and stored in Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tools (SMART). The results from 12 month patrolling record are listed below.

There were 10 chainsaws confiscated and stored In the SPWS office. There were 279 fishing tools including illegal fishing nets and electric rods were also confiscated.

There were 63 hunting camps destroyed in SPWS. Nine weapons (most of which were homemade guns designed specifically for shooting animals) were found and confiscated or received from patrolling incidents and local communities. There were 107 cases of land encroachments that include land marking, illegal housing, and land clearing. The number of cases was reduced in 2019 compared to 122 cases in 2018. 72 logging camps were recorded. Moreover, six unidentified illegal camps were also recorded. In total, there were 141 hunting, logging, and illegal camps destroyed in 2019 (table 1).

Table 1: Patrolling results table for 2019 Law Enforcement work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Types</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chainsaws</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fishing Equipment</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>Fishing nets were found to be in various sizes and lengths ranging from 5 meters to 50 meters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Weapons</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Homemade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Hunting camps</td>
<td>63</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Land Encroachment</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>Small camp to new housing building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Logging camps</td>
<td>72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Other Illegal Camps</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>Species</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Remarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----</td>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bengal and Water Monitor Lizards</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pythons</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Birds</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Turtles</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pangolins</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Dead Animals</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Destroyed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>66</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2: Table showing the number of poaching both live and dead animal in 2019**

**Biodiversity monitoring and species conservation**

- **White-shouldered Ibis (WSI) nest searching and monitoring**

  We found 29 nests while only 24 nests successfully fledged with 48 chicks and five nests failed. This year we got the highest fledged chicks in working history in SPWS.

![WSI nests monitoring result in last 8 years](image)

**White-shouldered Ibis census**

We conducted WSI census from July to October 2019 and we conducted counting on the 15th (evening) and 16th (morning) in each month. The highest count was in October where in total 344 birds were recorded. However, it is shown that the WSI population in SPWS is still decreasing.
Giant Ibis nest searching and monitoring

Giant Ibis breeding season starts from June to November, sometimes up to December. This season, we found 11 nests; 7 nests fledged 11 chicks and 4 nests failed. These numbers were lower than that in last year where 16 nests were found. The lower number of nests could be attributed to the high rainfall during the breeding season this year.

Vulture restaurant and census

Vulture restaurant is conducted twice per month around the 10th and 20th. Cows, sometimes buffalos, were provided to the vultures. Thanks to the support from Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd, an extra vulture restaurant was able to be implemented per month since July 2019. Vulture census was conducted five times in the year (March, June, September [2 times], December). The census data suggest that the vulture population in SPWShad remained stable throughout the year.
Number of vulture accessed the vulture restaurant in 2019

- **Vulture nest searching and monitoring**
  
  There are three vulture species in SPWS, i.e. Red-headed Vulture (RHV), Slender-billed Vulture (SBV), and White-rumped Vulture (WRV). These vultures start breeding from November to July. In 2019, we found 12 nests including 10 nests of SBV and 2 RHV; 8 nests fledged and four nest failed.

  ![Graph showing vulture nest monitoring over the last 8 years](image)

  **Vulture nest monitoring result in the last 8 years**

- **Grey-headed Fish Eagle nest monitoring**
  
  A Grey-headed Fish Eagle nest found the same location from last year. The nest is active feeding one chick. Last year 2018 this nest successfully fledged two chicks.

- **Ph.D. student Research on Eld’s Deer (Text by Rachel Ladd)**
  
  BirdLife has provided field support to a Ph.D. project of Rachel Ladd from the University of Queensland in Australia. The project aims to develop a management strategy for Eld's deer in SPWS. The work involves developing a population monitoring protocol using
camera traps providing a preliminary assessment of the threat of free-roaming village dogs, gathering some basic demographic and ecological information on the Eld’s deer population. BirdLife staff have assisted with the deployment and maintenance of camera traps, provided local knowledge about Eld’s deer, and assisted with the development of a villager survey about dog ownership, including owners’ attitudes and practices. Data analysis will start as soon as data collection is complete.

- **Camera trap survey**
  BirdLife has deployed four camera traps in SPWS since the early wet season in 2019. Images of Gaur *Bos gaurus*, Northern Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca leonine*, Red Muntjac *Muntiacus muntjak*, Wild Pig *Sus scrofa*, Common Palm Civet *Paradoxurus hermaphrodites*, and East Asian Porcupine *Hystrix brachyuran* have been taken.

- **Eld’s deer rapid survey**
  A rapid survey for Eld’s deer was undertaken in SPWS over three days between 12 and 17 April 2019. The total number of Eld’s deer sightings was 33. The largest number of Eld’s deer counted on any single day was 10 individual animals. The minimum number of Eld’s deer counted on a single day was 4.

- **Soft release programme**
  A soft-release aviary enclosure (32m x 20m x 5m) was constructed in SPWS. A research project was started comparing the success rates between hard and soft release methodology. This saw the release of 4 Woolly-necked storks with GPS-GSM trackers, of which 2 were hard released and 2 were soft released. In addition 8 lesser adjutants were also released as part of the study. All the released birds were sourced from ACCB rescue center, where injured birds had been recovered from the wild, brought back to good health, and then released as part of the Rewilding Research Project.

**Local empowerment**

- **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 40% more) as Ibis Rice, thanks to wildlife-friendly and organic certification. BirdLife partnered with Sansom Mlup Prey (SMP) and brought the scheme to Siem Pang, and it is proving very successful: of the 384 families currently enrolled, only four broken cases, and the rests are proud of their efforts to save. In 2019, 384 families registered to implement Ibis Rice where 309 families produced a total of 187,000kg of Ibis Rice.256 families also sold a total of 182 tons of rice with a 70% premium price and made a total of $77,341. Furthermore, SPWS 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** – Strengthened of SPWS Stakeholders Forum at provincial and district level, and seven the Village Forums at commune level. Stakeholders were brought together every quarter to discuss issues and opportunities regarding the management of SPWS.

- **Zoning map of SPWS** – Official zoning map of SPWS was approved at the national level on 24th June 2019. The process continues at the Prime Minister Cabinet and is expected to be issued as a sub-decree early 2020. **Siem Pang and Western Siem Pang Wildlife**
Sanctuaries have been merged as Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary by the Royal Government of Cambodia on 6th November 2019.

- **Rice field mapping** – BirdLife provided technical support to the Stung Treng Department of Land Management for the mapping of 891 rice field parcels for 688 families in the villages of Khes Svay, Khe Kraom, Pong Kriel, Nhang Sum, Pha Bang, Lun, and Sre Rusey.

- **Cattle vaccination** – In 2019 BirdLife supported the Department of Agriculture for the vaccination of Foot and Mouth disease and Haemorrhagic Septicaemia disease to 587 cows and 927 buffalos (total 1,514 animals) in seven villages from Siem Pang District.

- **Trapeangs digging** – 10 trapeangs were deepened to enhance their water retention capacity and as a breeding site for fish and frogs in and around SPWS, involving 250 local villagers.

- **Well digging** – In 2019 BirdLife worked with Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd (a project partner), to create six bore wells so that water can be provided throughout the dry season at six key trapeangs in SPWS.

- **Toul Bosphniev Protected Area** – BirdLife proposed to create a roosting area for White-shouldered Ibis in Toul Bosphniev. If this is successful, it will become the world’s largest roosting area for White-shouldered Ibis. The map has been drafted by the Ministry of Environment. It is expected to be finalized and processed in early 2020.
Ibis Rice Farmer in Pong Kriel village

Ibis Rice packing
Ibis Rice

Trapeang digging

Mr. Yam Dinta/Birdlife International
LOMPHAT WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary (LWS) is situated in eastern Cambodia (13°19’ N; 106°55’E). The landscape was designated by the Cambodian government as a wildlife sanctuary in 1993 on the area of 250,000 hectares. LWS was divided into four managed zones including core zones, conservation zone, sustainable use zones, and community zones. The managed zoning plan was endorsed by the Royal government sub-degree, issued on 5th January, 2019. LWS is predominantly deciduous dipterocarp forests and consists of many natural waterholes (Trapaeng) where suitable habitat for critically endangered species. Currently, BirdLife’s project hires five field monitoring staff and six technical staff to work and manage parts of this landscape. BirdLife is working on three main components including Biodiversity Monitoring and Protection (BMP), Community Strengthening and Empowering (CSE), and Site Management (SM).

Key Achievements in 2019:
Law enforcement (Site Management)

- LWS stakeholder meetings were organized regularly, once every six months. The meetings were chaired by deputy provincial governor and the deputy general director of the General Department Of Administration For Nature Protection Conservation. Threats and issues had been discussed and addressed. This is a platform for improving the collaboration with all stakeholders to protect the natural resources in this protected area. The main topic of the stakeholder meeting for 2019 was to discuss the conservation of critically endangered bird species habitat in Hoang Anh Lumphat Economic land concession of Hoang Anh Gia Lai (HAGL) group.
20 LWS managed zoning maps were provided to the provincial department of environment, which are posted at all LWS rangers sub-stations, and local authority offices.

30 temporary core zone poles were installed around the core zone I for both in Ratanakiri and Mondulkiri site.

Four managed zoning plan signed boards were printed and installed at LWS core zone and conservation zone and along national road No.76.

Twenty-five warning signboards were installed along national road No.76, Srepork River and key trails inside LWS.

The capacity of BirdLife’s staff working to support Lomphat landscape is improved by which staff got trained and receive support.

Confiscated, destroyed, and removed: 67 chainsaws, 1446 snares, 21 illegal camps, 3 motorbikes, 2 automatic guns and 13 manmade guns, life and dead wildlife, and illegal fishing gears (table 3 is the patrol result for both Ratanakiri and Mondulkiri team).

Twenty-one land encroachment have documented and sent to the court.

**Table 3: Lomphat law enforcement result in 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>RTK</th>
<th>MDK</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chainsaws confiscated</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Timeber confiscated</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Snare and Traps removed</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>969</td>
<td>1446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Land encroachment</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Poached animals removed</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Live animal rescued</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Dead animal confiscated</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Illegal logging/Poaching camps destroyed</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Military style rifles confiscated</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Manmade Gun (Air gun, Cross Bow, Recycling rifles gun.)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Motorbike confiscated</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Hand Tractors confiscated</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Car confiscated</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Vehicle confiscated</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Illegal Mining</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Fishing equipment confiscated</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>File lawsuit to court</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Offenders arrested</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Offenders signing non-re-offense contracts/written warning</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Verbal warning</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Human confronted</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: RTK= Ratanakiri, MDK= Mondulkiri

Vehicles and infrastructure provided: 2 motorbikes, 2 sets of solar charging system, and 1 rangers station (O’roveak), storage, water tank.
Five training courses were organized for LWS rangers. These trainings aimed to build ranger capacity in several areas including recording data on SMART, rescuing wildlife, enforcing law in protected area, preparing court documentation, and using weapons.

Biodiversity Monitoring and Protection

- 10 White-shouldered ibis nests were found and monitored during the 2018-2019 breeding season. Three nests completely failed because of human disturbance. A total of 14 chicks successfully fledged from the remaining seven nests.
- In 2014 the maximum recorded of White-shouldered ibis in this landscape was 318 individuals while in 2016 we recorded only 144 individuals and continued to drop down to 27 individuals in 2018 and down to 25 individuals in 2019. This dramatically drop-down may link to two factors: 1.) Many roosting trees from the previous year at both Sre Angkrong and Sre Chrey were burned down during dry seasons, and 2.) Increase human disturbance during the roosting period, especially along the Srepork river.
- 10 Giant Ibis nests were found and monitored during the 2019 breeding season. Two nests completely failed because of human disturbance and the other one was abandoned. A total of 9 chicks successfully fledged from the remaining seven nests.
- The first Giant Ibis census was conducted at LWS from January to March 2019. There were 36 individuals counted from 49 waterholes (survey locations).
- 5 Lesser Adjutant nests were found and monitored during the 2019 breeding season. All nests were successful with 7 chicks fledges.
- 8 Woolly-necked Stork nests were found. All the nests were successful with three chicks fledged.
- 2 nests of Sarus Crane were found in Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary. One nest was successful with two chicks fledged and the other one nest was failed because of human disturbance (egg robbery). A total of 11 Sarus Crane were counted during the annual Sarus Crane census.
- 12 signboards were installed along the roads to inform local people on the importance of critically endangered species and encourage them to protect their habitats.
- Two natural waterholes (Trapaengs) were restored with the help of local communities.

Community Strengthening and Empowering

- Both CPAs (Veal Kambor and O’Rey) are implementing their management plan.
- Both CPAs received small grants from Cambodia Bird Conservation Fund (CBCFund) for implementing their management plan.
- O’Rey CPA committee conducted awareness-raising in six villages and six primary schools and one secondary school with participation from 534 people (326 females). These awareness-raising events focused on the importance of key bird species and its habitat conservation.
- Srechrey Biodiversity Conservation Group was supported to monitor the key species around their village.
- Veal Kambor CPA has completely built a 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.
Veal Kambor CPA committee and members plant about 880 tree seedling at Veal Kambor CPA area and at CPA member households.

Community-based ecotourism was piloted at Lomphat and Veal Kambor CPA committee built the infrastructure to serve ecotourists within their CPA.
O’Roveak sub-station were built with financial support from BirdLife

LWS rangers joining a training course on wildlife disease monitoring and rescue
Endangered species habitat signboard installed at Hoang Anh Lomphat ELC

BirdLife-LWS team conducted first Giant Ibis census in Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary
Five White-shouldered Ibis counted during annual census

BirdLife- LWS team conducting Giant Ibis nest searching
Veal Kambor CPA committee, CPA members, Village chief, LWS rangers and partner planting 880 tree seedlings

Ecotourism camp site built at Veal Kambor CPA
O’Rey CPA committee chief conducted awareness at a secondary school

CPA committee conducted their regular forest patrol.
**BOEUNG PREK LAPOUV PROTECTED LANDSCAPE**

Boeung Prek Lapouv (BPL) Protected Landscape is located in the Koh Andeth and Borey Chulsar districts of the Takeo province in the western floodplain of the Bassac River, a distributary of the Mekong River. BPL is one of the few remaining seasonally inundated grasslands in the Cambodian Lower Mekong. The site is 8,305 ha and supports a rich biodiversity, hosting animals such as black-faced spoonbill, greater adjutant, and Bengal florican. It is also a vital feeding ground for the declining South-East Asian population of Sarus Cranes. 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.

Birdlife International Cambodia Programme implements this project in partnership with Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) and NatureLife Cambodia (NLC).

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*Flock of Sarus Cranes accessing the water management plot*

**Key Achievements in 2019:**

**Law enforcement**

- Management Structure (term of reference) of the Ranger Team was improved to ensure the working effectiveness.

- The Ranger Team conducted regular patrolling and producing monthly reports using the SMART reporting tool. The Ranger Team has reported on land encroachment and illegal fishing, and in some occasions have conducted law enforcement. The results of the monthly patrolling were discussed and used as a basis for planning and developing of work plan.

- The Ranger Team patrolled to monitor and dealt with illegal fishing in BPL. 84 cases of illegal fishing were recorded, of which illegal fishing setups were destroyed in 21 cases. The Ranger Team also confiscated 2790 m of fishing nets, 49 net tubes, 496
poles, 7 electric fishing gears, 19 rat tail nets, and released about 256 kg of fish. No offenders were arrested.

- The Ranger Team patrolled to monitor and dealt with birds trapping/hunting. 2 cases of bird trapping where traps were successfully destroyed, including a 200 m and 50 m of wire trap.
- Land encroachment occurred in BPL but it was decreased when compared to last year’s data due to the increased effort of law enforcement and patrolling from rangers. No offenders were arrested.
- The Ranger Team patrolled to monitor and dealt with 7 cases of inundated forest fire in BPL. 3 cases of fire were successfully extinguished. The fire destroyed about 16 ha of land. No offenders were arrested.
- The Ranger Team encountered 10 other illegal cases with one case successful cracked down. This case was committed by Vietnamese people who illegal crossed the border for rat hunting in BPL. These offenders were asked to pledge in writing not to commit such crime again before they were sent back to Vietnam.
- With support from CEPF, a new small patrolling station was constructed near DeiLuk village to enhance the community’s involvement in wetland protection.

**Education Awareness**

- Completed year one of piloting the Sarus Crane and Environmental Education integrate curriculum of two primary schools (Kdol Chhrum and Sangkum Meanchhey) located around BPL and launched year two of the curriculum, which extended to a third primary school (Banteay Thleay).
- 15 teachers from three targets primary schools were trained and supported in teaching lessons about Sarus Crane and Environment to kids in grades 4, 5, and 6.
- Conducted Sarus Crane film show for primary school children and the local community in BPL to improve their understanding of the value of wetland and their ecosystem services provided to people’s livelihoods.
- The capacity of two project assistants was improved through study trips to Mlub Baitong target school (learning about teacher capacity building and eco-club set up), China (wetland training), and Taiwan (21st Taipei International Birdwatching Fair).
- Developed and printed 200 additional books about Sarus Cranes and environmental conservation for teaching at three target primary schools.
- Two signboards were installed in front of SongKum Meanchey pagoda and along the canal to Bunteay Sleuk village to encourage the local people to cease any involvement with illegal land encroachment, hunting, poisoning and fishing in BPL.
- Four types of Sarus Crane posters (description of Sarus Cranes habitats, ecology, life cycle, and threats) were printed and delivered to target primary schools.

**Species and habitat monitoring**

- Sarus Crane census was conducted. The maximum recording of Sarus Crane in 2019 was 105 individuals.
- Asian Waterbird Census was conducted with a result of 40 species recorded in January 2019, however we did not record the Black-faced spoonbill.
- Invasive species were cleared. There were Impomia and water hyacinth along the canal from the fishing pond to Theacanon. Mimosa pigra was cleared on area of 40ha grassland and scrubland.
The third year of water management trial project was completed with a notable result: water level inside the management trial plot could maintain about 20 days later than outside (this result was affected by El Niño). The number of Sarus Crane, and other bird species accessing this trial plot increased compared to the first and second year. The infrastructures in the trial plot were repaired and water could be pumped from outside to maintain water flow in the plot.

- Boeung Prek Lapouv’s Vulnerability Adaptation Action Plan was drafted. The final version will be published in January 2020.

**Zoning, local livelihood improvement**

**Zoning:**
- Rehabilitated and progressed the zoning procedure of BPL by convening 2 meetings at the provincial management level (headed by the Deputy Provincial Governor).
- Developed a strategy and road map to conduct zoning as well as a draft of zoning map of Boeung Prek Lapouv. Conducted two field missions to collect land title documents from the rural communities with claims on the wetland area.

**Local Livelihood:**
- Promoted sustainable rice farming through maintaining the rice farmer group in BPL.
- Provided training courses to the Community Fisheries around BPL to increase their capacity to protect and manage the fish resources of the wetland.
- Rehabilitated the Buffalo Bank scheme by revising and renewing the past agreements with the DeiLuk villagers.
Th new patrolling station in Boeung Prek Lapouv near DeiLuk village

Ranger conduct night patrolling in the core area of BPL
Burning illegal fishing nets confiscated in BPL

Ranger Team corporated with Takeo provincial military police to crack down on land clearance in BPL
Confiscated illegal fishing net in the core area of BPL

Monthly biodiversity monitoring conducted by Field Monitoring Team at BPL
Water management and controlling Giant mimosa in BPL

Installing signboard at school in BPL
Providing handbooks of Sarus Crane and Environment to school in BPL
Conduct Sarus Crane film show in a pagoda in BPL

Conduct Sarus Crane film night show in a village in BPL
ANLUNG PRING PROTECTED LANDSCAPE

Anlung Pring Sarus Crane reserve had been established and managed by the Forestry Administration (FA) of Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (MAFF) between 2004-2016. The management of this site was handed over to the Ministry of Environment (MoE) in early 2016. The Protected Landscape is located in Kampong Trach District of Kampot 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.

The 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 Cranes between November and May. This conservation area is divided into two parts by a road embankment; the first of which is the Northern part covers 33ha and other parts of which Southern part covers 184ha.

Birdlife International Cambodia Programme implements this project in partnership with Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) and NatureLife Cambodia (NLC)

Key Achievements in 2019:
Law enforcement

- The management structure (term of reference) of the Ranger Team was improved to ensure the work effectiveness and impact.
The Ranger Team conducted regular patrolling and producing monthly reports using the SMART reporting tool. The Ranger Team has reported on land encroachment and illegal fishing, and in some occasions have conducted law enforcement. The results of the monthly patrolling were discussed and used as a basis for planning and developing of work plan.

No illegal activities were encountered at this site.

**Education Awareness**

- Organized the celebration of the nomination of Anlung Pring as the Flyway network site with more than 250 participants.
- Organized World Migratory Bird Day and School Festivals to improve knowledge and encourage children and local communities to be more involved in Sarus Crane conservation.
- Conduct Sarus Crane film show for primary school students and the local community in AP to improve their understanding of the value of wetland and their ecosystem services provided linked to their people’s livelihoods.
- Launched a pilot project of the community-based agriculture hazardous waste management. Seven wastes storage boxes were installed in areas of rice fields and near the local village’s houses. Five signboards were installed to encourage local communities to control agriculture hazardous wastes. A rapid survey on the current waste management was done to form as baseline data. Local communities organized a team for monitoring quantity of wastes in the waste boxes every month and ensured the safety of boxes (not leaked or damaged). Mobile speakers were used to broadcast messages across all target three target villages to encourage the local communities to practice agriculture hazardous waste management. Two signboards were installed near the commune chief’s house to encourage local people to practice proper waste management. The area for building a wasted storage system was selected (the Landfill of Kompong Trach district) and approved from the district governor.

**Species and habitat monitoring**

- Sarus Crane census was conducted. The maximum recording of Sarus Crane in 2019 from the census event was 122 individuals.
- Asian Waterbird Census has been organized with a result of 31 species recorded in January 2019.
- Anlung Pring was successfully designated as the 144th Flyway network Site under East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership and this is the first flyway network site in Cambodia.
- A report outlining the hydro-ecological regime of Anlung Pring was developed. This report will help to better understand how the general hydrology of the wetland influences the habitats.

**Ecotourism, local livelihood improvement**

- Local communities at AP gained a “Community Protected Area” title from the Ministry of Environment.
- 60 farmers trained in sustainable rice farming methods complying with the Sustainable Rice Platform standard.
- Ecotourism: A new Community Based Ecotourism Team was elected for Anlung Pring by the members of 3 villages around the wetland. A consultancy project to
rebrand Anlung Pring Ecotourism products was conducted and the new tourism packages were introduced. The Anlung Pring Ecotourism Centre was renovated and ready to serve in the new tourism season. Anlung Pring Ecotourism hosted 450 tourists in 2019 with a high rate of satisfaction.

*Ecotourism in AP in 2020*

*Joint visit to assess ecohydrology in Anlung Pring by WWT, WWF, University City London, and Institute of Technology of Cambodia*
Pilot project on community-based agriculture hazardous waste management

Using mobile audio broadcast and sign board to inform about Agriculture hazardous wast management
Conducting Sarus Crane monitoring inside reserve and at rice field next to AP

Ranger checking the shrimp farm development that may impact on the water quality in AP
School festival 2019

Conduct Sarus Crane night film show at village in AP
STUNG SEN RAMSAR SITE

Located in the tallest and pristine seasonally flooded freshwater swamp forest of the Tonle Sap Great Lake, 9,293 hectares of land in Stung Sen is 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 2oth November 2018 by the sub-decree issued by the Prime Minister.

This Ramsar site is characterized by the old grow natural seasonally flooded forest, which is widely recognized as the most species-rich ecosystem type in the Tonle Sap landscape and is a threatened forest assemblage in Southeast Asia. Additionally, low-stature shrubland, and surrounding natural grasslands are crucial as foraging area and refuge for many waterbirds, mammal, fishes, and others. The site also plays 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.

\[ Flock of Asian Openbill in Stung Sen Ramsar Site \]
Key Achievements in 2019:

- Organized a dissemination workshop to celebrate the designation of Stung Sen Ramsar on 10th January 2019 in Kampong Thom province, with the participation from Ministry of Environment, Kampong Thom Department of Environment, provincial governor, district governor, NGO partners, local authorities, rangers, and other relevant stakeholders.

- The Stung Sen Ramsar site management and biodiversity monitoring protocol was developed and finalized after a series of consultation meetings/workshops.

- Training and equipment need assessment was done and a report was written.

- Priority training courses focus on bird identification, GPS operation, identification of critical areas for law enforcement, and data recording were organized at Phat Sanday headquarter for 12 rangers. After the training, the rangers were able to patrol more effectively.

- Regular patrol and monitoring activities conducted 6 times per month; monthly reports on the result of patrol and biodiversity monitoring were written.
Necessary materials and equipment were provided to ranger teams including Cambodia Bird Guide Book, flashlight, GPS battery, Datasheet form, Bird record book, SMART record book, document folder, and first-aid package, as well as gasoline for boat patrol every month.

One boat (with machine) was provided to support monthly patrol by rangers.

Celebrating Stung Sen as the fifth Ramsar Site in Cambodia on 10th January 2019

Protocol consultation meeting on 17th October 2019
Law enforcement and biodiversity monitoring patrol

Law enforcement activities
Raising awareness to local fisherman on the illegal fishing while conducting law enforcement patrol

Boat provided to Stung Sen’s Rangers
VULTURE CONSERVATION PROJECT

The Vulture Conservation Project is implemented by the Cambodia Vulture Working Group (CVWG). The Cambodia Vulture Working Group is a consortium of governmental and non-government organizers partners including Ministry of Environment (MoE), Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (MAFF), Angkor Centre for Conservation Biodiversity (ACCB), the World Wild Fund for Nature (WWF) Cambodia, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Cambodia Program, and the CVWG is coordinated by BirdLife International Cambodia Program (BirdLife). The mission of CVWG is to conserve the three vulture species in Cambodia including White-rumped vulture (WRV), Slender-billed Vulture (SBV), and Red-headed Vulture (RHV).

Vulture conservation interventions are implemented across eight project sites; Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary (SPWS) and Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary (LWS; supported by Birdlife), Chhaeb Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS) and Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary (KPWS; supported by WCS), Srepok Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS), Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary (PPWS) and Mekong Flooded Forest Landscape (MFF; supported by WWF), and the Sesan Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) and biodiversity corridor (supported ACCB).

Key Achievements in 2019:

- **Vulture Census:** Vulture census events took place quarterly; once in March, September, and December, and twice in June. These census events generate a minimum population estimates (MPEs) and reflect population trends. Two national vulture census events have been carried out every year in June since 2004, and since 2014 three additional census events have been carried out quarterly in March, September, and December. The highest single census count was 137 vultures on...
20th September 2019, including the highest count in the year for SBV (34) and WRV (78)

- **Nest Searching and Protection:** A total of 22 active nests were discovered during the 2019 breeding season. The majority of nests, 12, were found at SPWS (2 RHV, 10 SBV), 4 nests at CWS (all RHV), and four nests (all RHV) in Sesan District, Stung Treng Province, and two nests (1 RHV, 1 WRV) were found in Kratie Province-MFF. All vulture nests found at SPWS were closely monitored, and Birdlife/MoE enforcement teams regularly patrolled the areas around the nests. Four of 12 nests failed. Of which one RHV and one SBV was failed due to natural causes. The other two SBV nest failures were caused by human disturbance; during one event, loggers cut down large trees near one nest site causing it to be abandoned. In the other event, a deliberate forest fire caused a frightened chick to leap from the nest into the flames below. All nests at CWS were guarded daily by local community members at CWS, with only one RHV nest failed due to natural causes. The two nests found at MFF were closely monitored. One WRV nest failed due to natural causes. Four RHV nests found in Sesan was situated within an ELC. They were monitored by CVWG project staff and only one nest successfully fledged.

- **Awareness-raising:** Increasing people’s understanding of the negative impacts of poisoning on wildlife and human health is an important way to decrease the number of vulture poisoning incidents.

  - **The 2019 International Biodiversity Day** was organized in Mondulkiri with more than 1000 participants. Vulture conservation were promoted, and the Ministry of Environment produced a song about the roles of vultures in the ecosystems for the first time. This song was launched during this biodiversity awareness-raising event and broadcasted on the Ministry of Environment’s official Facebook page and local TV (i.e. APSARA TV). BirdLife was invited to two talk shows by two national TV channels (i.e. Bayon TV, and APSARA TV) to raise awareness on vulture conservation and encourage decision-makers and Cambodian people to take part in protecting them. The negative impacts of diclofenac were also discussed during the talk show to advocate the ban on the use and distribution.

  - **2019 International Children’s Day:** BirdLife was invited to educate children about the critically endangered species in Cambodia. Joined by 1000 children and the Minister of Environment, the negative impact of poisoning on vulture and human health was highlighted. The top message for children to bring home was “Don’t eat wild meat, let’s help protect vultures and other wildlife”.

  - **2019 Bird Festival and Nature Expo:** In December 2019, BirdLife corporate with the Ministry of Environment, and NatureLife Cambodia to organize this event at the Royal University of Phnom Penh to improve knowledge and enhance the participation of students in wildlife conservation. This event was joined by 3000 people.

- **Diclofenac Proclamation Workshop and IVAD 2019:** The Minister of Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (MAFF) issued a decree to ban the use and import the Diclofenac veterinary drug on 15th July 2019. To inform about this Diclofenac proclamation, during 2019 International vulture awareness-raising day, CVWG organized a national workshop and invited all CVWG core members, ordinary members, and Provincial department of agriculture forestry and fisheries based at the vulture sites (Stung Treng, Ratanakiri, Mondulkiri, Kratie and Preavihea Province). BirdLife also supported WCS to organize a similar workshop at the Preahv Vihear provincial town.
CVWG capacity building: the meeting of CVWG core members was organized three times (January, May, and December) to discuss project progression and develop joint work plan. Four new NGOs (1. Cambodian Bird Guide Association, 2. Sam Veasna Center, 3. NatureLife Cambodia, and 4. Cambodia Biodiversity Center) were invited to join CVWG as ordinary members. Cambodia Programme Manager and Vulture Conservation Project coordinator were invited to join the annual SAVE meeting in India on behalf of CVWG to share conservation achievement and developed joint regional conservation action.

2019 International Biodiversity Day

2019 International Children`s Day
Diclofenac Proclamation Workshop and IVAD 2019 in Phnom Penh

Diclofenac Proclamation Workshop in Preah Vihear

CVWG core member meeting
CVWG core member meeting

Presentation on vulture conservation in Cambodia during 9th SAVE meeting in India
ILLEGAL HUNTING RESEARCH PROJECT (IKB)

The IKB project focuses on conducting illegal wildlife hunting surveys to get an overview of the bird hunting situation in Cambodia. It is a regional project which is supported and coordinated by Birdlife International Asia with a project duration of 8 months of 2019. Three representative sites as coastal, flood-plain rice filed, and forest in four provinces of Cambodia (Kong Kong, Prey Veng, Kampong Cham, and Stung Treng) were identified for data collection. The survey’s scope also covers bird hunting behaviors as well as the targeted hunting/trade species and their markets.

The meat of birds and other wildlife sold on the streets in Kampong Cham province, photo taken on 27th October, 2019

Key Achievements in 2019:

- A list of targeted hunting bird species was developed based on the desk review, information was gathered from relevant institutions, and data were obtained from the field survey.
- A summary report about laws and regulations for supporting the wildlife hunting crackdown was developed.
- Hunting hotspots in Cambodia were identified providing information for the crackdown of illegal hunting and wildlife trading activities.
- A preliminary report on bird hunting behavior was developed.
Bird hunting survey in Koh Kapik in April 2019

IKB data collection in Stung Treng province
**NATURELIFE CAMBODIA ESTABLISHMENT**

The project to establish a local NGO taking over the mission of BirdLife International Cambodia Programme was developed upon thorough discussions between BirdLife Cambodia staff with BirdLife International senior management team (consisting of Dr. Hazel Thomson, Richard Grimmett, and Cristi Nozawa) throughout 2014, including a field visit from the senior management team to Cambodia. With a small grant support from IUCN/CEPF to BirdLife International Cambodia Programme NatureLife Cambodia was successfully established in 2017. In the first quarter of 2019, BirdLife International senior management team recognized that the NatureLife Cambodia project is a part of the transition strategy of BirdLife International to handover its mission to a local NGO in Cambodia.

**Key Achievements of NatureLife Cambodia (NLC) in 2019:**
- The governing board of NLC worked with the BirdLife International senior management team and agreed and endorsed on the transition process.
- Secured funding from the National Geography Society, Asian Center of Biodiversity (ACB), Darwin (through WWT) and IUCN-Netherland.
- Developed fundraising Plan 2019-2023
- Became a member of the Cambodia Vulture Working Group.
- Involved in organizing the Yellow-breasted Bunting Conservation Workshop in Cambodia.
- Involved in organizing several education and awareness-raising activities including World Wetlands Day, World Migratory Birds Day, etc.
- Coordinated migratory waterbird surveys at Ang Trapeng Thmor and Boeung Preklapouv Protected Landscape.
- Organized Bird Festival and Nature Expo at the Royal University of Phnom Penh.
- Educated communities through showing films on Sarus Crane and wetland conservation in Boeung Preklapouv and Anlung Pring Protected Landscape.
- Increase capacity of NLC’s staff on biodiversity leadership, bird fair organizing, Flyway.
- Organized annual board meeting to update on NLC’s programs and progress.
NatureLife Cambodia’s booth in the Bird Festival and Nature Expo at the Royal University of Phnom Penh

Bird Festival and Nature Expo at the Royal University of Phnom Penh
Conducting bird survey in the Boeung Preklapuv Protected Landscape

Activities during World Migratory Bird Day in Kep Province
STORY OF THE YEAR

Anlung Pring Protected Landscape becomes the first East Asian – Australasian Flyway Network Site in Cambodia

The Anlung Pring Protected Landscape becomes Cambodia’s first ‘Flyway Network Site’ (EAAF 144) under a wider network of more than 140 wetland sites recognised by the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) across Asia and the Pacific. Covering 217 hectares, Anlung Pring is located within Kampong Trach District in Kampot Province, which was originally established as a protected area by sub-decree number 84 ANKr.BK, on 9th May 2016. Flyway Network Sites are key wetlands recognised by the EAAFP for their significance to migratory birds at the regional level, and meet internationally agreed criteria.

The wetlands of the Anlung Pring Protected Landscape consist of flooded grasslands with a high density of *Eleocharis* communities, *Melaleuca* woodland, and flooded pools that support a wide array of aquatic biodiversity. Anlung Pring’s wetlands are used by more than 20,000 migratory birds as their wintering grounds. These include the globally significant numbers of the threatened Sarus Crane, large waterbirds such as the Painted Stork, and...
Oriental Darter, as are shorebirds such as Black-tailed Godwit, Common Greenshank and Black-winged Stilt. In particular, the Anlung Pring Protected Landscape is among the key sites for the Indochinese subspecies of the Sarus Crane *Antigone antigone sharpii* (Indochina) during their non-breeding season, and is known to hold some 20% of the regional population each year.

Mr. Bou Vorsak, the Country Programme Manager of BirdLife International said: “On behalf of the NGOs which are involved in the management of the Anlung Pring Protected Landscape, we are hopeful that the international recognition of Anlung Pring as Cambodia’s first-ever Flyway Network Site will encourage the authorities and local communities to engage in the conservation and protection of migratory birds, and practice wise use of this wetland.”

Dr. Srey Sunleang, the Director of the Department of Freshwater Wetlands Conservation, Ministry of Environment and National Flyway Focal Point noted that the conservation of migratory birds needs the involvement of and cooperation among stakeholders in countries along their migratory routes, so as to protect places important to the birds as they breed, forage, and stopover in wintering grounds. “We remain committed to conserve and manage these important habitats and protect the migratory birds with all relevant stakeholders effectively”, he said.

**Cambodia bans veterinary use of Diclofenac to assist vulture conservation**

The Government of Cambodia has banned the veterinary sale and use of diclofenac in the Kingdom with immediate effect. The Government has taken this measure to safeguard the remaining Cambodian vulture population, which is declining and threatened with extinction. “Diclofenac, whilst harmless to cattle and other livestock, results in death of vultures if they feed on a carcass of an animal previously treated with this drug” said Dr. Julia Stenkat, ACCB’s veterinarian. All vulture species occurring in the Kingdom are protected under Cambodian law and this precautionary measure by the Government of Cambodia will reduce the risk of accidental diclofenac poisoning, although the risk of poisoning from other agricultural chemicals like carbofuran remains an ever-present danger to Cambodia’s declining vultures.

The vulture population of India, formerly the largest in the world and numbering in the millions, suffered a 99% decline as a consequence of the veterinary use of diclofenac administered to cattle. The nearly disappearance of these main scavengers from the ecosystem, resulted in a huge public health crisis as millions of cattle carcasses dumped daily in refuse dumps went uneaten. The feral dog population grew and this lead to an increased number of human deaths from rabies. As a result the Government of India banned the veterinary use of diclofenac, promoted meloxicam, a harmless and equally effective substitute drug and there is now evidence of vulture population recovery.

The Cambodia Vulture Working Group (CVWG), a consortium of NGOs has been championing the conservation of Cambodia’s vultures since 2004. Cambodia’s vultures are facing an increasingly high risk of extinction and continuous monitoring has shown a 50% decline. Poisoning and habitat loss are the main reasons for their decline. 2019 national census recorded that only 120 vultures remain in the Kingdom.

In 2018 diclofenac was found on sale for the first time in Cambodia by the CVWG who advocated a ban to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). One year later on 15th July 2019 MAFF issued a ban on the importation, sale and distribution (including a recall) of diclofenac for veterinary purposes, to preempt a similar catastrophe as suffered in India.
“H.E. the Minister of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries recognizes the potential impact of a diclofenac ban on the Kingdom’s vultures and the consequences this could have for human health. MAFF is pleased to have worked with the CVWG to issue this ban” said Dr. Nou Vonika, Director of Department of Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health, General Directorate of Animal Health and Production.

“We applaud MAFF’s decision. It is one of critical steps aiming to save and prevent the extinction of Cambodia’s vultures impacted by diclofenac used for veterinary purpose. This decision needs to be circulated, enforced and monitored.” said Teak Seng, Country Director of WWF Cambodia.

“The challenge now is to ensure the relevant provincial authorities are aware of the ban and have CVWG support to help enforce it” said Ny Naiky, BirdLife International and CVWG coordinator who continued, “This preemptive measure by MAFF is most welcomed but poisoning of vultures by other agricultural chemicals, including carbofuran, a deadly carbamate pesticide, still remains a major challenge.”
# PROGRAM FINANCIAL REPORT

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT IN 2019

### RECEIPTS

- Funds received from donors: $472,986
- Other income: $2,140

**Total Receipts**: $475,126

### DISBURSEMENTS

- Personnel costs: $407,971
- Office Supp/Mater/Util: $10,892
- Telecom/Post/Internet: $4,472
- Community Conservation: $116,181
- Workshops/meetings: $86,258
- Equipment & Supplies: $32,353
- Travel: $25,340
- Audit: $2,650
- Overhead: $28,514

**Total Disbursements**: $714,692

**Surplus/(Deficit) of receipts over disbursement**: ($239,565)

**Fund balance as of the beginning of the year**: $559,876

**Fund balance as at end of the year**: $320,311
PARTNERS AND DONORS

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

Government Partners

NGOs partners

Donors
### ANNEX1: Staff List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
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**BirdLife/WWT staff**

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