



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Highlight Key Achievements

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Acronym

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| CEO: | Chief Executive Officer |
| CEPF: | Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund |
| CPA: | Community Protected Area |
| ELC: | Economic Land Concession |
| GI: | Giant Ibis |
| KNCF: | Keidenren Natural Conservation Foundation |
| KRRC: | Krong Buk Ratanakiri Rubber Development Joint Stock Company |
| LWS: | Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary |
| LCG: | Local Conservation Group |
| MoE: | Ministry of Environment |
| NLC: | NatureLife Cambodia |
| NTFP: | Non-Timber Forest Product |
| PDoE: | Provincial Department of Environment |
| PTCF: | Phnom Tontang Community Forestry |
| REDD+: | Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation |
| SBCG: | SreChrey Biodiversity Conservation Group |
| USAID-MB: | USAID-Morodok Baitang |
| WSI: | White-Shouldered Ibis |

MESSAGE FROM CEO OF NATURELIFE CAMBODIA



Mr. Bou Vorsak, CEO

From 2022, NatureLife Cambodia (NLC) became the official partner of BirdLife International in Cambodia. The 2023 annual report highlights the key achievements of our projects from January to December 2023. All projects were developed according to the 10-year Programme strategy (2017-2027) which covers five main programs, including, preventing extinctions, conserving habitats and sites, conserving the migratory birds, local engagement and livelihoods, and capacity building.

In 2023, turnover increased to almost one million US\$, and personnel increased to 26 full-time staff. NLC has produced several outputs that contribute to biodiversity conservation; however, the notable achievements are:

- The Lomphat REDD+ Project reached the validation step, and with the Authorization Delegation Agreement was signed with the Ministry of Environment, NLC became one of the few NGOs implementing REDD+ projects in Cambodia.
- Krungbuk Ratanakiri Rubber Company provided a grant in the amount of 21500 US\$ for Chhan and Kanat villages through NLC to establish Phnom Tontang Community Forestry as part of their environmental and social responsibilities.
- Ibis Rice in Lomphat secured organic certification and Roveak CPA was successfully relocated to within the PA Zoning Plan with endorsement from the community members.
- The Cambodia Sarus Crane Conservation Group was officially established, and the first Cambodia Sarus Crane Conservation Action Plan was finalized for implementation.
- The Cambodia Yellow-breasted Bunting monitoring network was established and is functioning.
- The O’Koki and Balot CPA management plans were finalized and endorsed by the Ministry of Environment.
- Crane rice farmers committees were strengthened, and members increased to 120 households. The drying system was successfully installed.
- NLC’s reputation as a national conservation NGO is recognized at both national and regional levels.

NLC has signed a MoU with the Ministry of Environment to implement conservation activities in all protected areas. The financial policy was finalized and approved by the governing board. The external audit was done as required of donors and in compliance with Cambodian governmental requirements. The governing board and executive committee are playing their roles to ensure good governance and move the NLC vehicle in the right direction.

NLC also faces some challenges including limited staff capacities, lack of human/administration policies, and constrained funding. To address these challenges, the management team of NLC is developing additional policies with support from BirdLife International, providing opportunities for staff to join training, in and outside of the country, and working towards sustainable financing through REDD+ project and social enterprises.

Taking this opportunity, in my mandate as Chief Executive Officer, I would thank all our donors, partners, and the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Environment, we are hopeful that Cambodia’s bird endangered species and its habitats are protected and maintained. Finally, we are also would like to thank our governing board and staff who strongly believe in NLC’s vision and mission.

BACKGROUND, VISION, MISSION, AND OBJECTIVE OF NATURELIFE CAMBODIA

NatureLife Cambodia is BirdLife International's official partner in Cambodia. NatureLife Cambodia (NLC) was officially registered with the Cambodian Ministry of Interior as a national non-governmental organisation in February 2017, before BirdLife International's governing Global Council approved NLC to become the national BirdLife Partner for Cambodia on the 9th of December, 2020. The organisation was established with technical support from BirdLife International and financial support from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) of the IUCN. NLC was founded with 12 members, of whom 10 were formerly key staff in the BirdLife International Cambodia Programme.

The establishment of NLC forms a key part of BirdLife International's transitional strategy for its work in Cambodia to be led by a local conservation organisation. In the two years of NLC's operation as a local NGO in Cambodia, it has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust (WWT) as well as continuing to implement the existing BirdLife International Cambodia Programme projects in the Lower Mekong Delta. NLC has secured funding from donors such as the Darwin Initiative, USAID, the European Union, Oxfam, KNCF, CEPF, IUCN-NL, Mandai Nature, Full Cycle Foundation, Ramsar wetland fund, and the Segre Foundation.

In the Anlung Pring and Boeng Prek Lpouv protected landscapes of Cambodian Mekong Delta Region, NLC is playing a leading role in integrating environmental conservation and biodiversity into the primary school curriculums, and conducts awareness-raising activities to enhance support from communities for local nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. NLC is also one of the founders of Cambodia Bird Festival, and a project partner of the international vulture conservation consortium; Saving Asian's Vultures from Extinction (SAVE).

On the 1st January 2021, BirdLife effectively transferred all Cambodian assets, staff, credibility, and liabilities, along with its ongoing projects in Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary, the Cambodian Mekong Delta Region, and Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve to NatureLife Cambodia. This handing-over process has strengthened the role and capacity of the NLC team to advance key conservation priorities at national and sub-national levels. NLC assumed responsibility for ensuring and maintaining the functioning of national conservation networks, such as the Cambodia Vulture Working Group, and has been at the forefront of the drafting of avian Species Action Plans, as well as successfully negotiating for pro-conservation policies at the top level of national governance, for example, the banning of a vulture-killing veterinary drug in 2019. Alongside this, the NLC team has successfully advocated for and facilitated the designation of, a variety of formally protected areas, including the Stung Sen Ramsar Site, multiple Community Protected Areas, Boeung Prek Lapouv and Anlung Pring Protected Landscapes, and Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. As part of the BirdLife International family in Southeast Asia, NLC is also able to network widely across the Indo-Burma region with other BirdLife partners, to leverage additional expertise and resources for conserving migratory or wide-ranging species in the region.

Our vision: Together for nature and people living in greater harmony

Our mission is to conserve Cambodia's biodiversity by managing natural resources sustainably for the benefit of all.

NatureLife Cambodia is working to achieve the following **objectives**:

- To maintain and preserve wildlife in Cambodia,
- To conserve sites and habitats for biodiversity
- To sustain ecological systems that enrich people's lives,
- To contribute to the alleviation of poverty by enhancing the sustainable use of natural resources and,
- To Build capacity and promote conservation work among Cambodian citizens.

HIGHLIGHTS KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROJECTS OF NATURELIFE CAMBODIA IN 2023**LOMPHAT WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**

Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary covers approximately 250,000 ha. The current NLC project utilizes field monitoring staff and nine technical staff to work and cover parts of this enormous landscape. Our work focuses on three main components: 1). Site management and law enforcement (SMLE)—In this component, we work closely with PDoEs (Ratanakiri and Mondulakiri province) by supporting, providing capacity building, and equipping the rangers to enforce the law enforcement to protect and conserve the natural resources. We supported four sub-stations: one at Mondulakiri (O'Roveak) and three at Ratanakiri (O'Rohar, Lomphat, and Sre Chrey). The total number of rangers is 23, including the LWS director and deputy directors. The law enforcement teams used the SMART book to record data and patrol information. The data of patrol events were compiled and entered into the SMART desktop stored and produced the report. 2). Biodiversity monitoring and research (BMR)—We focus on flagship species such as Giant Ibis, white-shouldered ibis, Sarus crane, and vultures by conducting several activities such as nest finding and monitoring, roost counting, Trapaeng (seasonal wetland) monitoring, awareness-raising, and other species recording. 3). Local community empowerment and livelihood improvement (LCELI)—currently, NLC has supported three Community Protected Areas (CPAs): O'Rey CPA, Veal Kambor CPA, and O'Koki CPA, and a local conservation group, namely Sre Chrey Biodiversity Conservation Group (SBCG). NLC supported all CPAs and SBCG to implement their management plan. In addition, NLC worked on the complaint, which supports the Sansam Mlup Prey (SMP) in implementing wildlife-friendly rice (IBIS Rice) at four target villages.



Forest type in Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary

Key Achievements within 2023:

1. Site Management

- Supported and worked with 23 LWS rangers, one LWS director at the Ratanakiri site, and two LWS deputy directors (one from each province). From five different substations of Ratanakiri and Mondulkiri province to conduct monthly patrols. SMART mobile was used to support these patrol activities for data collection and storage.
- Supported the ranger in improving the infrastructure at the substation, such as toilets and bathrooms, kitchens, Street Solar, and others.
- Supported the Mondulkiri team in setting up a mobile patrol outpost at the boundary of Mondulkiri, Ratanakiri, and Stung Treng.
- Provided two trainings on REDD+ development and SMART mobile training. At least 16 rangers from both provinces joined each training.
- Supported rangers to conduct 24 regular monthly meetings (12 meetings for each site)
- Provided patrol equipment such as hammocks, GPS batteries, first-aid kits, boots, backpack bags, Smartphones, and battery storage (power banks).
- Supported all four ranger stations to conduct monthly meetings. Twenty-four meetings were conducted.

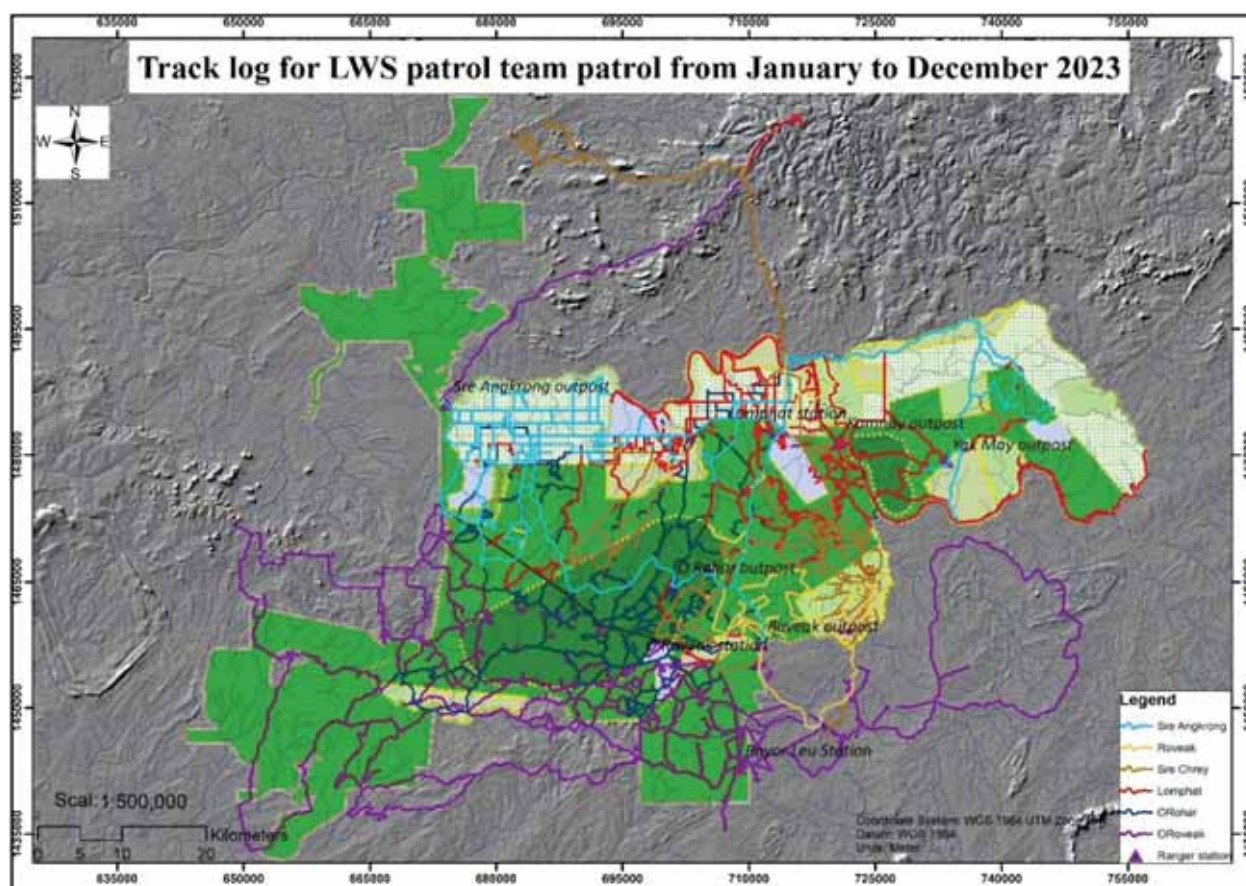


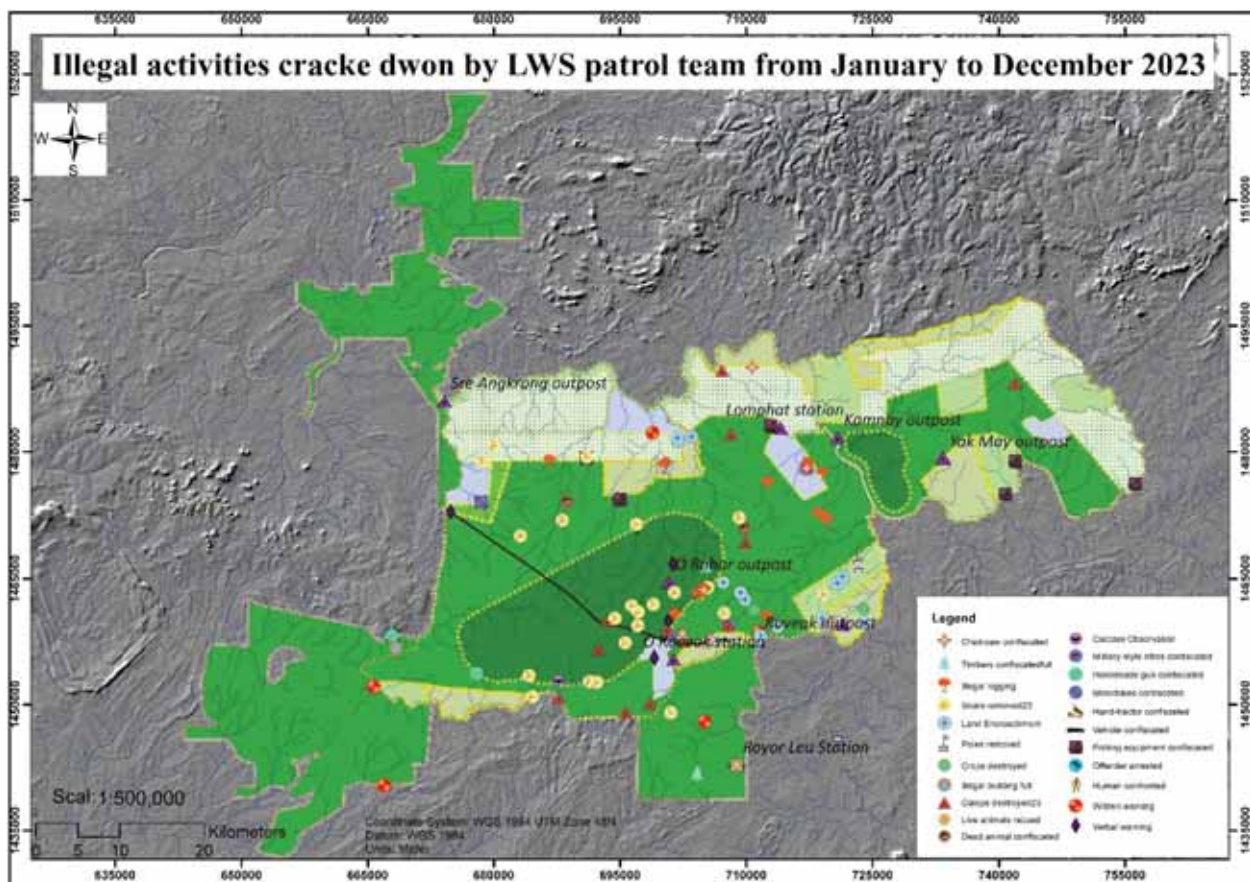
Table: The summary of the rangers' patrol event 2023

| Patrol effort | #Patrol | #Day | #Night | Distance (km) | #Hour | Total |
|---------------|---------|------|--------|---------------|-------|-------|
| O'Roveak | 64 | 162 | 95 | 4068 | 1532 | 5921 |
| O'Rohar | 127 | 194 | 62 | 5376 | 1874 | 7633 |
| Lomphat | 94 | 125 | 31 | 4857 | 1294 | 6401 |
| Sre Chrey | 103 | 122 | 19 | 3285 | 1236 | 4765 |
| Roveak | 21 | 24 | 3 | 605 | 211 | 864 |
| Sre Angkrong | 15 | 27 | 3 | 660 | 175 | 880 |

Table: The summary of the rangers' patrol results for 2023

| No | Description | Total cases | Total Items | Comment/Notice |
|----|---|-------------|-------------|--|
| 1 | Chainsaws confiscated | 8 | 9 | Decrease of 6 chainsaws compared to 2022 |
| 2 | Timber confiscated (m ³) | 4 | 10.24 | Decrease of 130 m ³ compared to 2022 |
| 4 | Snares and traps removed | 27 | 702 | Increase of 16 snares compared to 2022 |
| 5 | Land Encroachment (Ha) | 10 | 30.59 | Decrease of 6 cases compared to 2022 |
| 6 | Poles and barb-wire removed | 9 | 957 | Increase of 621 fence poles compared to 2022 |
| 7 | Crop removed/destroyed (case) | 5 | 122 | Decrease of 10 crops compared to 2022 |
| 8 | Illegal building (House, cottages destroyed...) | 3 | 4 | Decrease of 1 structure compared to 2022 |
| 9 | Illegal logging/Poaching camps destroyed | 10 | 12 | Decrease of 1 poaching camp compared to 2022 |
| 10 | Live animals rescued | 5 | 27 | Decrease of 7 live animals compared to 2022 |
| 11 | Dead animal confiscated | 4 | 7 | Decrease of 2 cases compared to 2022 |
| 12 | Military-style rifles confiscated | 1 | 8 | Increase of 6 guns compared to 2022 |
| 13 | Homemade gun (Air, Cross Bow.....) | 4 | 11 | Increase of 6 homemade guns compared to 2022 |
| 14 | Motorbikes confiscated | 10 | 13 | Increase of 2 motorbikes compared to 2022 |
| 15 | Hand-tractors/tractors confiscated | 5 | 5 | Increase of 1 hand-tractor compared to 2022 |
| 16 | Vehicle confiscated | 1 | 1 | 1 case of poaching wildlife was confiscated by MDK team. |
| 17 | Fishing equipment confiscated | 7 | 10 | Decrease of 4 fishing equipment compared to 2022 |

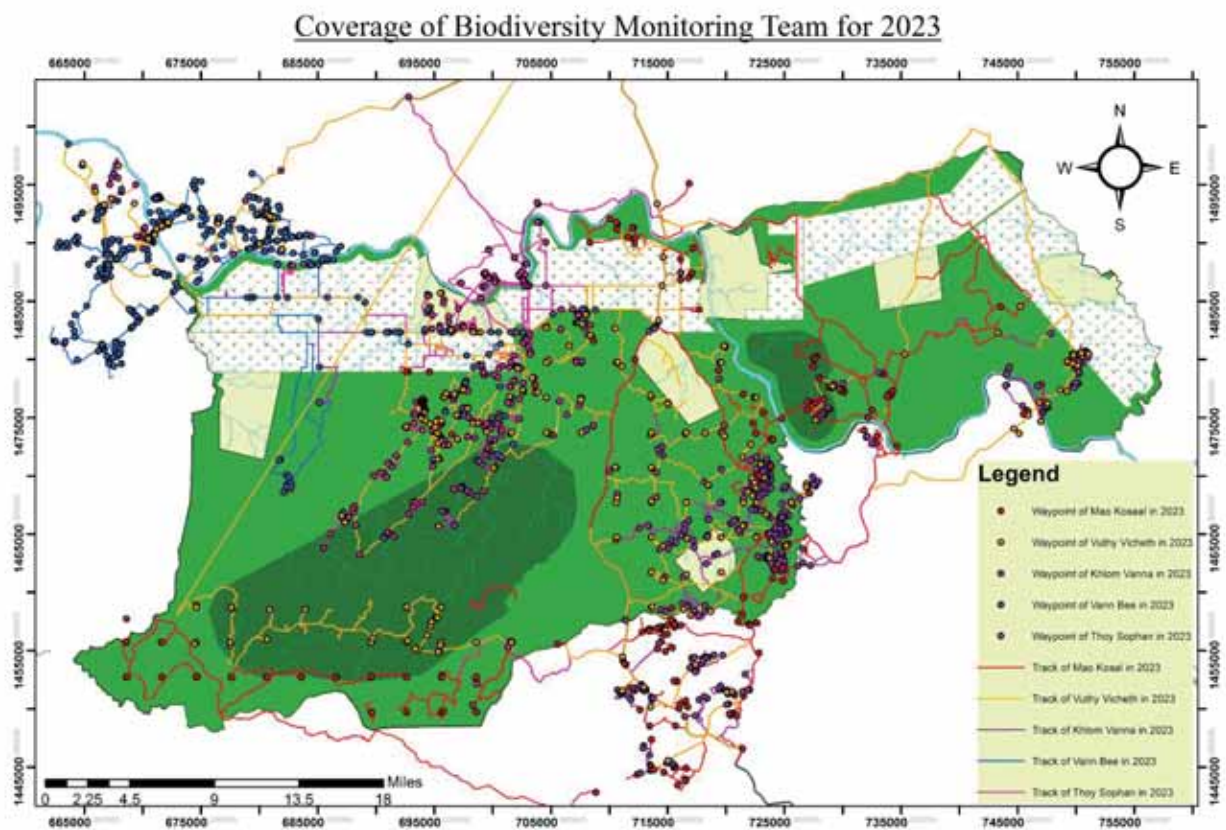
| | | | | |
|----|--|----|----|--|
| 18 | File lawsuit to court with offender | 4 | 7 | Decrease of 2 cases compared to 2022 |
| 19 | File lawsuit to court without offender | 15 | 15 | The team had sent 15 cases to court without offender ID, most of these cases were land encroachment. |
| 20 | Offenders arrested | 7 | 17 | Increase of 2 offenders compared to 2022 |
| 21 | Written warnings issued | 4 | 21 | Increase of 2 cases compared to 2022 |
| 22 | Verbal warnings issued | 2 | 2 | Decrease of 41 local people compared to 2022 |







4. Biodiversity research and monitoring

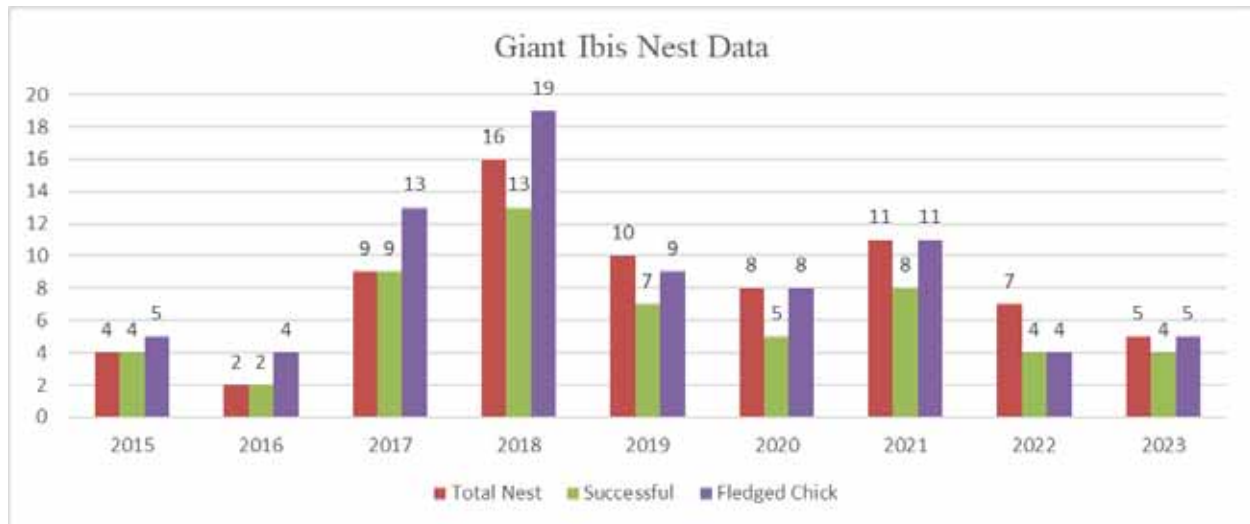


The map of biodiversity data survey task in LWS, 2023

4.1. Nest searching and monitoring

In 2023, the LWS-Biodiversity team conducted nest searching and monitoring for key flagship species such as giant ibis *Thaumatibis gigantea*, white-shouldered ibis *Pseudibis davisoni*, Sarus crane *Antigone antigone*, lesser adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*, and Asian woolly-necked stork *Ciconia episcopus*. As a result:

Giant Ibis (GI): Nest searching was undertaken in the rainy season from May to October at 28 locations, mostly inside the LWS boundaries. Five nesting pairs were found and monitored by the field monitoring team. By the end of the breeding season, four nests were confirmed to have successfully fledged, with a total of four chicks fledged (average number of chicks per nest = 1). Three nests failed to fledge chicks; two of these failed for unknown, possibly natural reasons (nests 1 and 2, see table below); however, one nest (nest 4) failed due to disturbance from illegal logging (giving each nest a 57.14% chance of fledging successfully).

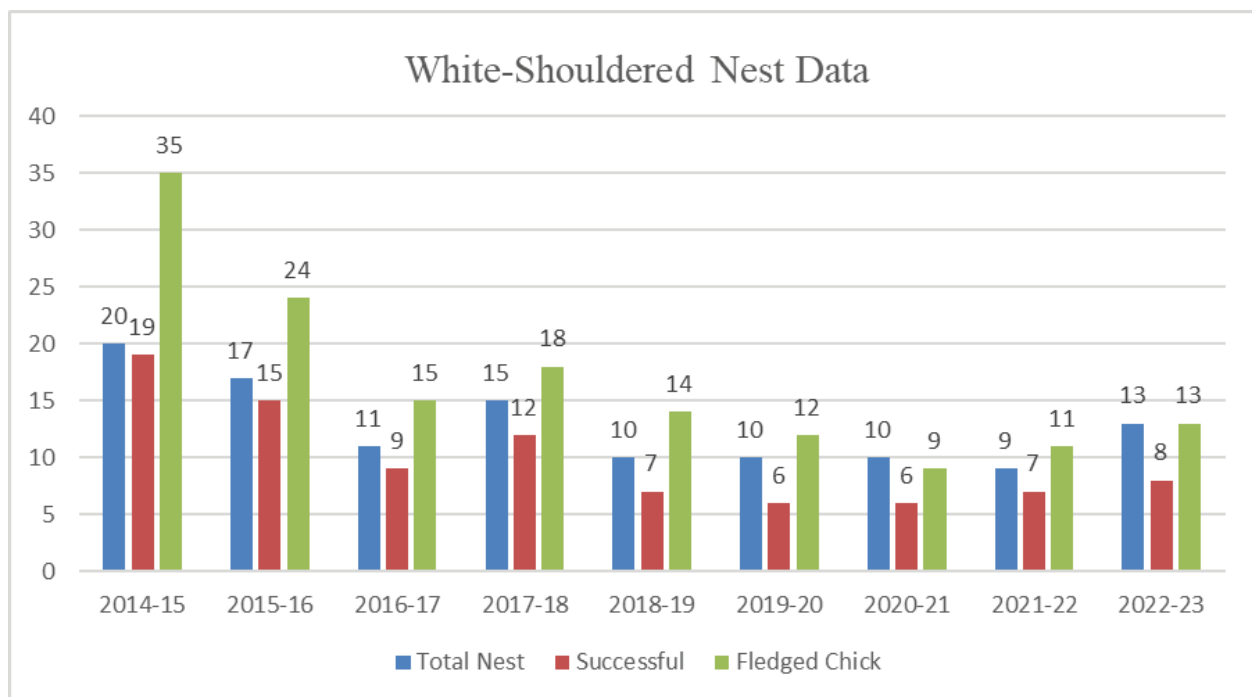


Giant Ibis nest and data in LWS



White-shouldered Ibis (WSI): The biodiversity team conducted nest searching and monitoring for WSI from late November 2022 to late April 2023. By the end of the breeding season, thirteen WSI nests were found and monitored. Nests were located mostly outside LWS and near rice fields.

Only two nests were actually found inside the border of the sanctuary. Only one nest was found in Sre Angkrong commune, which used to be an important location with numerous nests every season. Four nests were found in Roya Commune close to low-intensity rice agricultures, so this location is evidently still retains a significant breeding population. Around the village of Sre Chrey and surrounding rice fields the number of nests decreased from the previous year due to high threats, with only two nests found in this area in 2023. By the end of the breeding season, seven nests were confirmed to have successfully fledged, with a total of 13 chicks fledged (average number of chicks per nest = 1.22). Two nests were abandoned due to unknown reasons. We assumed that they abandoned their nests due to human disturbance because we found evidence of plows near their nests. We found high threats, especially human disturbance, at all nesting sites of white-shouldered ibis.



White-shouldered ibis nest data in LWS

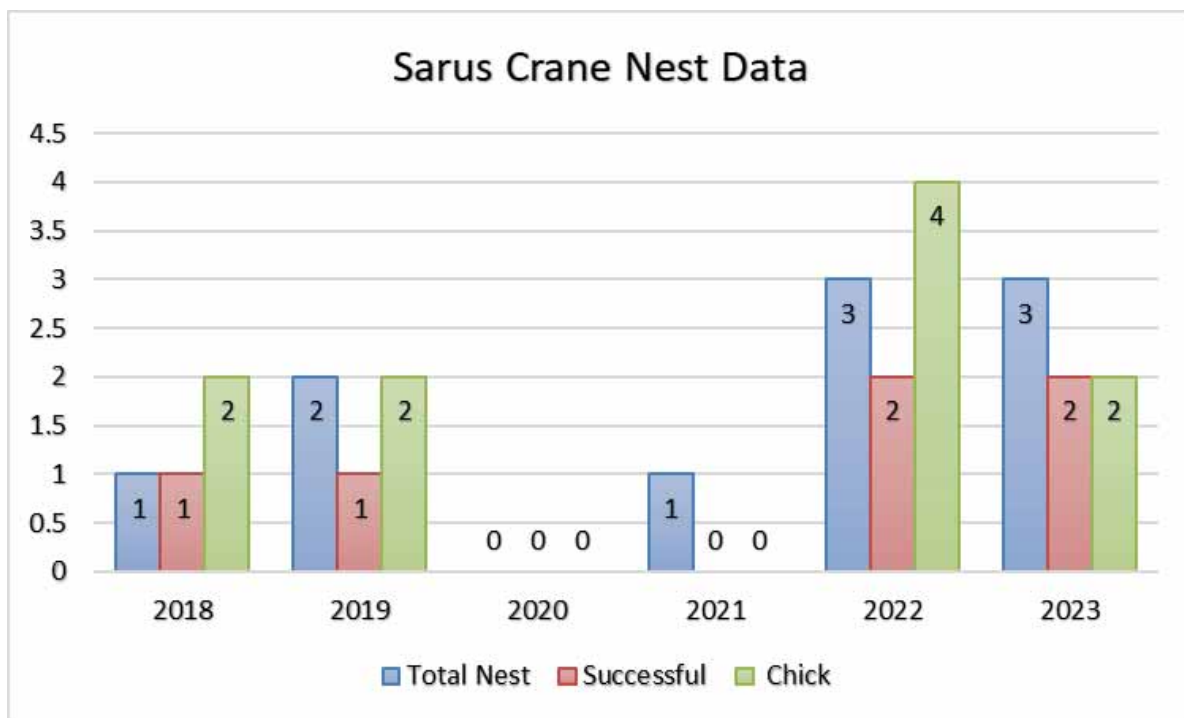


White-shouldered Ibis on the Nest in LWS

Sarus Crane (SC): Eastern Sarus Cranes breed in the wet season from May to October. In Cambodia, Eastern Sarus Cranes build their nests on the ground in the grassy open areas in dry dipterocarp forest, unlike other Sarus Crane populations in Asia, which prefer to nest in agricultural areas. Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary is one of only a few known breeding areas for the whole Cambodia-Vietnam population, and is also a focus of NLC's biodiversity conservation work. Although the first nests recorded in LWS by NLC were in 2018, it is known by communities that Sarus Cranes have nested in the Sanctuary for many years, and contains much ideal breeding habitat for Eastern Sarus Cranes.

Nest searching: In order to both engage local communities in conservation and Sarus Crane protection, and increase the number of nests found, prior to the nesting season NLC established a Community Sarus Crane Nest-Searching Team. Following invitation meetings extended to all members of the local communities near possible nesting areas, a training and recruitment process was carried out to recruit members from local communities to join nest searching teams. This new project added eight new persons to the pool of staff available to search for nests, more than doubling the previous capacity.

Results: In 2023, in total, five separate nests were located, of which three were active, and two were successful (nests are considered successful if the breeding pair manage to fledge at least one healthy chick). Of the five total nests, the two active and successful nests fledged one chick each. Two other inactive nests were built and frequented by the breeding pair, however no eggs were ever observed, and the nests were apparently abandoned by the breeding pair early to mid-way through the breeding season. One further active nest was built, and one egg laid, however for unknown reasons, the egg did not hatch, and eventually rotted.



Sarus Crane nest data in LWS

In 2023, NLC expanded camera trapeang as a means to monitor Sarus Crane nests. There is little background information about camera trapeang of Sarus Crane nests in Cambodia, however in 2022, the NLC team got excellent results from one nest using the method.

In 2023, three (3) camera traps were placed overlooking Sarus Crane nests. The devices were set to operate 24 hours per day with the 30 seconds between photographs, and placed around 6m from the nest’s edge to maximize encounters, with a height from the ground of around 60cm. The number of camera trap days are calculated from the date the camera trap is installed, to the date of the last phot or video capture after recovery from the field, with a total in 2023 of 36 Camera Trap days.

Care was taken during installation not to disturb the nesting pair, and the deployment of camera traps can reduce the disturbance of monitoring teams later in the season, while also collecting better data. The data was retrieved from the camera once a week or twice a month after the chick hatched. With this data, it was possible to accurately estimate fledgling survival/recruitment, which would not have been possible to do with a high degree of certainty otherwise. Furthermore, in the case of threats and/or mortality occurring, camera traps may be the only way to collect this data accurately.

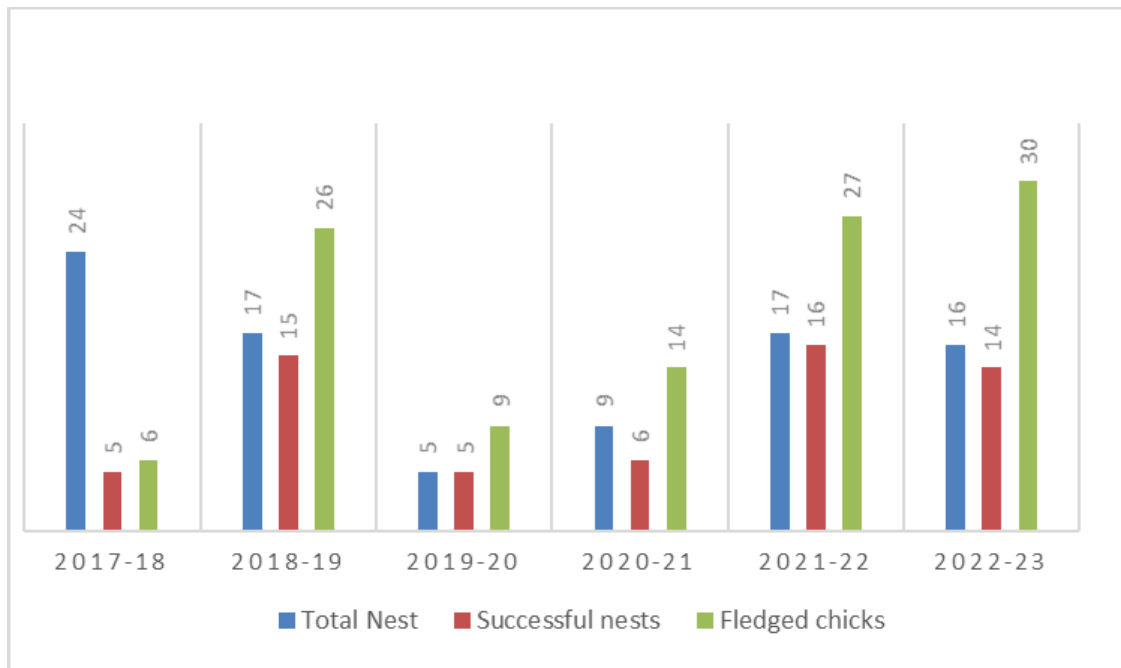


Sarus crane nest monitored by camera trap

Lesser Adjutant: By the end of the breeding season of 2022-2023, a total of sixteen nests of the lesser adjutant had been recorded in the Lomphat landscape, a bird classed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. Fourteen of these nests successfully fledged a total of 30 chicks. Lesser Adjutant build their nests in a colony, this year's biggest colony consisted of 6 nests. In LWS, lesser adjutant nests are found widely across the landscape; however, only three areas have been found in recent years, including Veal Kambor, O'Koki CPA, and Phnom Raveak.



Lesser Adjutant Nest in LWS



Lesser adjutant nest data in LWS from 2017 to 2023

4.2. Roost Searching and Census

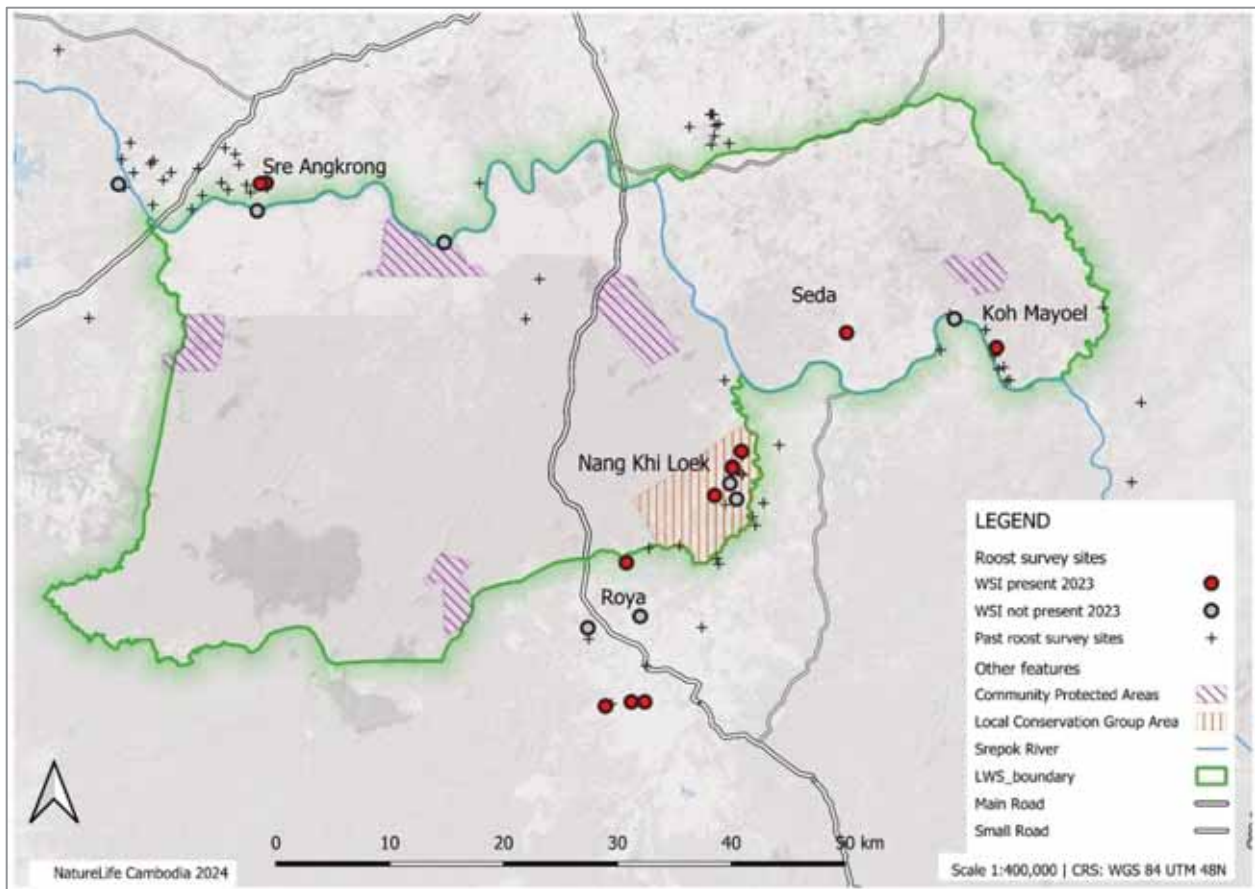
White-shouldered Ibis Census:

The design of the census methodology is that as white-shouldered ibis congregate in large groups to roost overnight during wet season, by conducting a coordinated national census to count these groups this will provide the largest counts enabling a minimum population estimate. One count is taken in the evening and another at daybreak the next morning. For the roost count census at LWS in 2023, either 10 or 11 personnel were deployed by NLC for each of the four monthly census events, with a total personnel used of 15 persons.

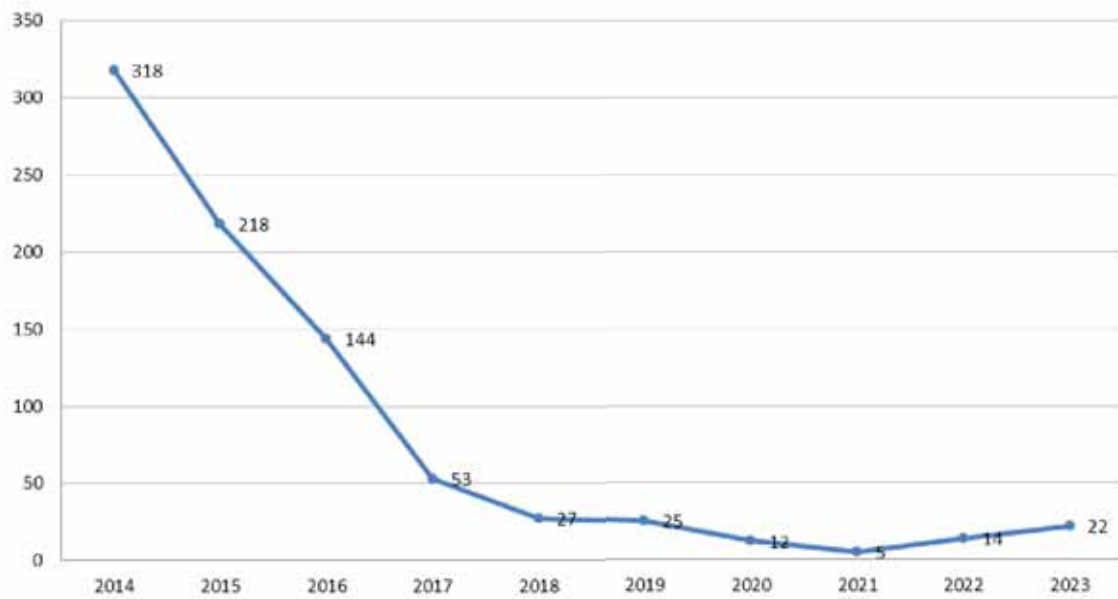
In 2023, a total of 19 sites were surveyed over all evening/morning counts through the four census events. The number of sites surveyed per month stayed quite constant at either 11 sites or 10 sites, reflecting the number of personnel available. Over the whole season, 10 communal roost sites in 5 Communes across the Lomphat landscape were recorded as visited by white-shouldered ibis during census surveys.

In two communes the occupied roost sites were outside of the wildlife sanctuary boundaries: Sre Angkrong Commune in the north-western corner, and in Roya Commune to the south. Three Communes inside the PA boundaries recorded White-shouldered Ibis at roost sites: Nang Khi Loek, in the southern central part of the PA to the southwest of the Srepok River, and Seda and Koh Mayoel Communes in the southern part of the sanctuary east of the Srepok River.

By the conclusion of the 2023 census season in Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary, the highest count of white-shouldered ibis recorded was 22 individuals, which occurred in both September and October, with 17 recorded in August.



Historically, LWS was a stronghold for the species. Then, from 2014 to 2018, the totals recorded at roost census counts crashed from 318 in 2014, to 27 in 2018. After 2018 till 2021 the decline continued, but at a seemingly shallower rate, however by 2021, only a maximum count of five WSI was recorded.



White Shouldered Ibis population trend in Lomphat landscape

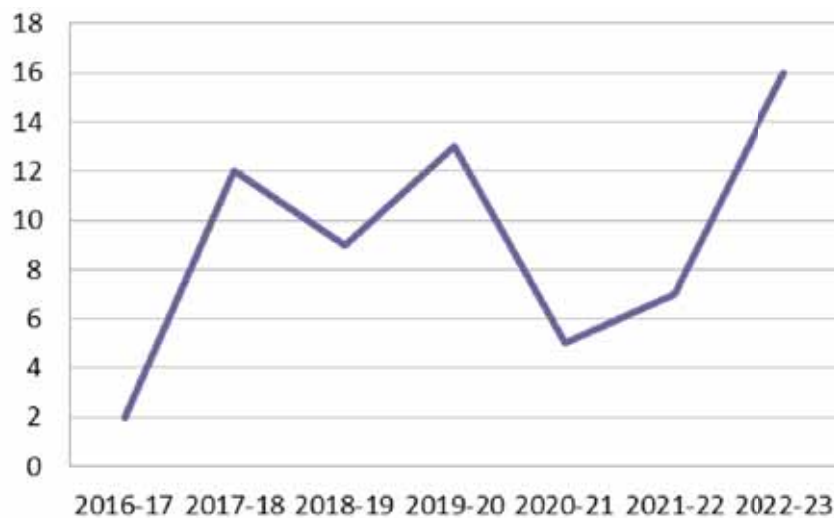


White-shouldered Ibis on the Roost, while counted in LWS

The 2023 census result continues to show good signs for the non-breeding population of WSI in the Lomphat landscape. Twenty-two birds is higher than any result obtained over the previous three years, and additionally counts of 22 were recorded in two consecutive months (September and October), with the third highest result of 17 in August also higher than the previous three years.

The level of survey effort has remained relatively constant since at least 2018, so it can be reasonably suggested that census counts reflect that following the swift decline previous to this time, the population has stabilised, albeit at a level much lower than the circa-2013 era.

Sarus Crane Census: LWS is one of the nesting sites in the eastern plain of Cambodia for the Sarus crane alongside Chhep and Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary, which are in the northern plain. LWS is also a foraging site in the non-breeding season for Sarus Crane. Since they are regularly seen using the sanctuary in the non-breeding season, the Lomphat Team has joined the dry season census by conducting the census once a month from December to May. The 2021-23 non-breeding season census result showed that the highest number is sixteen individuals, consisting of twelve adults and four juveniles. The highest count was in May, which was understandable since it was the start of their nesting season.



Sarus Crane census data in LWS



Family of Sarus Crane, counted during census in LWS

4.3. Trapeang monitoring

Trapeang monitoring: The biodiversity team conducted twist time per month to collect and observe the restored and non-restored trapeang. In the new trapeang monitoring season of 2022-2023, 22 trapeangs are selected for monitoring, including seventeen restoration and 5 non-restoration trapeangs. All selected trapeangs were planned to monitor twice a month or once in 2 weeks as in previous years.

Trapeang monitoring in the 2022-2023 season was usually conducted from December 2022 to April 2023. After monitoring for five months, the result showed that the non-restored trapeangs dropped water levels faster than restored trapeangs, especially between February and March. However, most of the monitoring trapeangs did not completely dry up till May. So, it's started raining season coming at the end of May, bringing some trapeang back to being full or half water. Besides water level, we also monitored the amount of grass, mud, legal and illegal activities, livestock, and wildlife. Four key species were recorded during the monitoring throughout the season, including White-shouldered Ibis, Lesser Adjutant, Sarus Crane, and Woolly-necked Stork. Most of the animals were recorded at non-restoration trapeangs.

In 2023, we deployed 15 camera traps at seven restored trapeangs. The deployment of camera traps aimed to monitor wildlife and other human activities. Natural waterholes were not monitored by camera traps. Camera traps were placed at waterholes during the dry season from December to May.

The 22 monitored trapeangs in the Lomphat Landscape

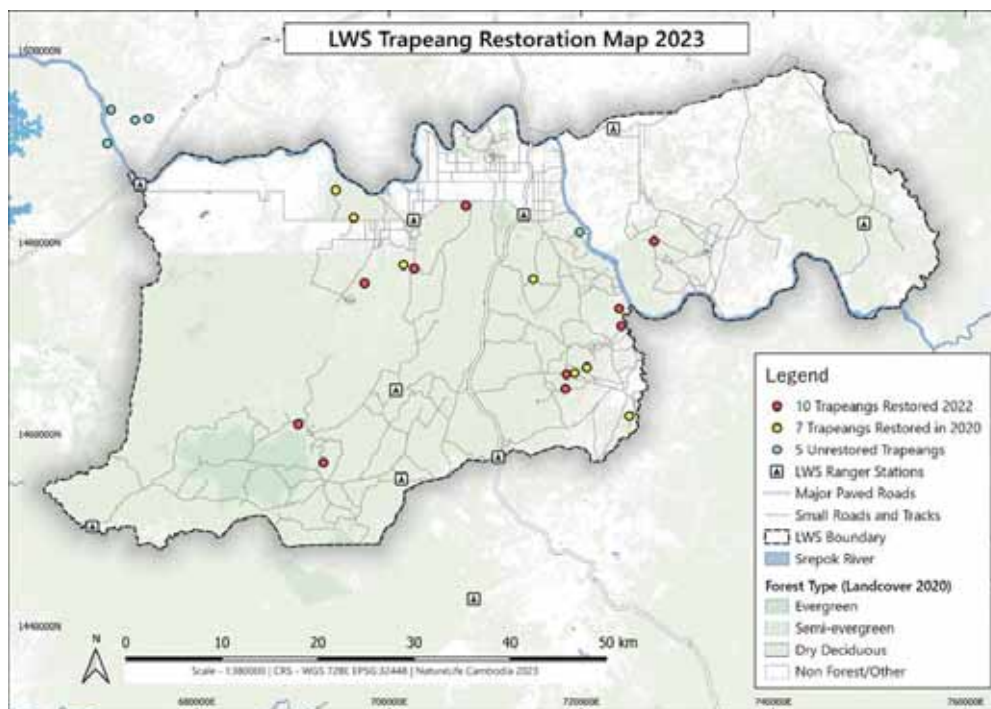


Table: List of Monitoring Trapaeng in 2022-2023

| No | Tr. Name | Site | Co_X | Co_Y | Monitoring staff | Type of Trapaeng |
|----|-------------------|--------------|--------|---------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Tr. Krapuer Skorm | O'Rey | 702634 | 1477283 | Thoy Sophann | Restoration |
| 2 | Tr. Alung Prang | O'Rey | 697472 | 1475751 | Thoy Sophann | Restoration |
| 3 | Tr. Sokin | O'Rey | 701559 | 1477631 | Thoy Sophann | Restoration |
| 4 | Tr. Kra Nhanh | O'Rey | 694904 | 1485132 | Thoy Sophann | Restoration |
| 5 | Tr. Trach Thom | O'Rey | 696338 | 1482578 | Thoy Sophann | Restoration |
| 6 | Tr. Sangkae | Sre Chrey | 723026 | 1466976 | Khlum Vanna | Restoration |
| 7 | Tr. Pak Vaen | Sre Chrey | 718478 | 1466236 | Khlum Vanna | Restoration |
| 8 | Tr. Romaeng | Sre Chrey | 718366 | 1464722 | Khlum Vanna | Restoration |
| 9 | Tr. Russey | Sre Chrey | 721916 | 1465394 | Khlum Vanna | Restoration |
| 10 | Tr. Khtum | Sre Chrey | 724219 | 1461946 | Mao Kosal | Restoration |
| 11 | Tr. Skun | Sre Chrey | 724194 | 1471290 | Mao Kosal | Restoration |
| 12 | Tr. Ta Yaem | Veal Kambor | 723952 | 1473094 | Mao Kosal | Restoration |
| 13 | Tr. M'Rach | Kaeng Sann | 727643 | 1481120 | Mao Kosal | Restoration |
| 14 | Tr. Kokoh | MDK | 690569 | 1461057 | Rangers | Restoration |
| 15 | Tr. Trorb | MDK | 693186 | 1457041 | Rangers | Restoration |
| 16 | Tr. Nang Nhav | Veal Kambor | 707995 | 1483840 | Vuthy Vichet | Restoration |
| 17 | Tr. Nang Nam | Veal Kambor | 715449 | 1475870 | Vuthy Vichet | Restoration |
| 18 | Tr. Eav | Veal Kambor | 719833 | 1481070 | Vuthy Vichet | Nonrestoration |
| 19 | Tr. Chhouk Sor | Sre Angkrong | 671254 | 1490382 | Vann Bee | Nonrestoration |
| 20 | Tr. Prey Krav | Sre Angkrong | 674486 | 1492755 | Vann Bee | Nonrestoration |
| 21 | Tr. Prey Ta Nub | Sre Angkrong | 763917 | 1492617 | Vann Bee | Nonrestoration |
| 22 | Tr. Kbal Leav | Sre Angkrong | 675821 | 1490589 | Vann Bee | Nonrestoration |

Table: Trapaeng data monitorin 2022-2023

| Trapaeng | Type | December | | January | | February | | March | | April | |
|-------------------|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | 1st (m) | 2nd (m) | 1st (m) | 2nd (m) | 1st (m) | 2nd (m) | 1st (m) | 2nd (m) | 1st (m) | 2nd (m) |
| Tr. Krapuer Skorm | Restored | 0.68 | 0.58 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.48 | 0.35 | 0.22 | 0.15 | 0.05 | 0.1 |
| Tr. Alung Prang | Restored | 0.7 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.25 | 0.12 | 0 | 0 |
| Tr. Sokin | Restored | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.67 | 0.6 | 0.54 | 0.4 | 0.33 | 0.25 | 0.3 |
| Tr. Kra Nhanh | Restored | 0.7 | 0.63 | 0.67 | 0.56 | 0.49 | 0.4 | 0.24 | 0.18 | 0 | 0 |
| Tr. Trach Thom | Restored | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.45 | 0.35 | 0.2 | 0.12 | 0 | 0 |
| Tr. Sangkae | Restored | 1 | 0.7 | 0.65 | 0.85 | 0.75 | 0.65 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Tr. Pak Vaen | Restored | 0.9 | 0.5 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.43 | 0.35 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Tr. Romaeng | Restored | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.55 | 0.5 | 0.45 | 0.4 | 0.45 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Tr. Russey | Restored | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.55 | 0.65 | 0.45 | 0.4 | 0.45 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Tr. Khtum | Restored | 1 | 1 | 0.8 | N/A | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| Tr. Skun | Restored | 1 | 1 | 0.8 | N/A | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 0.6 |
| Tr. Ta Yaem | Restored | 1 | 1.5 | 0.3 | N/A | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0 |
| Tr. M'Rach | Restored | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.7 | N/A | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0 |
| Tr. Nang Nhav | Restored | N/A | 0.7 | 0.65 | N/A | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.25 | 0.15 | 0.1 | 0.6 |
| Tr. Nang Nam | Restored | N/A | 0.8 | 0.7 | N/A | 0.65 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.35 | 0.25 |
| Tr. Eav | Natural | N/A | 0.8 | 0.75 | N/A | 0.65 | 0.6 | 0.45 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.15 |
| Tr. Chhouk Sor | Natural | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.45 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.02 | 0.05 |
| Tr. Prey Krav | Natural | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.35 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.12 | 0 | 0.2 |
| Tr. Prey Ta Nub | Natural | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.12 | 0.08 | 0.2 |
| Tr. Kbal Leav | Natural | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.25 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.2 |

Table: The key species were recorded during the Trapaeng monitoring 2022-2023. (WSI= white-shouldered ibis, GI= giant ibis, LA=lesser adjutant and WNS=woollynecked stork)

| Trapaeng | Type | WSI | GI | LA | WNS |
|-------------------|----------|-----|----|----|-----|
| Tr. Khtum | Restored | | | | 2 |
| Tr. Anlung Prang | Restored | | 1 | | |
| Tr. M'Rach | Restored | | | | 4 |
| Tr. Trach Thom | Restored | | | 2 | 2 |
| Tr. Krapuer Skorm | Restored | | | 1 | |
| Tr. Ta Yaem | Restored | | 5 | 3 | |
| Tr. Ramaeng | Restored | | 1 | 7 | 4 |
| Tr. Sangkae | Restored | 2 | | | |
| Tr. Nang Nhav | Restored | | 1 | | 3 |
| Tr. Skun | Restored | | 1 | | |
| Tr. Russey | Restored | | | 1 | |
| Tr. Pak Vaen | Restored | | | | 3 |
| Tr. Kra Nhanh | Restored | | | 2 | |
| Tr. Chhouk Sor | Natural | 2 | 3 | | 3 |
| Tr. Kbal Leav | Natural | 2 | 2 | 1 | |
| Tr. Prey Krav | Natural | 1 | 2 | | |
| Tr. Eav | Natural | | | 3 | 16 |

Table: Data record of domestic cattle from Trapeang monitoring 2022-2023

| Trapeang | Type | No.Cow | No.Buffalo |
|-------------|------|--------|------------|
| Tr. Sangkae | | 100 | |
| Tr. Russey | | 65 | |
| Tr. Ta Yaem | | 40 | 10 |
| Tr. Skun | | 25 | 20 |
| Tr. Eav | | 79 | 20 |

Table: Human activities at Monitoring Trapeang

| Activities | Dec_22 | Feb_23 | Mar_23 | Apr_23 |
|---|--|---|---------------|------------------|
| People seen travelling near trapeang (within 200m) | Tr. Trach Thom, Tr. Khtum | | Tr. Nang Nhav | |
| Evidence of destroying/defacing camera traps or conservation signage or materials | Tr. Kra Nhanh | Tr. Nang Nam Tr. Nang Nhav Tr. Eav Tr. Ta Yaem | | Tr. Anlung Prang |
| Burning of vegetation in and around trapeang | Tr. Kraper Skorm Tr. Anlung Prang Tr. Sokin | Tr. Nang Nam Tr. Nang Nhav | | Tr. Anlung Prang |
| People observed cutting trees within 200m of trapeang boundary | Tr. Skun | | | |
| People collecting NTFP from within 20m of trapeang basin | Tr. Khtum | | | |
| People fishing (legal methods) from trapeang | | | | Tr. Anlung Prang |

Table: Camera trap effort for LWS trapeang monitoring

| No | Name | Co X | Co Y | Commune | Deployed Date | Retrieved Date | Note | Camera-Trap Days |
|----|--------------|--------|---------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------|------------------|
| 1 | Tr. Ramaeng | 718366 | 1464722 | Nang Khi Loek | 6-Dec-22 | 27-Apr-23 | | 142 |
| 2 | Tr. Pak Waen | 718478 | 1466236 | Nang Khi Loek | 6-Dec-22 | 27-Apr-23 | | 142 |
| 3 | Tr. Sangke | 720604 | 1466965 | Nang Khi Loek | 7-Dec-22 | 26-Apr-23 | | 140 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--------|---------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-----|------|
| 4 | Tr. Russey | 719317 | 1466359 | Nang Khi Loek | 6-Dec-22 | 18-Mar-23 | | 102 | |
| 5 | Tr. Khtum | 725019 | 1461920 | Nang Khi Loek | 6-Dec-22 | 26-Apr-23 | | 141 | |
| 6 | Tr. Skun | 724194 | 1471290 | Nang Khi Loek | 7-Dec-22 | 26-Apr-23 | | 140 | |
| 7 | Tr. Ta Yaem | 723952 | 1473094 | Chey Otdam | 5-Dec-22 | 15-Feb-23 | Unit vandalised | | |
| 8 | Tr. Nang Nam | 715010 | 1476164 | Chey Otdam | 5-Dec-22 | 18-Mar-23 | | 103 | |
| 9 | Tr. Ko Koh | 690569 | 1461057 | Roya | 13-Dec-22 | 8-Mar-23 | Unit failed | | |
| 10 | Tr. Anlung Prang | 697472 | 1475751 | Serei Mongkul | 5-Dec-22 | 25-Apr-23 | | 141 | |
| 11 | Tr. Krapuer Skorm | 702634 | 1477283 | Serei Mongkul | 6-Dec-22 | 27-Apr-23 | | 142 | |
| 12 | Tr. Sokin | 701510 | 1477657 | Serei Mongkul | 6-Dec-22 | 27-Apr-23 | | 142 | |
| 13 | Tr. Kra Nhanh | 694475 | 1485450 | Serei Mongkul | 5-Dec-22 | 25-Apr-23 | | 141 | |
| 14 | Tr. Trach Thom | 696338 | 1482578 | Serei Mongkul | 5-Dec-22 | 18-Mar-23 | Redeployed 8-23 April | 118 | |
| 15 | Tr. Nang Nhav | 707995 | 1483840 | Chey Otdam | 6-Dec-22 | 15-Feb-23 | Unit vandalised | | |
| Total Camera-Trap Days: | | | | | | | | | 1594 |



Camera trap installed at restored trappings

4.4 Biodiversity record

In addition to the priority work, the field monitoring team has another important task: recording biodiversity. The team was required to record biodiversity during their fieldwork activities. For information, they need to record animal species, UTM, numbers of animals, names of recording locations, habitats of species, and their activities.

By the end of 2023, 33 wild animal species were recorded by our biodiversity team. While 126 species were recorded by CPAs and the SBCG committee, and another 24 species were recorded by the law enforcement team. In the recorded data were species classed on the IUCN Red List as: Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable and Least Concern.

5. Community empowerment and livelihood improvement

In 2023, NLC provided a series of training to three Community Protected Areas (CPAs) and one local conservation group (LCG), namely: Veal Kambor CPA, O'Rey CPA, and O'Koki CPA and the Sre Chrey Biodiversity Conservation Group. NLC focused on three main community components: community capacity building and empowerment, community livelihood improvement, forest and biodiversity protection, and stakeholder and network connection.

5.1. Community Empowerment and Capacity Building

Meetings, workshops, training, and other events were organized for the CPA committees to improve the CPA capacities.

- Three pieces of training, such as natural resources protection and conservation, good governance and financial management, and CPA management plan development, were provided to CPAs, Phnom Tuntang community forest, and the SBCG committee and members. 56 people, including 17 females, joined the training. The represented groups were: O'Rey CPA, O'Koki CPA, Veal Kambor CPA, Sre Chrey Biodiversity Conservation Group, and the Phnom Tuntang community.
- A total of 34 events were organized at the CPAs and SBCG. Some 630 people, including 148 females, attended the events. The events included: monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, CPA network meetings, and CPA stakeholder meetings.
- Outreach: at least 15 awareness raising events were conducted at 13 target villages. Reaching at least 453 villagers, including 245 women. The outreach centred on sharing information about LWS flagship species and their habitat conservation and protection, Ibis rice, and the importance of LWS and PA law.



CPA network meeting

5.2. Community livelihood improvement

NLC supported and worked with SMP in implementing the Ibis rice project in four villages of the Lomphat wildlife sanctuary, including Sre Pokthom and Sre Chrey, Thmei, and Roveak. After the funds from NLC finished in early 2023, USAID Morok Baitong Project provided a grant to SMP to continue their work in these four target villages. Although NLC is no longer providing funds to SMP, NLC still supports the Ibis Rice Project on conservation compliance. There are two main activities that NLC has been supporting in the project, including land demarcation and conservation compliance (compliance data and compliance meeting).

Table: Ibis Rice Members from 2021 to 2023

| Villages | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | |
|-------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| | Registered members | Compliance | Registered members | Compliance | Registered members | Compliance |
| Roveak | 0 | 0 | 29 | 8 | 13 | 10 |
| Sre Chrey | 39 | 24 | 38 | 37 | 59 | 49 |
| Sre Pokthom | 41 | 35 | 60 | 59 | 115 | 111 |
| Thmei | 0 | 0 | 11 | 11 | 35 | 34 |
| Total | 80 | 59 | 138 | 115 | 222 | 204 |

Note: Compliance/active= Registered member-NC members -resigned-non active members

Table: Ibis Rice Member in 2023

| Village | Member Registered | Sale agreement | Farmer Contract | Not Active | Resign | NC farmers | Active farmers |
|-----------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|--------|------------|----------------|
| Roveak | 13 | 12 | 13 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 10 |
| Sre Chrey | 59 | 53 | 54 | 6 | | 4 | 49 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|---|---|---|-----|
| Srae Pokthom | 115 | 115 | 115 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 111 |
| Thmey | 35 | 34 | 34 | 1 | | 0 | 34 |
| Total | 222 | 214 | 216 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 204 |

Note: active members are the members who are still involved and will benefit from the project.

Land Demarcation

Up to now, NLC has demarcated 465 land parcels, equal to 758.91 hectares of land for 220 farmers. Demarcated 156 land parcels of settlement equal 338.38 hectares, 40 land parcels of farmland equal 95.24 hectares, and 250 parcels of paddy fields equal 626.21 hectares. In 2023, NLC demarcated 245 land parcels equal to 366.69 hectares for 103 farmers.

Compliance Data

The compliance unit of NLC has monthly verified satellite imagery and Smart data (which are obtained from Ranger, CPA Committee) with Ibis rice farmer list to observe in case the farmers commit any forest crime. As a result, in 2023, we found two members of IBIS Rice violated the conservation rules such as land encroachment and wildlife trading.

Compliance Meeting

From 05 to 08 November 2023, NatureLife Cambodia cooperated with Sansom Mlup Prey (SMP) and USAID Morodok Baitong to organize a Village Compliance Meeting in four target villages, including Roveak, Sre Chrey, Thmei, and Sre Pokthom. Besides the participation of Ibis Rice farmers, stakeholder groups presented were local authorities, representatives of the Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary Office, and the CPA committee. These 4 meetings were attended by 116 participants including 58 females. The primary purposes of this meeting were to refresh the 12 rules of IBIS Rice to the existing members, demonstrate the activities and achievements of the project, announce the farmers who violated the rules, and discuss the next step.

Table: Number of participants who joined the Village Compliance Meeting

| Date | Village | Total number of participants | Female participants |
|--------------|-------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Nov 05, 2023 | Roveak | 12 | 2 |
| Nov 06, 2023 | Sre Chrey | 36 | 20 |
| Nov 07, 2023 | Thmei | 26 | 7 |
| Nov 08, 2023 | Srepok Thom | 42 | 29 |
| Total | | 116 | 58 |

Based on ICS results, data obtained from the Smart team, and compliance meeting, we found that 09 members had violated the IBIS Rice rules, which were 3 violated conservation rules and 6 violated organic rules. The NC farmers won't be able to get benefits from the project, however; they would be able to become farmers again if they agreed to follow the project's criteria.

The amount of Rice Sold to Ibis Rice Company

In the harvest season of 2023, 68 Ibis rice farmers were certified as Organic Farmers while they spent 3 years converting their rice fields to become purely organic. Among these farmers, 55 farmers from 3 villages (Thmey, Sre Chrey, and Sre Pokthom) have sold rice to Ibis Rice company in the amount of 50 191 kg, including 46,126 of Romdoul Rice and 4,065 kg of white rice. The price range is between 1,500 and 1950 Riel based on its quality, which is higher than the market. As a result, they generated 81,257,350 Riel from selling rice.



Farmers sold their rice

5.3. Community forest patrol

In 2023, NLC supported three CPA's (O'Rey, Veal Kambor, and O'Koki) and the SBCG to conduct their monthly patrols, and record and monitor biodiversity. The patrolling is three times per month, usually each patrol lasting two to three days. The purposes of the forest patrols are to protect the forest, collect information, and observe the foraging sites, nests, and roosts of key bird species, and trapaeng monitoring. During the patrol, the community committee encountered illegal activities: O'Rey CPA 102 cases, VKB CPA 20 cases, O'Koki CPA 185 cases, and SBCG 23 cases. They also recorded the biodiversity, especially the Critically Endangered species and Endangered species such as Giant Ibis, White-shouldered Ibis, Black-shanked Douc Langur, Sarus Crane and Yellow-breasted Bunting, Green Peafowl, Indochinese Silvered Langur, Lesser Adjutant, Long-tailed Macaque, and Pallas's Fish-Eagle.

Table: The summarized result of CPAs and SBCG patrol event

| CPAs | Patrol member | Female | Ranger | villager | #. Patrol event | #. Patrol day | #. Patrol night | Illegal encounter |
|--------|---------------|--------|--------|----------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| O'Koki | 94 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 35 | 105 | 70 | 185 |
| O'Rey | 91 | 18 | 3 | 22 | 39 | 117 | 78 | 102 |
| VBK | 83 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 35 | 105 | 70 | 20 |
| SBCG | 61 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 36 | 108 | 72 | 23 |

Table: Action and Illegal cases crank-downed by CPA patrol teams

| Evident crackdown CPA | O'Koki | O'Rey | VKB | SBCG | Others |
|-------------------------------|--------|-------|-----|------|--|
| Logging | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | -28 Tree cut down |
| Removed snaring | 162 | 93 | 15 | 11 | -281 Snares/Traps were removed |
| Illegal fishing | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | -01 illegal Fishing was intervention. |
| Land encroachment | 21 | 5 | 0 | 1 | -27 Land Encroachment were intervention |
| Illegal building house in CPA | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | -01 illegal Build house was removed |
| Removed illegal camp | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | -11 Illegal cams were removed |
| Provided education | 34 | 0 | 35 | 6 | 69 People were educated to stop committing illegal activities. |

5.4. O'Koki management plan development

In 2023, NLC supported the O'Koki CPA committee in arranging several meetings with key stakeholders to collect input for the development of the CPA management plan. Six meetings were organized, which were supported by NLC. The participants were from Koan Mon District governor representatives, LWS director/deputy director, head of the local community office of PDoE, Sre Angkrong commune councils, village chiefs, vice-village chiefs, village assistants, rangers, head of ranger stations, CPA committee, and other related CBOs in the Sre Angkrong commune.

The O'Koki CPA finalized the five-year management plan and demarcation of the sustainable use zone and conservation zone, the conservation zone covering 1,258 hectares and the sustainable use zone with 650 hectares on November 23. And 33 specific action plans were agreed upon to effectively implement in the O'Koki Management Plan for five After MoE has reviewed the completed O'Koki CPA Soft and let CPA for printing to signed for endorsement with Konmom district administration level.

5.5 Roveak CPA relocation

- NLC supported the Mondulkiri PDoE and local authorities to conduct the meeting with the Roveak village chief, vice-village chief, key people, and the Roveak villagers to discuss the location of the Roveak CPA. There were 09 of the meeting organized. there were 297 people with 89 Female joining the meeting.
- NLC supported the key stakeholders and villagers for two field works at the proposed Roveak CPA relocation with a total of the CPA area size 1,288.55 ha hectares.
- The Roveak CPA committee was elected. There were people who voted for the Roveak CPA. The Roveak CPA committee was endorsed by the Deika of the commune council chief.
- Roveak CPA started to conduct the forest patrol in November 2023.

5.6. Community Protected Area Network and CPA Stakeholder Engagement

The CPA Network has conducted each quarterly reflection to summarize achievements and challenges to address together with stakeholders (PDoE, commune council, district governors, and CPA committees) and set planning for an improved implementation to intervention on illegal activities in CPA Network at Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary. The CPA Network has restructured the committees endorsed by PDoE for new committees and created the hotline channel protocol, cooperating with stakeholders to threaten to intervene in criminality in CPA sites.

- NLC supported CPA network committee reflection and restructured the CPA network meeting with CPA members from O'Rey CPA, O'Koki CPA, Veal Kambor CPA, Boeung Lomkord CPA and Boeng pluos Yakom Yakkara.
- The number of CPA network quarterly meetings has conducted three quarterly meetings.

6. Private sector engagement

6.1. Phnom Tontang Community Forestry and Krong Buk Ratanakiri Rubber Development Joint Stock Company

The Phnom Tontang is a forest land area located inside the economic land concession called Krong Buk Ratanakiri Rubber Development Joint Stock Company (KRRC). The forest area is about 1056 hectares, where the people from Chann and Kanat villages always access the forest to collect forest products and non-timber forest products for their daily use. To protect and conserve the Phnom Tontang forest, NLC is supporting the communities of Chhan, Chhuy, and Kanat villages for forest patrol and awareness-raising to the locals and supporting the establishment of community forestry. Below is the result of the activities:

- Twelve consultation meetings on the Phnom Tontang community forestry establishment process were organized at the village and district levels. 314 people, including 77 women, joined the meeting. The participants were the district governor/duty governor, commune chief/council, forestry administration officer, officers of the land department, communal police officers, village chiefs, community volunteers, village elders, and villagers. They agreed in principle to establish Phnom Tontang community forestry.
- Four training topics (Climate change, value chain, proposal writing, and SMRRT Mobile) were provided to the Phnom Tontang communities. Eighty-two people, including 16 women, attended the training.
- Six awareness seasons were organized at Chhan and Kanat villages. The topic was community forestry establishment and natural resource conservation. There were 329 people, including 95 women, who joined the event.
- In 2023, the Chhan and Kanat villagers conducted 36 patrol events, which equaled 108 days. There, 57 illegal cases were encountered: 27 cases of land encroachments, 18 cases of logging, 4 cases of snare and trap (10 snares were removed), and 02 illegal camps were removed.
- In 2023, the patrol team of PTCF recorded 45 bird and mammal species, including the globally threatened species such as Black-Shanked Douc Langur, Green Peafowl, Brown Fish-owl, Great Slaty Woodpecker, Great Hornbill, Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon, Long-tailed Macaque, Gaur (footprints), Sanda Colugo, Red-breasted Parakeet, Blossom-headed Parakeet.
- NLC has supported Chhan and Kanat villagers to cooperate with the Department of Forestry admiration to establish Phnom Tontang community forestry in 2023 in processing.

Table: The summarized result of PTCF patrol event

| CF | Patrol member | Female | Local authorities | #. Patrol event | #. Patrol day | #. Patrol night | Illegals |
|------|---------------|--------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|
| PTCF | 16 | 2 | 2 | 36 | 108 | 72 | 57 |

Table: Action and Illegal cases crank-downed by CPA patrol teams

| Evident crackdown PTCF | Illegal cases | Others |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Logging | 18 | 72 trees were cut down |
| Removed snaring | 4 | 10 snares were removed by PTCF |
| Land encroachment | 27 | About 200 H were cut down |
| Removed illegal camp | 2 | 2 camps were removed |

6.2. Hoang Anh Lumphat ELC of Thagrigo group

The Hoang Nah Lumphat built the fence at the proposed area for the Sarus Crane and Giant ibis on the east side from the edge of the forest to the O' Roha stream along the boundary, where the big and small posts were. The company also constructed the road parallel to the fence.

NLC supported the community in building the watch tower and installing the gate and signboard.

NLC continued to support the O'Rey CPA committee in conducting habitat monitoring inside the proposed area to observe human activity and record the number of species. The CPA committee conducted 61 patrol events and recorded 43 species (two mammal species and 41 birds), including the critically endangered species (Giant Ibis), vulnerable species (Saru crane, lesser adjutant and long-tailed Macaque and numbers of endangered, near threatened and least concern species.

LOMPHAT WILDLIFE SANTUARY REDD+ PROJECT

REDD⁺ and the voluntary carbon market are international efforts to innovatively address the increasingly worrisome problem of global climate change. Lomphat REDD+ initiative was considered as an effective strategy to overcome deforestation and forest degradation within the area as well as adjoining meaningfully to access long-term sustainable finance for forest protection. In 2018, BirdLife International has developed its Lomphat strategy that intends to mobilize additional funding sources throughout the REDD + project initiative which has been well-defined as the most appropriate mechanism for dealing with the financial insufficient, refining natural resources for stabilizing and providing improvements for the community livelihoods. This REDD+ initiative project has also vast contributed to the 3rd strategic direction of Cambodia's Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP).

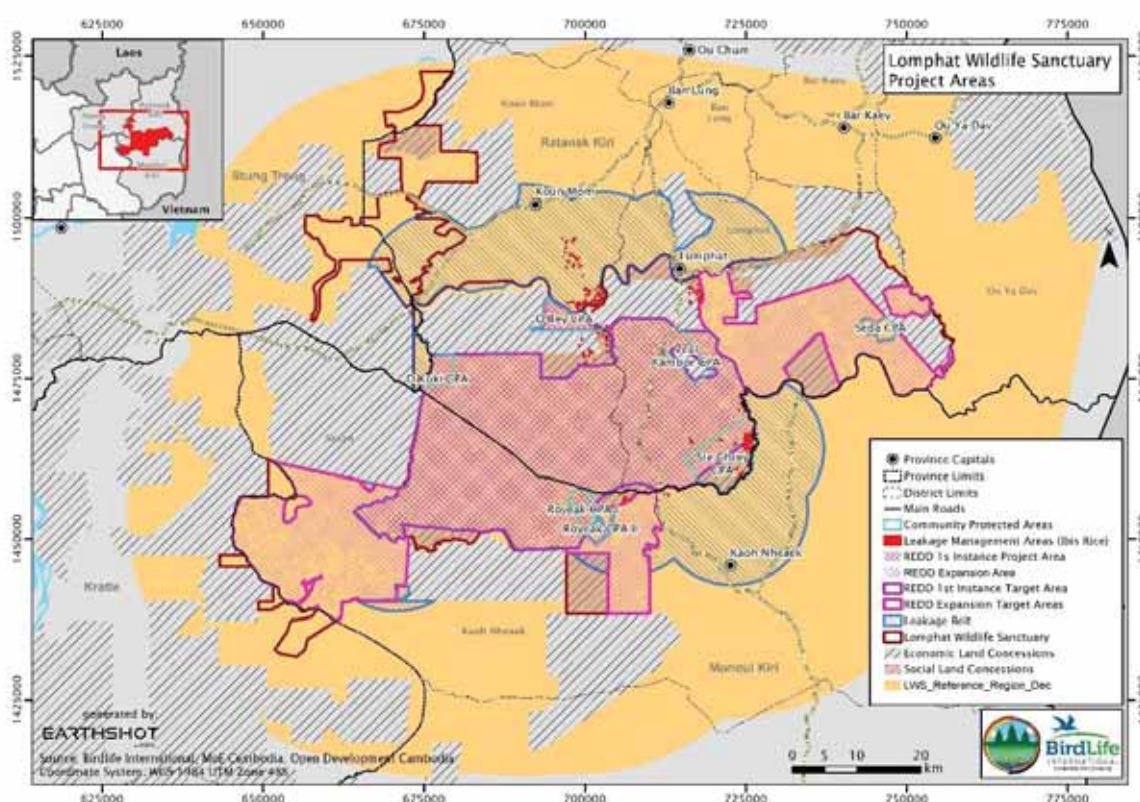
The Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary REDD+ Project is located in the Eastern Plain Landscape (EPL) region in Cambodia inside the Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary (LWS). LWS was established in 1993 by the Kingdom of Cambodia under the *Royal decree on Establishment of Natural Protected Areas*. The Sanctuary contains 356,135 hectares of land of which as of 2022 71% is classified as “forest”, most of which is dry deciduous forest (DDF) and – to a lesser extent - semi-evergreen and evergreen forest (VCS-PDD, 2023).

¹ “Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks” (REDD+)

The first instance includes the forest land in the core, conservation areas on the west side of the river and Community Protected Areas (CPAs) under the sustainable use zone, covering an area of 129,306 ha (Figure 2). This first instance was selected by considering variables such as access, financing, and infrastructure. Once carbon finance is secured and activities implemented, the project plans to expand to other areas. The LWS REDD+ project area, first instance, reference region and leakage belt can be found in Figure below (VCS-PDD, 2023).

The project has the potential to avoid an estimated of 6,003,723 tCO₂e over the crediting period (2019-2048) with an average annual GHG emission reduction potential of 200,124 tCO₂e per year.

Figure. Location of the LWS REDD+ Project Area in Cambodia including area assigned to the first instance (purple), the reference region (yellow) and leakage belt (blue)



Key Achievements within 2023

Below are the highlighted progresses of the LWS REDD+ Project Development (as key achievements) in which the project development has been financially supported by BirdLife International and USAID through USAID Morodok Baitang (USAID-MB) Project and technically supported by EARTHSHOT LABS.

1. Developed IEC Materials for Awareness raising and promoting of the project:

The project developed various Information Education Communication (IEC) materials including two (2) infographics of the climate change (concept, causes and impact); one (1) infographic of the roles of the forest; three (3) infographics of REDD+ (what and why it is important), three (3) infographics of LWS REDD+ Project (summary of the project, project's strategic interventions-project's benefits, protected area law enforcement) and three (3) infographics of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) (define the FPIC and demonstrate 6 steps of its implementation). These IEC materials were designed to inform the LWS REDD+ Project stakeholders, especially residents of target villages and communes.

2. Key Project's Stakeholder Understanding of the LWS REDD+ Project Development

2.1. Successfully Organized Exchange Visit to Keo Seima REDD+ Project

In order to prepare and inform communities and key stakeholders for participating in, and cooperating with, the REDD+ project, it is vital that representatives of the key stakeholder groups have a comprehensive and solid understanding and knowledge of the scope, benefits, and limitations of REDD+ projects, at the earliest possible stage. To this end NLC organised a learning exchange visit for key stakeholders of the LWS REDD+ Project to travel to Mondulkiri Province to witness and learn about an existing REDD+; the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KSWS) REDD+ project, implemented by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Cambodia Programme over three days from the 12th to the 14th of January 2023. The KSWS REDD+ Project was chosen as it provides a good example of a successfully established REDD+ project, in an area familiar to the trip attendees, and which also faces similar environmental and institutional challenges as LWS. The trip was hosted by the KSWS REDD+ Project implementing organisation, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Cambodia Programme.

The exposure visit was attended by 44 representatives of the project key's stakeholders. Following this, NLC engaged with seven commune authority representatives (1 female) from 7 communes and 28 village authority representatives (4 females) from all 16 target villages to collaborate in the FPIC awareness



Exposure Visit to Keo Seima REDD+ Project

2.2. Conducted Partner Workshop in Phnom Penh

The main objective of the partner workshop was to bring key partners together to share what they know and understand about Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary; the surrounding social, cultural and economic landscape and the specifics of the carbon and financial components of the REDD+ Project.

A total of 15 persons 4 females participated in the workshop across the three days from the 16th-18th of January 2023 at Culture Café in Phnom Penh. Participants were a combination of NLC Phnom Penh and field staff, USAID-MB staff, representatives from provincial department of environment and the Ministry of the Environment (MoE). They also included three independent consultants that have been contracted to support NLC with developing the project design document (PDD) and registering the project with Verra.

The workshop fulfilled the objectives of building a common understanding among the project partners of the LWS REDD+ Project. This understanding emerged from a series of activities that were designed to consolidate the partial information that each partner brought with them to the workshop, evaluate it together and then begin a process of joint discovery and exploration of viable solutions for reducing degradation and deforestation in the project area. In that process, a sense of common purpose was cultivated among partners, trust was built and mutual respect for the wealth of knowledge that each brought to the table. As such, it is probably safe to say that project team exists that has a shared experience, similar knowledge and language to discuss the project with each other. These are valuable dynamics to have invested in just before the launch of a series of activities aimed at moving the project design forward.

2.3. Organized Social and Biodiversity Impact Assessment (SBIA) Training to key staff and partner

Participatory SBIA is an impact assessment approach that involves local communities in the process of assessing the impacts of REDD+ projects on biodiversity and social aspects. This can lead to greater local ownership of the project, as community members are actively involved in the decision-making process and can provide valuable input based on their knowledge and experience. The most relevant stakeholders for participatory SBIA are those who are most likely to be affected by the project.

The training was delivered as an in-person event lasting nine days (20th to 30th of January 2023) of which five days consisted of covering the theoretical components of the methodology, three days covered a practical demo-workshop, one day consisted of logistical preparation for the demo and a final day was dedicated to training participants on how to consolidate and organize the material generated in the workshop for preparing the SBIA workshop report. One day of rest was included in between. The theoretical components of the training took place as in-classroom sessions in Banlung, Ratanakiri, Cambodia at the “RNN Café”. The demo-workshop was conducted between the 26th and 28th of January 2023 with commune and village leaders of the Chey Otdam Commune at the Lomphat District Hall.

Twenty-three (23) participants were trained; they consisted of 12 field and office staff from the NLC, four (4) USAID-MB staff, 3 CPA committees’ members, and 4 PDoE’s representatives. The training has generated at least 10 proficient to highly proficient staff and partners that will be able to effectively undertake Steps 1 to 4 of the SBIA process in communities. Approximately 10 to 12 more staff that are less proficient in the methodology will be able support lead facilitators in preparations for the SBIA workshops and workgroup activities. With practice in the field, several of the staff will build confidence in their capacities and become more proficient.

It is important to note that the training has generated common language across NLC staff and partners to be able to communicate about the projects’ impacts to each other, to communities and to others. This will facilitate many aspects of project and SBIA communication, including to project auditors.

2.4. Conducted Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Training to key staff and partners

The objective of the training was to build capacity of the LWS REDD+ Project staff to plan and undertake FPIC diligently and effectively. More specifically, the training was designed to ensure that trainees complete the course with 1) a strong understanding of what FPIC is and why it is required for REDD+ Projects 2) a set of skills for planning undertaking the FPIC process and 3) a preliminary plan for immediate execution of FPIC for the LWS REDD+ Project.

The training was conducted as a two-day in-person training workshop that took place in Banlung, Cambodia, the capital city of Ratanakiri Province between the 31st of January and 1st of February 2023 and was opened to all LWS-REDD+ Project field and office staff, district partners (e.g., the district environmental officer), local partners (such as the rangers) and national partners such as USAID-MB staff. A total of 22 people attended the training of which only four (4) were women. With the exception of four USAID-MB staff, most trainees were NLC office and field staff.

The trainees were fully engaged in all steps of the training and – through their behaviour, questions and response to the in-class exercises - gave strong indications of having understood the material, having undergone a significant shift in their individual and collective thinking of how to work with communities. It is safe to say that the LWS REDD+ Project now has a strong basis for implementing FPIC successfully in the project area.

2.5. Conducted SBIA workshops at commune level

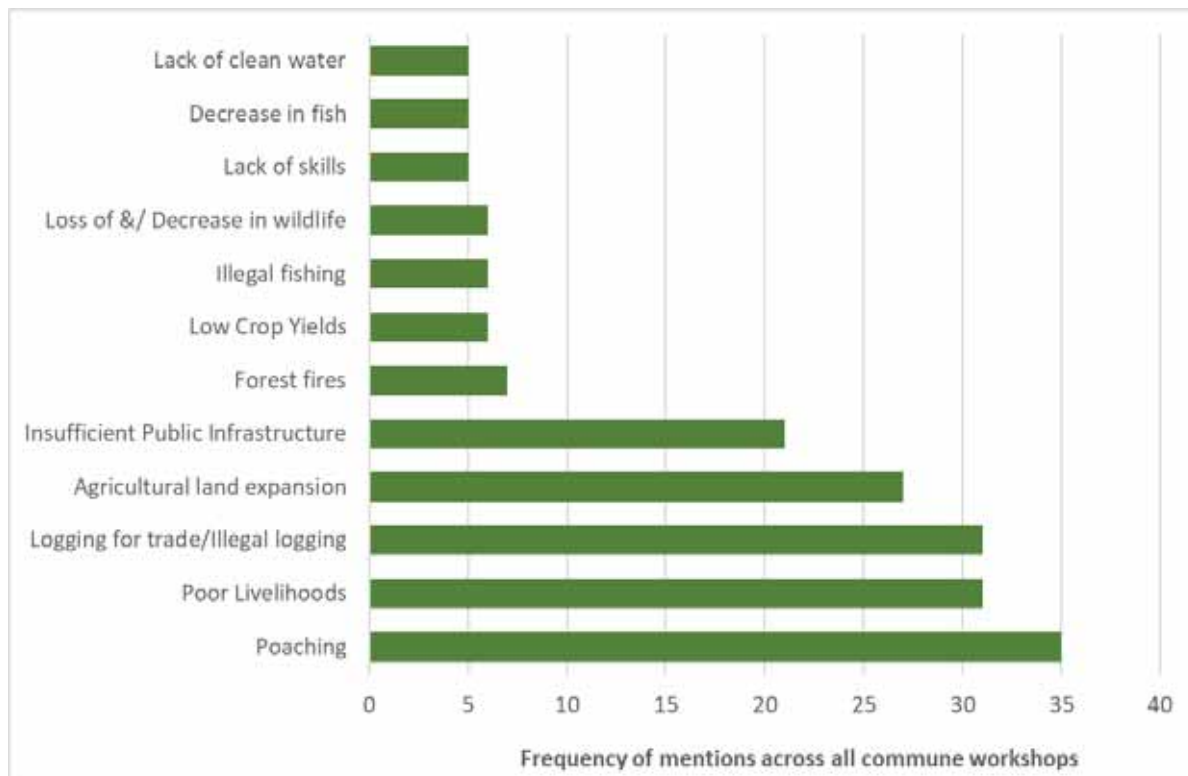
The SBIA workshops were conducted between the 26th of January and the 15th of February, 2023. The weeks prior, field and office staff received training on the full SBIA process from Dr. Tuyeni H Mwampamba. As part of this training, all trainees participated in a demo-workshop with communities from the Chey Otdam Commune. After the training, teams of 4 to 5 members from NatureLife Cambodia USAID Morodok Baitang Project's staff, and rangers, implemented the workshop focusing on Stages 1 to 4 of the participatory SBIA process. Workshops lasted three days per commune and included an average of 26 participants per workshop. Approximately one third (32.6%) of the participants were women and two fifths (38.5%) were members of Indigenous Peoples groups (See Table below). There were 205 commune's and village's representatives (67 women) attended the SBIA workshops.

Table: Roll out of the SBIA workshops and demographic distribution of participants

| No | Date | Commune | Total Participants | Female | Indigenous People |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 1 | 26-28/Jan/2023 | Chey Otdam | 27 | 3 | 0 |
| 2 | 03-05/Feb/2023 | Serei Mongkol | 30 | 12 | 0 |
| 3 | 03-05/Feb/2023 | Sre Chis | 25 | 0 | 25 |
| 4 | 07-09/Feb/2023 | Sre Angkrong | 33 | 14 | 0 |
| 5 | 07-09/Feb/2023 | Trapeang Chres | 21 | 12 | 0 |
| 6 | 10-12/Feb/2023 | Kaleng | 22 | 9 | 22 |
| 7 | 10-12/Feb/2023 | Roya | 28 | 12 | 27 |
| 8 | 13-15/Feb/2023 | Nang Khi Loek | 19 | 5 | 5 |
| Total | | | 205 | 67 | 79 |

Each facilitation team consolidated the products and outcomes of each stage into a Commune-level SBIA report. These reports were used to develop this project-level assessment of social and biodiversity impacts and to identify the common themes and threads running across all communes.

Summaries of the outcomes of each of the commune-level SBIA workshops were presented to village assemblies as part of the FPIC process that was undertaken soon after the SBIA (in February – March 2023).



Issues affecting carbon emissions, communities, and biodiversity in the Project Area (only issues mentioned more than five times appear)

3. Biomass Assessment for Carbon Calculation

3.1. Forest Inventory

In February from 4th to 11th, The MoE team conducted data collection at 33 clusters equal 99 plots. All of these clusters are covered by forest, most of them are deciduous forest, some Semi-evergreen forest mixed with bamboo and around 10 plots are evergreen forest. There were 17 people (3 MoE, 3 RUA students, 4 rangers, 2 NLC staff and 5 local people), who conducted this forest inventory according to FREL.



LWS Forest Inventory, conducted with support from MoE

3.2. Vegetation Survey

In May from 17th to 31st 2023, NLC technically supported by BirdLife International and financially supported by USAID Morodak Baitang conducted the vegetation survey in REDD+ area throughout Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary. Sixty-nine clusters were randomly selected by using ArcGIS for the survey. Each cluster had eight survey plots, so there were 552 plots for the whole survey. The plot was set up as a

rectangle (square) by 10 meters from the North to the South using the transect tape 5m to 0m to the North and 5m to 10 to the South; it was called the transect line. The team measured and recorded the tree within 5m from the transect line to the East and to the West. The tree was measured its diameter at 1.3.DBH.

As a result, 59 clusters (404 survey plots) completed the survey amongst 69 clusters. This activity was attended by the technical team of BirdLife International, NLC, WCS, Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary rangers (Ratanakiri and Mondulakiri provinces), CPA committee members and local villagers with a total of 18 participants (4 NLC/BL staff, 1 WCS staff, 7 rangers (MDK and RTK) and 6 local people).

4. Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Consultation at Village Level

4.1. Consulted with Villages' and Communes' Authorities for Preparing of Village Consultation

To fulfill the principle of “informed consent” in FPIC, the project is required to provide objective information about the project in a transparent way and in a form and language that can be used by the community members and their leaders. The project consulted with the village and commune authorities on the preparation of the consultation at the village level about the project and how the villagers would like to express their consent to the project.

The result of the consultation with village and commune authorities suggested to the village consultation meeting shall be in Khmer, shall be started before rainy season, shall be in the village, shall be informed to the villagers as much as possible, shall be notified to district and provincial governors in advance and shall not be over 3 hours. In addition, they suggested two ways to obtain the villagers' consents. The two ways selected by the communities were:

- a) Hand Raising: Six (6) villages suggested to provide consent by hand raising. Maximum of total households in a village are invited to sit together at a place where NLC team, commune representatives and village chief provide the information about the project and benefits. Then they can clarify the information if any. If they don't have any more questions and concerns, they can raise their hand as signal of consent. Our team will take a photo and document.
- b) Thumb print: 10 villages suggested to provide consent through thumb print. The table for thumb print must be entitled “List of Villagers Participating in Forest Protection in LWS REDD+ Project”. The title must be written in all pages. NLC team needs to work with village chief, village vice chief and village assistance to obtain thumb print from the villagers. The processes of the hand-raising and thumb print are the same. The villagers are invited to a place where NLC team and commune representatives and village chief provide the information about the project and benefits. Then they can clarify the information if any. If they don't have any more questions and concerns, they can put their thumb print.

Table: Result of FPIC Consultation for Consent

| No | Village | %/# of Rep providing consent | Consulted Date | Facilitator |
|--|--------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Consent by Hand Raising at a gathering and Taking Photo | | | | |
| 1 | Srepok Thom | 70% of the villagers | 26 Feb 2023 | Mr. Say Jeudi |
| 2 | Srepok Touch | 150 reps of the villager | 27 Feb 2023 | Mr. Say Jeudi |
| 3 | Dei Lou | 70% of the villagers | 24 Feb 2023 | Mr. Mann Mouy |
| 4 | Neang Dei | 60% of the villagers | 25 Feb 2023 | Mr. Say Jeudi |
| | | | | |
| 5 | Pram | 30-40 reps of the villagers | 23 Feb 2023 | Mr. Mann Mouy |
| 6 | Sre Chhuk | 50% of the villagers | 22 Feb 2023 | Mr. Mann Mouy |
| Consent by Thumb Print | | | | |
| 7 | Koun Va | 60% of the villagers | 27 Feb 2023 | Mr. Tem Hon |

| | | | | |
|----|-----------|----------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 8 | Lomphat | 80% of the villagers | 25 Feb 2023 | Mr. Tem Hon |
| 9 | Roveak | 65% of the villagers | 25 Feb 2023 | Mr. Tem Hon |
| 10 | Roya | 70% of the villagers | 24 Feb 2023 | Mr. Tem Hon |
| 11 | Sayos | 70% of the villagers | 26 Feb 2023 | Mr. Mann Mouy |
| 12 | Sre Chrey | 70% of the villagers | 23 Feb 2023 | Mr. Tem Hon |
| 13 | Thmei | 60% of the villagers | 22 Feb 2023 | Mr. Tem Hon |
| 14 | Muoy | 60% of the villagers | 24 Feb 2023 | Mr. Say Jeudi |
| 15 | Pir | 70% of the villagers | 22 Feb 2023 | Mr. Say Jeudi |
| 16 | Bei | 70% of the villagers | 23 Feb 2023 | Mr. Say Jeudi |

4.2. Village Assembly Meeting (or the village informative meeting)

From the 22nd to 27th February 2023, teams of facilitators from NLC, UMB, and Provincial Department of Environment Rangers successfully conducted 16 village assembly (informative) meetings. The meeting was designed to provide information to the villagers who are living in the 16 project partner villages about climate change caused by deforestation and degradation, the REDD+ mechanism, the LWS REDD + project, feedback and grievance redress procedure (FGRP). The village assembly meetings were attended by a total of 1211 community members, including 731 females, and 351 of which identified as Indigenous People.

The participants understood the concept of climate change because they have observed the change of climate pattern in the place where they are living. The change of climate pattern has seriously impacted on their crop yields such as casavas and cashews especially. In addition, the livestock has undergone the negative impact of the change. The villagers also understood the REDD+ and LWS REDD+ Project. The key role of forest is to absorb and stock the carbon dioxide (CO₂). This role helps reducing emission of CO₂ to atmosphere while the REDD+ is an international mechanism to protect the forest. People understood that they can benefit by protect the standing forest. They were excited for the REDD+ Project. They also agreed on the 8 summary results of social and biodiversity impact assessment (SBIA) at commune level.

Table: Participants of the Village Assembly Meeting

| # | Date held | Village | Commune | Total Participants | Female | Indigenous People |
|----|-----------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|--------|-------------------|
| 1 | 22-Feb-23 | Thmei | Chey Otdam | 61 | 31 | 0 |
| 2 | 22-Feb-23 | Sre Chhuk | Chey Otdam | 96 | 65 | 2 |
| 3 | 22-Feb-23 | Pir | Sre Angkrong | 68 | 33 | 0 |
| 4 | 23-Feb-23 | Sre Chrey | Nang Khi Loek | 82 | 51 | 61 |
| 5 | 23-Feb-23 | Pram | Trapeang Chres | 151 | 83 | 0 |
| 6 | 23-Feb-23 | Bei | Sre Angkrong | 41 | 26 | 0 |
| 7 | 24-Feb-23 | Roya | Roya | 68 | 37 | 51 |
| 8 | 24-Feb-23 | Dei Lou | Chey Otdam | 75 | 48 | 0 |
| 9 | 24-Feb-23 | Muoy | Sre Angkrong | 61 | 44 | 0 |
| 10 | 25-Feb-23 | Roveak | Roya | 47 | 31 | 45 |
| 11 | 25-Feb-23 | Lumphat | Chey Otdam | 54 | 43 | 2 |
| 12 | 25-Feb-23 | Neang Dei | Serei Mongkul | 46 | 27 | 0 |
| 13 | 26-Feb-23 | Srepok Thom | Serei Mongkul | 132 | 82 | 0 |
| 14 | 26-Feb-23 | Sayos | Kaleng | 95 | 47 | 94 |
| 15 | 27-Feb-23 | Srepok Touch | Serei Mongkul | 38 | 27 | 0 |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|---------|----------|-------------|------------|------------|
| 16 | 27-Feb-23 | Koun Va | Sre Chis | 96 | 56 | 96 |
| Total | | | | 1211 | 731 | 351 |

4.3. Focus Group Discussion (FGD)²

FGD was facilitated by either the NatureLife Cambodia team or USAID Morodok Baitang. In the village assembly meeting of the 16 project partner villages, 430 village's representatives, 263 women and 146 Indigenous Peoples were selected and formed as 48 FGDs for village resource mapping. The resource maps inform the village resources, infrastructures, and non-negotiated points. The village resources cover private agricultural land use including paddy rice fields and farms (Chamkar in Khmer). Protected areas, burial land, and spiritual forestland are collective resources that are owned by the village. All the villagers in a village can equally access non-timber forest products and enjoy use rights. River, streams/channels, and natural ponds are also identified in a village where the villagers can access water, fisheries, and so on. The location and accessibility of public infrastructures in a village have been identified as well. The infrastructures include roads/trails, health posts/centres, made-ponds, pumps, water supply, electricity, primary school, secondary school, high school, mobile phone network, commune office, and commune police.

4.4. Household Visits

Household Visit for awareness and villagers' consent were conducted with extra support from USAID Morodok Baitang. NLC decided to conduct the household visits because the number of participants in the village assembly meetings was considered as quite small and would not be safe for the project validation. NLC and USAID-Morodok Baitang team joined by village and commune authorities consisted of 2 groups with 6 members for each group. Each group was divided into 3 sub-groups consisting of 2 members of each sub-group (one NLC or UMB team and a village or commune authority). These sessions were conducted from 21st to 31st March and from 19th April to 3rd May 2023. The household visit for 16 project partner villages reached additional 1324 villagers (781 females). The village meeting and the household visit reached 2535 villagers (1512 females). 9 villages provided consent by thumb print of 1342 household representatives (728 females). 644 household representatives (398 females) of the other 7 villages provided consent by hand raising.

4.5. Consent Meeting

Table 4 explains that 2062 household's representatives, 1193 females provided consent to the LWS REDD+ Project. Among those, 1382 household's representatives provided consent. Other 680 household's representatives provided consent by hand raising. The 2062 household's representatives are equal to 52.83% of 3903 households in the 16 villages.

² FGD was conducted to participatory identify the village resources. In a project partner village, the village assembly meeting and FGD were conducted on the same date. The assembly was in the morning shift while the FGD was in the afternoon shift.

Table: Result of FPIC Consent

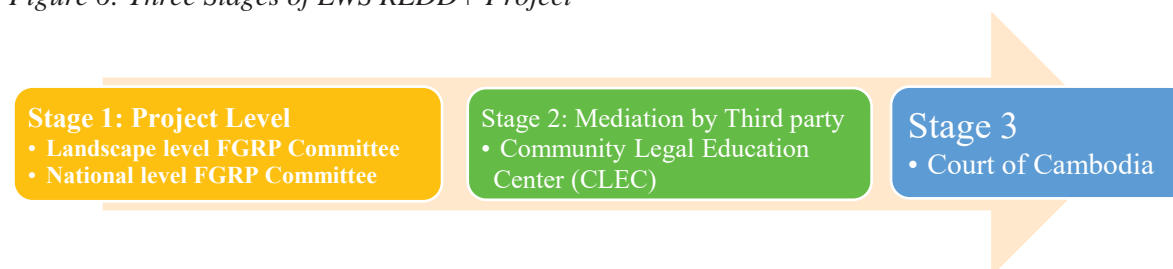
| No | Village Name | Commune | Total HHs (2023) | Date of Consent | Consent by Thumb Print | | Consent by Hand Raising | | % |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|--------------|
| | | | | | Total | Female | Total | Female | |
| 1 | Sre Chrey | Nang Khi Loek | 205 | 21/04/2023 | 145 | 81 | | | 70.73 |
| 2 | Roya | Roya | 244 | 24-25/03&20/04/2023 | 172 | 118 | | | 70.49 |
| 3 | Roveak | Roya | 174 | 28/03&25/04/2023 | 109 | 66 | | | 62.64 |
| 4 | Koun Va | Sre Chis | 120 | 26-27/03/2023 | 77 | 14 | | | 64.17 |
| 5 | Sre Chhuk | Chey Otdam | 214 | 29/03&27/04&01/05/2023 | | | 145 | 68 | 67.76 |
| 6 | Dei Lou | Chey Otdam | 288 | 30/03&26/04/2023 | | | 89 | 55 | 30.90 |
| 7 | Lomphat | Chey Otdam | 275 | 31/03&28/04&01/05/2023 | | | 89 | 57 | 32.36 |
| 8 | Sayos | Kaleng | 430 | 21-22/03&24/04/2023 | 229 | 130 | | | 53.26 |
| 9 | Thmei | Chey Otdam | 312 | 19/04/2023 | 190 | 101 | | | 60.90 |
| 10 | Pram | Trapeang Chres | 271 | 23/03&20/04/2023 | | | 49 | 23 | 18.08 |
| 11 | Bei | Sre Angkrong | 248 | 24-25/03&21/04/2023 | 175 | 96 | | | 70.56 |
| 12 | Muoy | Sre Angkrong | 215 | 26/03&28-29/04/2023 | 130 | 73 | | | 60.47 |
| 13 | Pir | Sre Angkrong | 222 | 27/03&26/04&02/05/2023 | 155 | 100 | | | 69.82 |
| 14 | Neang Dei | Serei Mongkol | 78 | 24-25/04/2023 | | | 55 | 33 | 70.51 |
| 15 | Srepok Thom | Serei Mongkol | 385 | 28-29/03&27/04/2023 | | | 176 | 122 | 45.71 |
| 16 | Srepok Touch | Serei Mongkol | 222 | 29-30/03&25/04&03/05/2023 | | | 77 | 56 | 34.68 |
| Total | | | 3903 | | 1382 | 779 | 680 | 414 | 52.83 |

5. LWS REDD+ Project's Feedback and Grievance Redress Procedure (FGRP) set up and FGRP boxes installment

5.1. Introduction to LWS REDD+ Project's FGRP

LWS REDD+ Project's FGRP is a guideline for LWS REDD+ Project. The FGRP provides a critical safeguard for all risks identified in the project and ensures well-established channels for identifying and resolving conflicts arising from day-to-day project implementation and project's negative impacts. There are three main stages for the handling of grievances and concerns related to the Lomphat REDD+ project.

Figure 6: Three Stages of LWS REDD+ Project



Based on the FGRP guideline, villagers of the project partner villages and stakeholders can raise their concerns, feedbacks or complaints in any LWS REDD+ Project's platforms such as meetings, quarterly or annual workshops, or trainings. They also can voice up their feedbacks or complaints by below means:

- NLC Hotline number and Telegram: 071 328 7123
- Facebook Page of NLC: <https://web.facebook.com/NatureLifeCambodia>
- E-mail: lomphatredd@naturelifecambodia.org
- Feedback directly to the third party and the third party could forward the case to the NLC and NLC will process to review and proceed with the solution accordingly.

The guideline in addition, introduces an anonymous mean known as grievance box for the Project. The FGRP box is designed for the villagers who, but not limited to, are afraid to stand up and raise their concerns or complaints in a physical platform so they can submit their feedbacks or complaints through the FGRP boxes.

5.2. LWS REDD+ Project's FGRP Set up and FGRP Boxes Installment

From 24th May to 02nd June 2023, the LWS REDD+ Project's FGRP was disseminated to 465 project partner's representatives 272 females in the 16 project partner villages. 42 FGRP boxes (also called grievance box) were installed in the 16 project partner villages (See Table). The location of the 42 grievance boxes was digitized into software platform and created as map of grievance boxes (See in Figure).

Table: List of participants attending the FGRP set up and Number of FGRP boxes

| No | Village | Date | Total Participants | Female | FGRP Boxes |
|----|----------------|------------------|--------------------|--------|------------|
| 1 | Thmei | 29-May (Morning) | 27 | 18 | 3 |
| 2 | Sre Chrey | 24-May (Evening) | 34 | 16 | 3 |
| 3 | Roya | 26-May (Evening) | 44 | 27 | 3 |
| 4 | Roveak | 26-May (Morning) | 27 | 15 | 2 |
| 5 | Koun Va | 30-May (Morning) | 37 | 11 | 3 |
| 6 | Sre Chhuk | 31-May (Morning) | 19 | 7 | 2 |
| 7 | Dei Lou | 31-May (Evening) | 24 | 15 | 3 |
| 8 | Lomphat | 25-May (Morning) | 26 | 20 | 3 |
| 9 | Sayos | 25-May (Evening) | 37 | 20 | 3 |
| 10 | Sangkum (Pram) | 25-May (Evening) | 36 | 21 | 3 |
| 11 | Phum Bei | 25-May (Morning) | 44 | 28 | 3 |

| | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| 12 | Phum Muoy | 24-May (Evening) | 20 | 13 | 3 |
| 13 | Phum Pir | 24-May (Morning) | 19 | 7 | 2 |
| 14 | Neang Dei | 26-May (Morning) | 15 | 13 | 1 |
| 15 | Srepok Thom | 30-May (Morning) | 33 | 23 | 3 |
| 16 | Srepok Touch | 02-June (Evening) | 23 | 18 | 2 |
| Total | | | 465 | 272 | 42 |

5.3. Result of Opening of FGRP Boxes

a) First Round Opening of the FGRP Boxes

The first round opening of the FGRP boxes was conducted from 12-19 July 2023. The letters were opened in 25 July 2023. There were 23 letters of feedback from seven villages including Koun Va, Roya, Sre Chrey, Thmei, Sre Chhuk, Neang Dei and Srepok Thom. 11 letters were classified into “admissible or intake grievance”³ and 18 letters were classified into “inadmissible grievance”.

Table: Result of the 1st Round Opening of FGRP Boxes

| No | Village Name | Staff | Boxes Opened | Participants | | # of letters | Date |
|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|----------------|
| | | | | Total | Female | | |
| 1 | Roveak | Hon,Kompheak, Khunny | 2 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 14-Jul-2023 |
| 2 | Koun Va | Hon,Kompheak, Khunny | 3 | 6 | 1 | 11 | 12-13/Jul/2023 |
| 3 | Sayos | Thavy | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 13-Jul-2023 |
| 4 | Roya | Hon,Kompheak, Khunny | 3 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 14-Jul-2023 |
| 5 | Sre Chrey | Hon,Kompheak, Khunny | 3 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 14-Jul-2023 |
| 6 | Lomphat | Thavy | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 13-Jul-2023 |
| 7 | Thmei | Thavy | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 14-Jul-2023 |
| 8 | Dei Lou | Thavy | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 13-Jul-2023 |
| 9 | Sre Chhuk | Thavy | 2 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 13-Jul-2023 |
| 10 | Neang Dei | Bunmart | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 13-Jul-2023 |
| 11 | Srepok Thom | Bunmart | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 13-Jul-2023 |
| 12 | Srepok Touch | Bunmart | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 13-Jul-2023 |
| 13 | Bei | Khunny | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 18-Jul-2023 |
| 14 | Mouy | Khunny | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 18-19/Jul/2023 |
| 15 | Pir | Khunny | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 18-Jul-2023 |
| 16 | Pram | Bunmart | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 14-Jul-2023 |
| Total | | | 42 | 57 | 10 | 23 | |

³ Admissible grievance is the grievance that is relevant to the LWS REDD+ project. Inadmissible Grievance is the grievance is not relevant to the project.

Response to Feedback from the First Round Opening and Open Second Round

The response was conducted from 12th to 15th, September 2023 in 15 villages. Koun Va Village has been delayed due to raining that makes water level increase so that team cannot travel to the village. However, the team keeps communication with the authorities to follow up the water level. Team disseminated the project's response to village and commune authorities.

Table 7 shows that 104 village's representatives 26 females in 7 villages attended the dissemination of LWS REDD+ Project's response to the 23 feedbacks. The summary report was developed to inform them about the LWS-REDD+ Project's FGRP, result of first round opening of the FGRP boxes and how the project responds to the feedbacks.

Within this stage, because the REDD+ revenue has not been received yet, the requests addressing to the project, they will be prioritized. The feedbacks from 7 villages in 5 communes were forwarded to the commune authorities. The project has not received any reaction from the village's representatives to the response.

Table: Summary Result of Dissemination of the letters of feedback of 1st Round Opening of FGRP Boxes

| No | Village Name | Staff | Boxes Opened | Participants | | # of letters | Date |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|--|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| | | | | Total | Female | | |
| 1 | Roveak | Thavy | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 13/Sep/2023 |
| 2 | Koun Va | Hon+02 Rangers | 3 | Team can't travel to the village yet due to raining. | | | |
| 3 | Sayos | Kompheak | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 12/Sep/2023 |
| 4 | Roya | Hon,Kompheak,Jeudi | 3 | 15 | 4 | 4 | 13/Sep/2023 |
| 5 | Sre Chrey | Hon,Kompheak,Jeudi | 3 | 16 | 4 | 3 | 13/Sep/2023 |
| 6 | Lomphat | Kompheak,Jeudi | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 12/Sep/2023 |
| 7 | Thmei | Kompheak,Jeudi | 3 | 28 | 12 | 2 | 12/Sep/2023 |
| 8 | Dei Lou | Thavy | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 14/Sep/2023 |
| 9 | Sre Chhuk | Kompheak,Jeudi | 2 | 15 | 2 | 1 | 13/Sep/2023 |
| 10 | Neang Dei | Bunmart | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 13/Sep/2023 |
| 11 | Srepok Thom | Bunmart | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 13/Sep/2023 |
| 12 | Srepok Touch | Bunmart | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 13/Sep/2023 |
| 13 | Bei | Khunny | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 13/Sep/2023 |
| 14 | Muoy | Khunny | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 13/Sep/2023 |
| 15 | Pir | Khunny | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 13/Sep/2023 |
| 16 | Pram | Bunmart | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 15/Sep/2023 |
| Total | | 6 | 42 | 104 | 26 | 12 | |

b) Second Round Opening of FGRP Boxes

The second round opening of the FGRP boxes was conducted from 12 to 15 September 2023. The letters were opened in 28 September 2023. There were 22 letters of feedback from 8 villages including Roveak, Roya, Sre Chrey, Thmei, Neang Dei, Pram, Mouy and Pir Villages. Six letters were classified into "Admissible Grievance" and 16 letters were classified into "Inadmissible Grievance".

Table: Result of the 2nd Round Opening of FGRP Boxes

| No | Village Name | Staff | Boxes Opened | Participants | | # of letters | Date |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|--|----------|--------------|-------------|
| | | | | Total | Female | | |
| 1 | Roveak | Thavy | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 13/Sep/2023 |
| 2 | Koun Va | Hon+02 Rangers | 0 | Team can't travel to the village yet due to raining. | | | |
| 3 | Sayos | Kompheak | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 12/Sep/2023 |
| 4 | Roya | Hon,Kompheak,Jeudi | 3 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 13/Sep/2023 |
| 5 | Sre Chrey | Hon,Kompheak,Jeudi | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 13/Sep/2023 |
| 6 | Lomphat | Kompheak,Jeudi | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 12/Sep/2023 |
| 7 | Thmei | Kompheak,Jeudi | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 12/Sep/2023 |
| 8 | Dei Lou | Thavy | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 14/Sep/2023 |
| 9 | Sre Chhuk | Kompheak,Jeudi | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 13/Sep/2023 |
| 10 | Neang Dei | Bunmart | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 13/Sep/2023 |
| 11 | Srepok Thom | Bunmart | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 13/Sep/2023 |
| 12 | Srepok Touch | Bunmart | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 13/Sep/2023 |
| 13 | Bei | Khunny | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 13/Sep/2023 |
| 14 | Muoy | Khunny | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 13/Sep/2023 |
| 15 | Pir | Khunny | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 13/Sep/2023 |
| 16 | Pram | Bunmart | 3 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 15/Sep/2023 |
| Total | | 6 | 39 | 29 | 2 | 22 | |

c) Third Round Opening of FGRP Boxes

Third round opening of the FGRP boxes was conducted on from 3 to 24 November 2023. The letters were opened in 29 November 2023. There were 80 letters of feedback from 13 villages including Koun Va, Roveak, Roya, Sre Chrey, Sre Chuuk, Thmei, Lomphat, Neang Dei, Srepok Touch, Srepok Thom, Mouy, Pir and Bei Villages. Thirty-eight (38) letters were classified into “Admissible Grievance” and 42 letters were classified into “Inadmissible Grievance”.

Table: Result of the 3rd Round Opening of FGRP Boxes

| No | Village Name | Staff | Boxes Opened | Participants | | # of letters | Date |
|----|--------------|----------|--------------|--------------|--------|--------------|----------------|
| | | | | Total | Female | | |
| 1 | Roveak | Hon | 2 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 20/Nov/2023 |
| 2 | Koun Va | Hon | 3 | 3 | 0 | 32 | 03-04/Nov/2023 |
| 3 | Sayos | Kompheak | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 20/Nov/2023 |
| 4 | Roya | Hon | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 21/Nov/2023 |
| 5 | Sre Chrey | Khunny | 3 | 5 | 0 | 16 | 16/Nov/2023 |
| 6 | Lomphat | Kompheak | 3 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 20/Nov/2023 |
| 7 | Thmei | Kompheak | 3 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 19/Nov/2023 |
| 8 | Dei Lou | Kompheak | 3 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 20/Nov/2023 |
| 9 | Sre Chhuk | Kompheak | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 20/Nov/2023 |
| 10 | Neang Dei | Bunmart | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 23/Nov/2023 |
| 11 | Srepok Thom | Bunmart | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 24/Nov/2023 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| 12 | Srepok Touch | Bunmart | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 24/Nov/2023 |
| 13 | Bei | Khunny | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 17/Nov/2023 |
| 14 | Muoy | Khunny | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 17/Nov/2023 |
| 15 | Pir | Khunny | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 17/Nov/2023 |
| 16 | Pram | Bunmart | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 24/Nov/2023 |
| Total | | | 42 | 49 | 10 | 80 | |

6. Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Project Design Document (PDD)

The LWS REDD+ Project Designed Document (PDD)-VCS standard was submitted to Verra on 13 February 2023. After received the PDD, Verra registered LWS REDD+ Project as “Under Validation” and opened for public comment for 30 days from 6 March to 5 April 2023. In June 2023, SCS Global Services was recruited by USAID as the Validation and Verification Body (VVB) for LWS REDD+ Project to validate the VCS-PDD. SCS Global Services conducted field work to validate the VCS-PDD from 7th-11th, August 2023. After the field work, it issued the findings report in October 2023. NLC and BirdLife with EarthShot Labs in collaboration with MoE addressed all the findings and sent the responses to SCS Global Services in December 2023.



SCS conducted validation in the field and met with Ratanakiri provincial deputy governor

- 7. ADA Sign was signed by MoE (project proponent) and BirdLife International
- 8. Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) was set up and registered in the UK

BOENG PREK LPOUV PROTECTED LANDSCAPE

Boeng Prek Lpouv (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 and probably the only important site in Indochina for Yellow Breasted Bunting during their wintering migration. 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 distributary of the Mekong River.



Sarus Crane feeding in BPL (Photo by Socheat, BPL)

Key Achievements within 2023:

NLC have supported rangers and FMTs in BPL for conducting daily patrol and monitoring and working with surrounding local school and communities to do the awareness and education program.

1. Site Management

- The Law Enforcement and Field Monitoring Team (FMT) was implemented SMART mobile data collection for 2023 patrol and monitoring in the protected landscape of BPL and the result as below:

Table: The table of patrol and monitoring results in 2023

| No | Description | Amount | Comment/Notice |
|----|--|----------|--|
| 1 | Land Clearance | 2 cases | <p>. 1 case was illegal infrastructure building that committed by knew 6 family on the area of Sangkum Meanchey village. By the end of 2023, there are 2 houses remaining belonging to one family and in the process of removing. This illegal house was built on the area of cleared from 2017 until 2022 and build house in 2023.</p> <p>. 1 case was illegal infrastructure building that committed in Dei Lerk Village by people in Dei Lerk village. He built a hut and installed wooden pole for claiming the land. The rangers have removed the hut and confiscated all wooden pole too keep in the ranger station.</p> |
| 2 | Illegal and legal fishing crackdown and recorded | 43 cases | <p>. There were 18 cases of Broes 100 fishing tool with 625 unit recorded in BPL which were 12 unit removed, 47 unites confiscated, 236 unit informed to remove, and 330 was left at scene (do nothing).</p> <p>. There were 3 cases of fine mesh net with 52 units recorded and these 52 units of tool were confiscated.</p> <p>. There were 16 cases fishing trap with 555 units of tool was recorded which are 17 units destroyed, 2 units removed, 4 units confiscated, 62 units informed to remove, 220 units left at scene (do nothing), and 250 units observation only (Observe from a distant).</p> <p>. There were 3 cases of electric rods with 6 units of tool recorded which were 4 units was informed to remove and 2 units observed from a distant.</p> <p>. There was 1 case of rod fishing with 12 fishing rods recorded in BPL.</p> <p>. There were 2 cases of unidentified fishing tool with 105 unit if tool was observed only in BPL.</p> <p>. The total net that recorded by team while patrol and monitoring in BPL in 2023 was 1292 meters which 50 m was destroyed, 542m confiscated, and 700m left at scene (do nothing).</p> |
| 3 | Poaching/Hunting | 2 cases | <p>. The ranger confiscated 1 mist net 10 m length in BPL.</p> <p>. The ranger confiscated 1 Dove trap with an alive Dove, Dove was released to the wild and trap was kept in BPL station.</p> |
| 4 | Livestock and over grazing | 14 cases | <p>. 2200 buffalo were recorded, grazing in BPL</p> <p>. 150 cows were recorded, grazing in BPL</p> <p>. 2 dogs were also recorded</p> |
| 5 | Collecting Wetland Resource | 25 cases | <p>. There were 14 cases of grass harvesting in BPL, recorded with 966 bundles of grass harvested.</p> <p>. There were 6 cases of water lily collected in BPL, recorded with 331 bundles of water lily collected.</p> |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| | | | There were 4 cases of wild vegetation harvested in BPL with 36 kg and 6 bags of this vegetation harvested during the dry season in BPL. . There is a honey collector who recorded 3 pieces of honey being harvested. |
|--|--|--|---|

- The monthly reflection meeting and BPL advisory group meeting was conducted regularly to report the patrol result and develop a work plan for the next month and refresh the methodology in using SMART Mobile and GPS for patrol data collection.
- The ranger and FMTs was sent to the study visit in Bokor National Park under coordinated by NLC to study about the management of National Park office of the Kampot Provincial Department of Environment in Kampot Province.
- The management team of BPL was sent to join the training about Ecosystem service data collection in Phnom Penh and field practice in BPL.

2. Education and Awareness

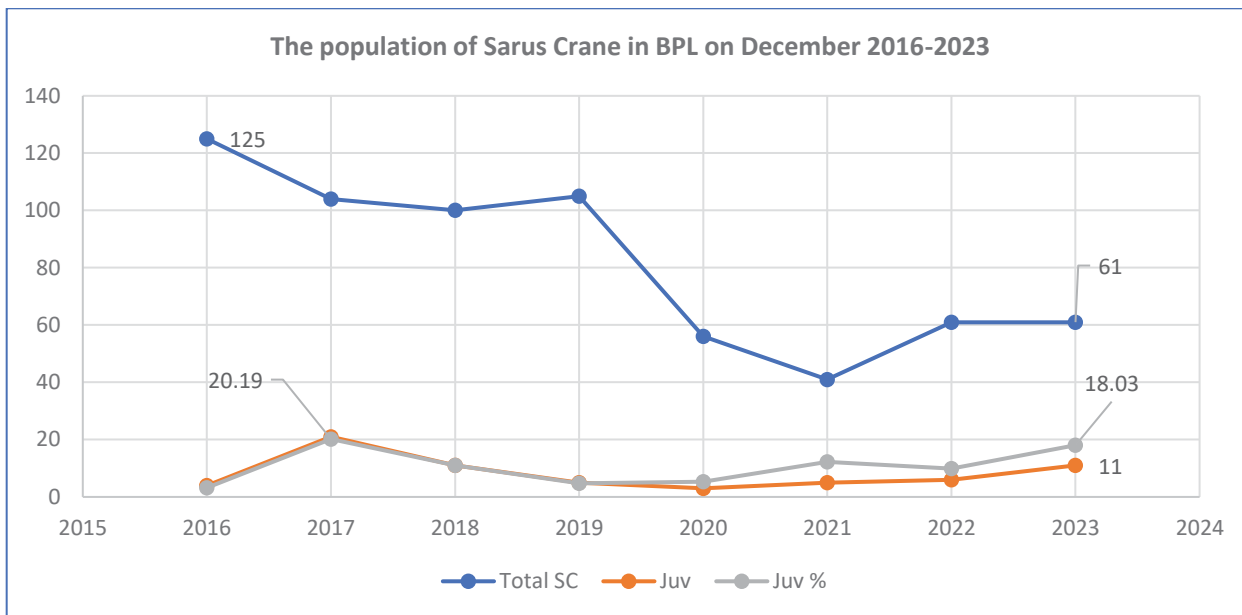
- **Environmental and Sarus Crane Education at Schools:**
Intergrade the Environmental and Sarus Crane Education is implemented in the three targeted primary schools.
 - Environment Education and Sarus Crane Conservation (EEC) Program has been implemented with objectives to encourage teachers and students to well-understand of the conservation and the importance of wetlands; to spread knowledge of the importance of wetlands and the environment to the teachers and students; and to cultivate the conservation willing and nature-loving to the young generation for the sustainable use of natural resources in the future. The target schools in BPL – Kdol Chrum, Sangkum Meanchey, and Banteay Thleay have successfully completed the courses with the final assessment test. Under this program, we have continued to support schools with study materials to facilitate the teaching and studying process. There are 290 students with 145 girls enrolled in the program, yet only 241 students participated in the assessment test. There were 165 students, 68 percent had passed and 76 students, 32 percent had failed the exam. After finishing the program, NLC bestowed rewards to students who obtained the highest score to encourage students and promote the education. There were 39 students in total: 20 students from Banteay Thleay, 10 students from Sangkom Meanchey, and 9 students from Kdol Chrum
 - We also organized the annual Crane Festival at the Banteay Thleay and Sangkum Meanchey primary schools with the total number of 260 participants to celebrate the return of sarus crane from the breeding seasons to BPL and to continue spreading awareness to the local people about conservation.
- **Community and Public Awareness:**

Community awareness raising is one of the main goals to spread knowledge and information about the conservation of sarus crane, wetlands, and waterbirds to the local people in BPL protected area. With the collaboration and support from the local authorities, we further continued the community empowerment activities including mobile broadcasting, awareness-raising meetings, and different signboard installations for public awareness.

- We conducted awareness raising in the forms of small group meetings and audio broadcasting from March until December to all the 9 targeted villages - Kdul Chrum, Sangkom Meanchey, Bontey Sleik, Chombok Em, Chroy Pon, Dara Kom, Bontey Tlay, Dey Lerk, and Keo Kampleng. After that, we conducted interviews with 231 households to collect data and information as a baseline survey for developing the report and evaluating how far awareness raising has reached the locals. Based on the implemented activities, the main challenges we encountered were the cooperation from the local people to engage in the activity and difficulty in traveling to the meeting places. Nonetheless, people seemed to gain better awareness in terms of the importance of BPL protected area, the illegal fishing activities, and conservation acts as suggestions and recommendations from the locals were raised relevant to enforcing legal charges on any illegal offenses in the protected area.
- NLC have work with the Protected Area management team and relevant local authority to install 8 signboard which is one at Kampong Chrey Market (Road to BPL), one in Borei Chulasa District Hall, and others six signs was installed inside the Protected Forest of Borei Chulasa. The message in the signboard was about Hunting, egg collection and Protected Area Law related.
- Bird Hunting Workshop was conducted in September 2023 to raise awareness about the hunting and trade of bird in Takeo Province to the relevant stakeholders. The workshop was in title “Stakeholder workshop Conservation and addressing the impact of bird hunting and trade”. The workshop was objective to update the status of bird hunting monitoring in BPL and the wider landscape, to raise awareness about legislation related to hunting and trade of wild birds and other wildlife, to encourage local authorities to strengthen work on awareness on illegal wildlife hunting and enforcement activities at identified hotspots of bird and wildlife hunting. The workshop presided over by Mr. Morm Kay, Provincial Deputy Director of Takeo Provincial Governor, Mr. Chhay Monly, Director of Provincial Department of Environment of Takeo Province, and Mr. Bou Vorsak, CEO of NatureLife Cambodia, and participated by Deputy Director of Takeo Provincial Police, representative of Takeo Provincial Military Police, Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, Representative of relevant District Governor, the officers of the provincial Department of Environment, relevant Commune surrounding Boeng Prek Lapouv Protected landscape, and NGOs partner, in total 30 peoples was participated.

3. Species and habitat monitoring

- The Boeung Prek Lapouv still plays a key important role in supporting Yellow-breasted Bunting in Cambodia during its wintering migration. In 2023, we observed Yellow-breasted Bunting from late December 2022 until the end of April and early May 2023 with the maximum recorded of 4800 individuals. The bunting monitoring network in Cambodia was created with representative from government and private sector in Cambodia to widely monitoring this bird species.
- 79 species of bird have been recorded in Boeung Prek Lapouv in 2023 including 01 Critically endangered (Yellow-breasted Bunting), 01 endangered (Greater Adjutant), and 01 Vulnerable (Sarus Crane). This year we have recorded a new species in BPL, **Northern Pintail**, with a sighting of 5 individuals.
- The Asian Waterbirds Census has been conducted annually, a total of 92 bird species was recorded in 2023, including Waterbirds and landbirds and other bird species that presented in the protected area. The team did not see the Black-faced Spoonbill.
- The Sarus Crane Census was conducted in 2022-2023 with the maximum record of 61 birds (including 11 Juveniles) in December 2023. We have noted that the population of the Juvenile bird has started increasing in Boeng Prek Lpov to almost the same number in 2017.



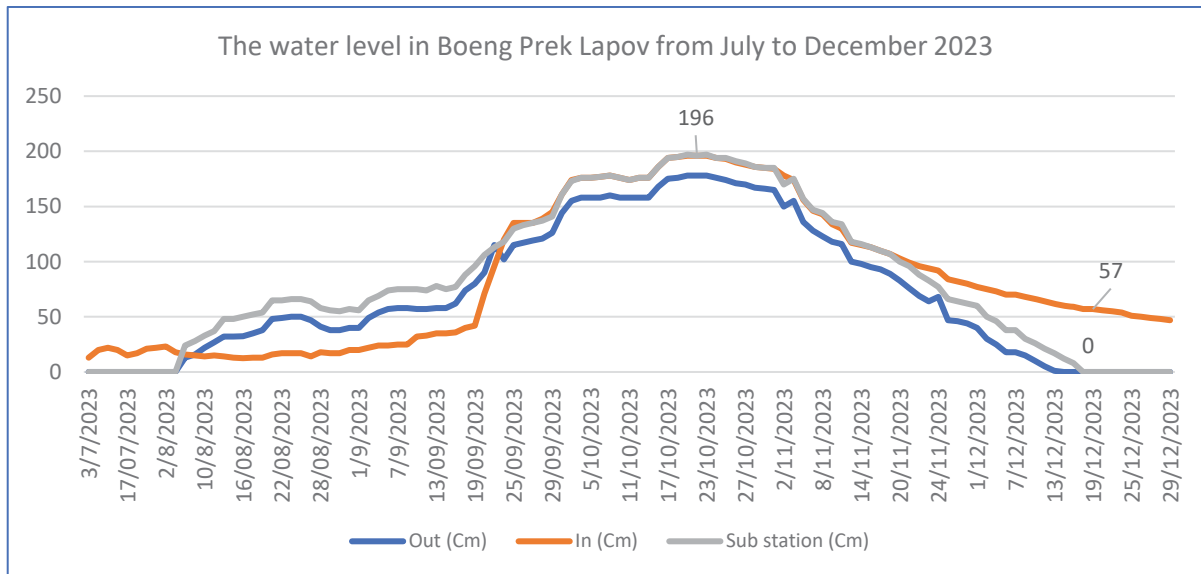
Result of Sarus Crane Census in BPL from 2016 to 2023

- Birds still use BPL as a nesting site. The study of bird nests has been conducted in BPL Protected Landscape in 2023. The nest was drop down quickly comparing to the previous year due to lack of nesting trees in BPL (previous flooded tree was dead).

Table: The result of bird nest counting in BPL in 2023

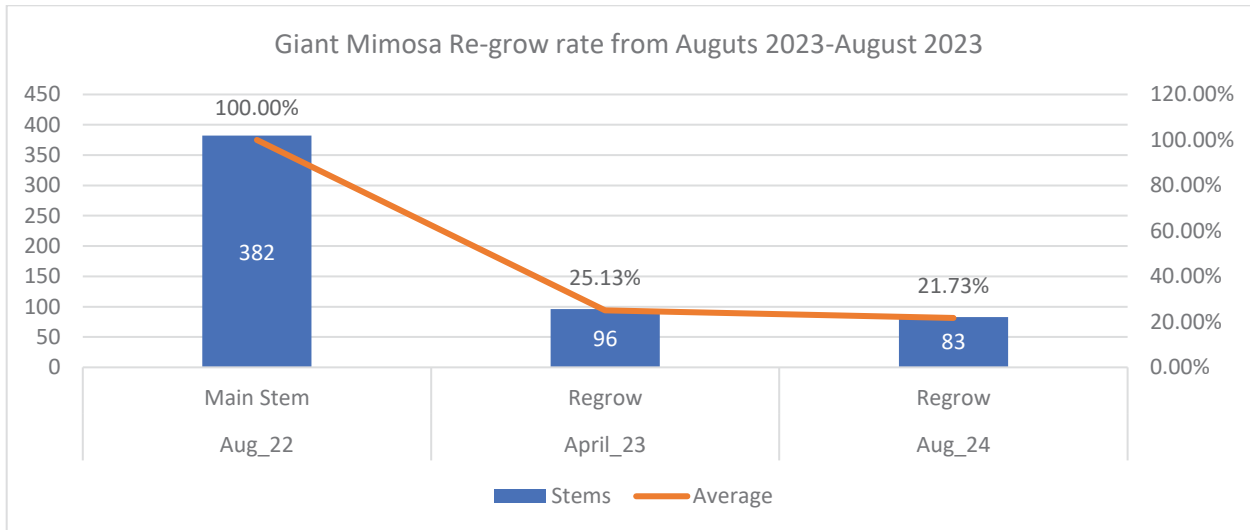
| No | Bird Species | Nests | Birds | Comments |
|----|---------------------------|-------|-------|---|
| 1 | Asian Openbill | 745 | 1440 | Bird is Parents |
| 2 | Oriental Darter | 150 | 300 | Bird is Parents |
| 3 | Little Cormorant | 28 | 56 | Bird is Parents |
| 4 | Little Egret | 0 | 70 | Both chick and parent (already hatched) |
| 5 | Grey Heron | 0 | 165 | Both chick and parent (already hatched) |
| 6 | Purple Heron | 0 | 150 | Both chick and parent (already hatched) |
| 7 | Black-crowned Night Heron | 0 | 750 | Both chick and parent (already hatched) |

- The wildlife health has been monitored regularly to avoid bad things happening in the nesting area of the bird in BPL. We have not found bird flu or other diseases occurred in 2023. Event thug our partner, WCS-Wild Health Team continues to provide refreshing training regularly to the team and keep update each other.
- This year 2023, the highest level of water was smaller than previous one. Our water management plot was managed properly with daily monitoring and recorded water level. We stored water inside the management plot for about a month longer than outside, but Crane did not feed inside our management plot due to water level remaining deep, not fit with its feeding conditions. That area of management plot was developed to became bigger in 2023. The whole area will play the key role in supporting bird species in BPL during the next dry season.



The water management in BPL from July to December 2023

- The *Mimosa pigra* (invasive species) control program was created with the guidance of the protocol. According to the management period from 2022 to February 2024 on the area of 135 ha. The coverage area that has been cleared in this post flooded and pre flooded control in April, May and in August 2023. During this reporting period, there are a Total 100 bags (5kg bag) of its fruit collected and burned. The 45 quadrates of growing rate were recorded and analyzed. By comparing to the main stems, only 21% regrow in our controlling plot. There is a good sign of successful controlling by using the Post and Pre-Flood control method.



The growing rate of Giant Mimosa stems in the monitoring plot (2022-2023)



DoE and local authority checking illegal house building and sign contract with th



Ranger in Patrol and destroyed illegal huts in BPL



Monthly meeting in BPL



Monthly meeting in BPL



Bird Monitoring and census



Yellow-breasted Bunting in roosting in BPL



Mimosa pigra control in BPL





Environmental and Sarus Crane Education at primary schools, located around BPL



The Crane Festival was a celebration, Small group, and household awareness raising in BPL



NatureLife visiting District Governor of Borei Chulasar District and Signboard Awareness in of there

ANLUNG PRING PROTECTED LANDSCAPE

Anlung Pring Protected Landscape had been established and managed by the Forestry Administration (FA) of the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (MAFF) with the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust and BirdLife International Cambodia Programme (BirdLife) between 2004- 2016. NLC started work in this landscape in 2017 and fully replace BirdLife International Cambodia Programem role since 2020. This site was transferred 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 Anlung Pring has verified it boundary by the Kampot Provincial Department of Environment and Kampong Trach District Governor. According to the new degree of The Ministry of Environment, the size of this protected area now increased to 2019 ha.

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 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 the Northern part covers 33ha and the other parts of which Southern part covers 184ha.



Anlung Pring Landscape

Key Achievements within 2023:

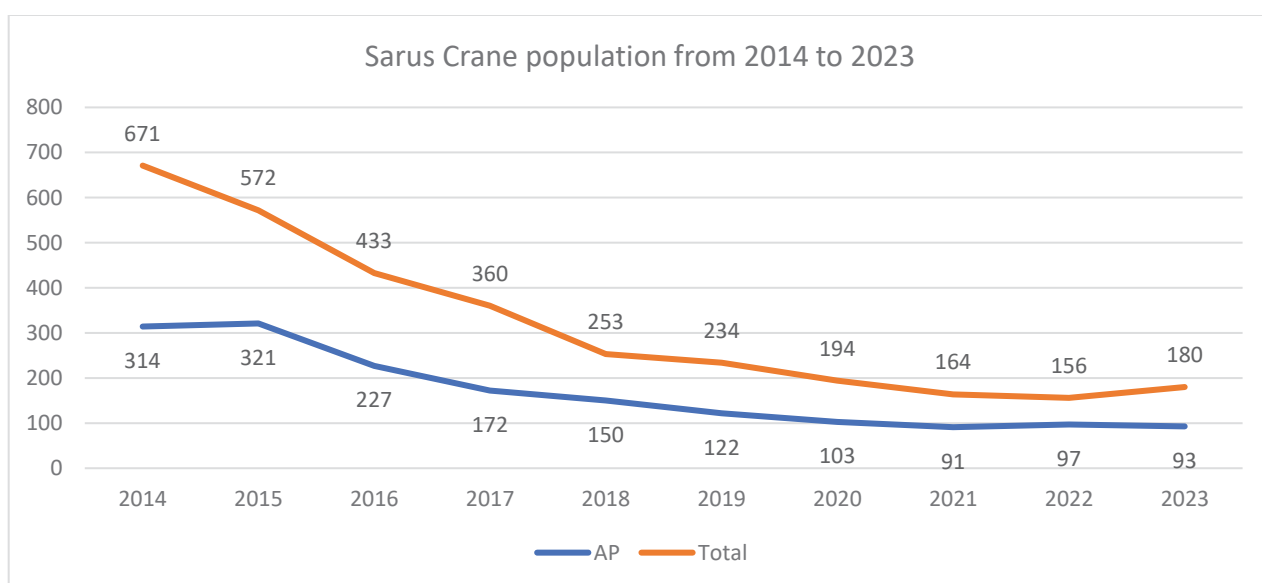
1. Site Management

NLC has supported rangers and FMT to do law enforcement patrol and biodiversity monitoring in AP, as the result of 2023, there were listed below:

- According to SMART data analysis, 158 patrols were carried out over 158 days, covered on distance of 1417 Km, and spent 405 hours in the field.
- One case of illegal bird net was cracked own in 2023 by collaborated with commune police of Boeng Sala Khang Tbong commune. 2 bamboo poles and 20 m of mist net was confiscated and store in the police station. The offenders were not in place during the crake down.
- The monthly meeting and AP advisory group meeting was conducted regularly to report the result of patrol and monitoring and develop a work plan for the next month.
- The construction of road and power line have been finished in 2023 by promised that not constructed during the present of Saru Crane in AP.
- The family fishing in AP was recorded with 26 cases and equal to 68 peoples was fishing in Anlung Pring protected landscape using legal tools such gill net, rods, and cash net.

2. Species and habitat monitoring

- 62 species of bird species were recorded in Anlung Pring in 2023, which is equal to 8187 individuals. The birds that sighted over 100 individuals are Sarus Crane (VU), Black-tailed Godwit (NT) and barn Swallow (LC).
- The Sarus Crane Census was recorded with maximum of 103 individuals in February 2023, and on the census day counted only 93 birds on 28 February 2023. The total number of Sarus Crane recorded in Cambodia and Vietnam was only 180 birds which indicate that over 50% of cranes are using this small wetland in none breeding season.
- Cooperated with the WCS’s vet team for wildlife health monitoring in Anlung Pring. One crane was found dead and sent to the laboratory for testing about bird flu and with negative result. The local expert concluded that this bird was too old to survive.



The population of Sarus Crane in Anlung Pring compared to Cambodia Vietnam Population

3. Education and awareness raising

- The establishment of Crane Education Center aims to be an educational and information-based center for young children and local people relevant to Anlung Pring protected landscape, the importance of wetlands, and sarus crane conservation. We have continued working with the five target primary schools and one secondary school in Anlung Pring to encourage students to study and get to know about the significance of the area they are living in. This year, the total number of students who came to access the Centre is 410. Each class undertook a test to evaluate their understanding after finishing the teaching session. According to the collected data, the number of students from the six schools who passed the exam is 307 (75%) and those who failed is 103 (25%).
- In 2023, we celebrated the annual Crane Festival in Anlung Pring at Tmor Berk Primary School to welcome the return of sarus crane and also to elevate the conservation perspective of young children and locals of wetland and sarus crane. There were 270 participants of which 200 of them were students.
- With regards to reinforce awareness raising of local communities of the wetland protection and illegal activities such as bird hunting and trade, we collaborated with the local authorities to install seven signboards at Angsophy crossroads, Prek Kress pagoda, police post at Resey Srouk, and the area nears Phnom Terk.
- We have carried on with the agriculture hazardous waste (AHW) management activity to ensure sustainable community outreach and environmental protection of proper high-risk waste management. The wastes are usually collected and burned once to twice per year based on the actual amount of waste that the locals left in the storage boxes. In August 2023, about 864 bottles and 1056 plastics of AHW were collected from all the storage boxes and delivered for disposal in a safe place in Kep.
- The village awareness-raising meetings was organized at different villages located in and surrounding the targeted area. The protocol was implemented to assure the effectiveness and momentum of upholding activity. The targeted villages are Chres, Koh Tnaot, Koh Chamka, Preah Trahoeung, and Anlung Pring, where the awareness raising on agrochemical waste management and its effects on human health and biodiversity were implemented while Chung Soung, Koh Mak Preang, Prey Tub, and Anlung Tngan focused on illegal bird hunting awareness raising. We conducted the awareness raising in five villages in November and December about agricultural chemical waste management and its negative effects on human health with a total number of 179 participants, 103 females. The activities were conducted by the FMTs and rangers based in AP protected area station. The banners and leaflets were used to easily explain about objective and overview of the activity.
- Bird Hunting Workshop was conducted in November 2023 to raise awareness about the hunting and trade of bird in Kampong Tarch District Twon to the relevant stakeholders. The workshop was in title “Stakeholder workshop Conservation and addressing the impact of bird hunting and trade”. The workshop was objective to update the status of bird hunting monitoring in AP and the wider landscape, to raise awareness about legislation related to hunting and trade of wild birds and other wildlife, to encourage local authorities to strengthen work on awareness on illegal wildlife hunting and enforcement activities at identified hotspots of bird and wildlife hunting. The workshop presided over by Mr. Eng Polo, Director of Provincial Department of Environment of Kampong Province, Mr. Kim sami, Deputy Governor of Kampong Tarch District, and Mr. Bou Vorsak, CEO of NatureLife Cambodia, and participated by representative of Kampong Forestry Administration, relevant institution of Police officers, the officers of the provincial Department of Environment, relevant Commune Kampong Trach district, and NGOs partner, in total 35 peoples was participated.

- The tree along the new developed road across the protected area was replanted by NLC, Kampot PDoE, Kampong Trach District Governor and local communities.

4. Community empowerment

- Saving groups are continuously progressing with the monitoring and facilitating support from NLC to ensure transparency. The savings amount had been mitigating the difficulties and helping the members to support their livelihood by providing them loans with a low interest rate. There are five groups including Koh Andeth Meanchey group, Srov Tmey group, Srov Tmey Phum Yeung group, Srov Tmey Rich Chamroeun group, and Trapaeng Por Meanchey group. Each group set the monthly saving amount differently with the acknowledgment of all the members. Every month, we had a volunteer going to check on each group and the report. The savings amount (capital) of each group has increased dramatically with the total amount ranging from 1900 USD to 5000 USD which is twice the growth of last year.
- Recycling business is one of the community empowerment campaigns established to support the livelihood of our field monitoring team who is responsible for this, and to encourage recycling activity and manage plastic waste properly to the locals. At least 3 or 4 times per month, the team will go to buy the recyclable waste from four different villages including Chres, Koh Chamka, Koh Tnaot, and Phrea Trahoeung. In 2023, the capital for continuing the business was 397.35 USD which is 212.5 USD in the cash and 184.85 USD was with goods (Ferrous Metal 500Kg). By the end of 2023, the recycling business earned profit of around 168.60 USD, buyer earned 126.45 USD and 42.15 USD for saving. The current capital was 359.85 USD which is 83.90 USD in cash and 275.95 USD in goods. We lost 37.50 USD from the 2023 capital.

5. Crane Rice Initiative

Initiated by NLC, the Crane Rice initiative was established by the participation of local farmers who own rice fields surrounding the Anlung Pring Protected Landscape. Crane Rice engages farmers to the conservation activities, the rice is still cultivated by the landowners themselves, albeit with some support from NLC including on agriculture techniques, seedling, and provision of organic fertilizer. In addition, NLC also leased rice fields in size of 18.41 ha from farmers to cultivate for providing supplemental food to Sarus Crane.

The key achievements of 2023, the Crane Rice Community Initiative Include:

- The number of Crane Rice farmers was increased to 120 households, from four target villages, while the acreage of land under Crane Rice cultivation increased to 132.5 hectares. By the end of 2023, all 120 Crane Rice farmers had signed voluntary agreements with witness of Beoung Salang Kang Tbong and Preak Kroes commune chiefs.

Table. Rice seed and Fertilizer utilized for the Community Crane Rice initiative in 2023.

| No | Villages members | Crane Rice farmers | Rice fields | Seed received | Fertiliser received |
|----|----------------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Koh Chamkar village | 29 households | 32.63 ha | 1,282 kg | 6,016 kg |
| 2 | Koh Thnoath village | 46 households | 59.82 ha | 10,196 kg | 11,830.67 kg |
| 3 | Anlung Pring village | 20 households | 19.73 ha | 3,403 kg | 3,946 kg |

| | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| 4 | Chress village | 25 households | 20.32 ha | 2,330 kg | 4,060 kg |
| Total | | 120 households | 132.5 ha | 17,212 Kg | 25,853 Kg |

Note: 32 Crane Rice farmers didn't receive seed because they are in the third year of membership.

- Provided seed and fertilizer to crane rice farmers, Pong Lorlok 2053 kg, Sambork Kateum 15159 Kg, and organic fertilizer 25853 Kg of 120 farmers/households currently participating in the Crane Rice scheme. Number of farmers applied Pong Lorlok was increased to 16 farmers, cultivated on 11.9 hectares of rice fields.

Table: The total area of rice fields cultivated for the two varieties of community Crane Rice.

| No | Seed variety | Famers households planting | Cultivate area |
|----|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | <i>Pong Lorlorok</i> | 16 households | 11.9 ha |
| 2 | <i>Sombork Kateourm</i> | 104 households | 120.6 ha |

- As the result of this increase, the total safe foraging habitat for Sarus Crane was effectively increased from 219 hectares (the size of Anlung Pring protected landscape) to 369.91 ha (including community Crane Rice fields totaling 132.5 ha and NLC leased land covering 18.41 ha). The area of 'safe habitat' for Sarus Crane provides a key indicator to monitor the expansion and success of the Crane Rice scheme here in Cambodia.

- Provided five technical training to collaborated farmers. These five pieces of training include i) Seed germinate test, ii) Soil nutrients management for rice growing, iii) Proper chemical fertilizer and pesticide use, iv) Harvesting and seed purifying for the next farming season, and v) Internal controlling system training.

In 2023, there were 10 families (8%) of rice cultivated on area of 16.08 ha failed to apply the 12 criteria (non-compliant), Rice damaged 6.25 ha of Saline soil.

Table: There were 5 families found to plant different rice varieties that failed criteria No.7. The project will not buy their rice but keep membership for future work.

| Name | Sex | Contact | Village | Size (ha) | Rice Varieties | Evaluation |
|-------------|-----|------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|------------|
| Khurn Douch | ♂ | 0888079228 | Koh Tnoat | 0.25 | Red Jasmine | Fail |
| Chhoeng Say | ♂ | 0977234645 | Koh Tnoat | 0.70 | Red Jasmine | Fail |
| Burn Teang | ♂ | 0975374928 | Koh Tnoat | 1.68 | Red Jasmine | Fail |
| Voun Kly | ♂ | 086984750 | Chress | 0.51 | Ang Korng | Fail |
| Seng Kea | ♂ | 0974372779 | Koh Tnoat | 2.47 | Red Jasmine | Fail |
| Som Pork | ♂ | 0887428862 | Chress | 0.70 | Ang Korng | Fail |

Table: 4 families did not cooperate with the compliant team that failed criteria No.11 and 12. The compliant unit concluded by deleting membership from Community Crane Rice scheme in 2024.

| No | Name | Sex | Contact | Village | Size (ha) | Failed Criteria |
|----|-------------|------|--------------|------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Uy Ngim | Male | 097 605 7903 | Koh Chamka | 2.55 | Reject to applied fertilizer |
| 2 | It Rathnak | Male | 097 687 3747 | Koh Chamka | 1.98 | Reject to applied fertilizer |
| 3 | Tit Kong | Male | N/A | Koh Chamka | 1.39 | Reject to applied fertilizer |
| 4 | Mao Chhoert | Male | 088 472 2844 | Koh Chamka | 1.65 | Reject to applied fertilizer |
| 5 | Ngoun Them | Male | 088 834 5266 | Koh Chamka | 2.2 | Reject to applied fertilizer |

- NLC completed the payment to farmers who left rice 5% for crane feeding at Koh Chamkar village (11 families planted Sombork Kateum Variety on area of 0.73 ha), in amount of US\$327.43.

- In 2023, the 90 crane rice farmers sold rice 130469kg to the project with premium price(5% higher than the market's price), equal US43235.60. The premium prices equal US2319.79.

NatureLife Cambodia supported the community Crane Rice located in Anlung Pring village and provided them the pea gravel 4 trucks as community solidarity they raised more funds from their member and got pea gravel 6 trucks to fix potholes on the gravel road caused by rainfall (flooded) in the early plant season.

The key achievements of 2023, the Crane Rice at Leasing land Include:

- The leasing land plays a very important role in providing supplemental food for Sarus Crane. NLC keeps planting rice on these leasing land, covering an area of 18.41 hectares. In 2023, we are piloting a new variety called Red-Jasmine that will be best-selling in the market on an area of 7.23 hectares. We continue to monitor and install the camera trap observing this variety whether Sarus cranes forage or not.

- Harvested site in 2023, 11 ha on the leasing land, 62% of the rice was harvested and we got Sombork Kateum 840kg, Pong Lorlok 1040 Kg, and Red-Jasmine 3880 Kg fresh rice.

- NLC hooked up the electricity (3Fa) with Kampong Trach-EDC, rent new store house, and installed the rice dryer machine at Prek Chak. This dryers system able to dry 4 tons of rice per days.

- In 2023, we enlarged the rice storeroom attached to the Crane education center. With bigger and safe space, this storeroom can store rice up to 130 tones. On top of that equipment storing place also build connect to storeroom for keeping all gears (i.e. planting materials and packaging stuff).

Assessing the markets and promoting Crane Rice in Cambodia:

- On 02 April 2023, Crane Rice was a representative of the community products from Anlung Pring Protect Landscape exhibit in event call One Village One Product of Kampot province. A total of 20 kg of Crane Rice was sold. From 07 to 09 April 2023, Crane Rice was invited by the Ministry of Environment to be exhibited in the National Orchid celebration at Aeon Mall I, a large shopping mall in Phnom Penh. The Crane Rice team received certificates of appreciation for their contributions to community development in

a ceremony presided over by H.E. Dith Nita, wife of H.E. Say Samal, the Minister of Environment. A total of 29 kg of Crane Rice was sold at this event.

- On 13 April 2023, Crane Rice was exhibited during a Sangkran-Khmer new year event in Kampot Province. Crane Rice received considerable interest from tourists and local people. A total of 15 kg of Crane Rice was sold herein. On 22 April 2023, Crane Rice was exhibited during an Earth Day event organized by the Wildlife Conservation Society Cambodia. Crane Rice was displayed alongside other local products to reach out to target consumers and to exchange experiences with teams involved in other community products from Tonle Sap. A total of 5kg of Crane Rice was sold here.
- On 05 May 2023, the Crane Rice project team joined Earth Hour Cambodia 2023 celebrations in Phnom Penh to promote wildlife-friendly products. This event was chaired by H.E. Neth Pheaktra, Secretary of State to the Ministry of Environment and Crane Rice received much interest from participants. On 16 May 2023, Crane Rice was brought for promotion during a consultation workshop on the designation of Boeung Prek Lpov as Ramsar site, in Phnom Penh. This wetland is also important for Sarus Crane during the wintering period and is a potential landscape for us to replicate the Crane Rice initiative.
- On 04 August 2023, Bou Vorsak (CEO NatureLife Cambodia) met with senior staff of Cambodia Chamber (GS1 Cambodia) to discuss the possibilities of promoting Crane Rice and seek advice on expanding its promotion in the national market. Crane Rice was displayed at a GS1 Cambodia exhibition room for members of the Chamber.
- Presently, Crane Rice is available for sale in food delivery platforms/online markets such as Nham24 and Tole Sap. Crane Rice is considered to be attractive to consumers as a product that contributes to wildlife conservation whilst improving local livelihoods. Orders were also received through the Nham24 platform.
- From 17th to 19th November 2023, NLC participate in the One Village One Product Exhibition to display the crane rice in contribution to local products. The exhibition will be organized at Macro Market, National Road 6, Chroy Changva District, Phnom Penh.



Rangers, FMTs, and CPA members are in Patrol and Monitoring in AP



Anlung Pring Capacity building and Project reflection meeting



Dead Crane sample collection in AP



Saving group meeting and recording monitoring



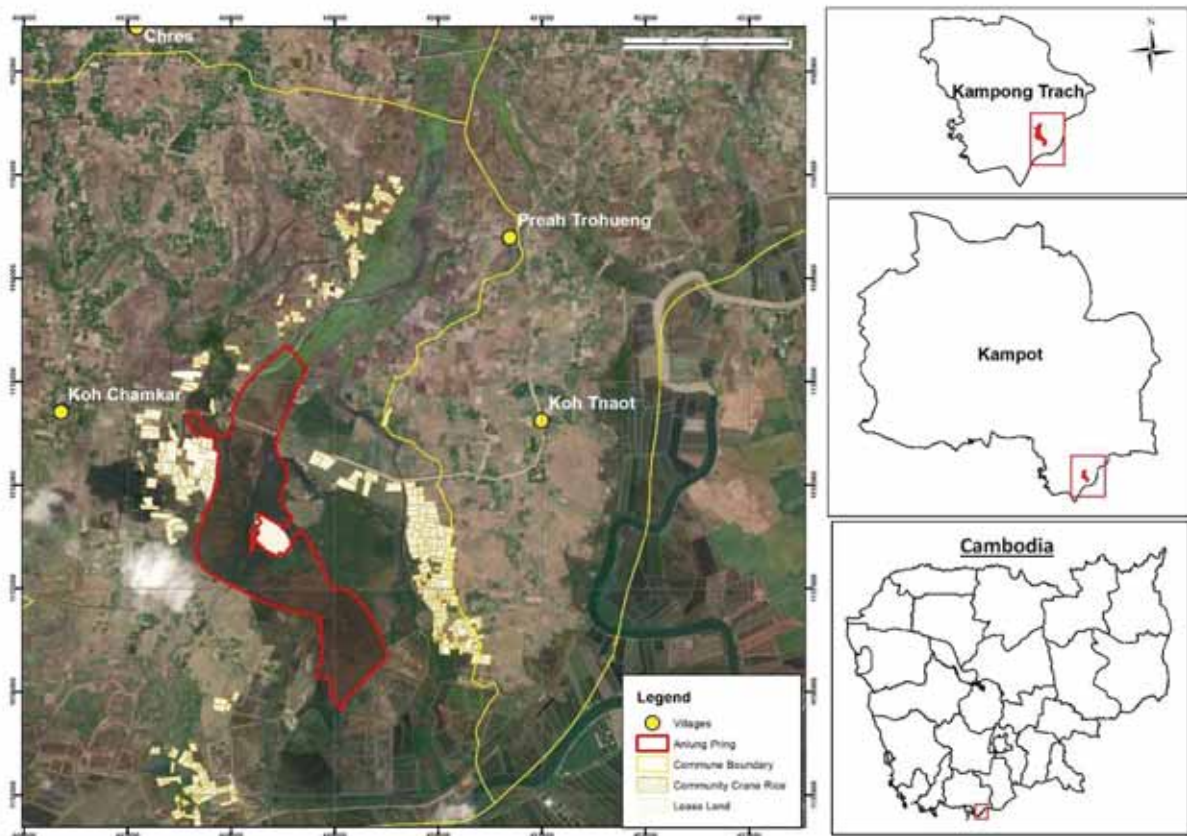
Crane Festival and Tree Planning event in Anlung Pring



Wetland and Crane Learning in Education Center and Hunting Awareness Workshop



Public Awareness by installing signboards in the community surrounding Anlung Pring



Map of Crane Rice and Anlung Pring Protected Landscape

Crane rice activities photos



STUNG SEN RAMSAR SITE

Stung Sen Ramsar site is a unique seasonally flooded freshwater swamp forest on the south-eastern edge of Tonle Sap Lake, the largest lake and most concentrated source of freshwater fish in Southeast Asia. This wetland was designated as Cambodia's fifth Ramsar Site (site number: 2365) in November 2018 over an area of 9,293 hectares, located in Phat Sanday Commune, Kampong Svay District, Kampong Thom Province. Stung Sen Ramsar site is composed of gallery forests, low stature shrubland, seasonally inundated and submerged trees, and extensive mats of herbaceous, aquatic vegetation. The ecosystem is strongly influenced by the water exchange between the Mekong River, the Stung Sen River, and the Tonle Sap Great Lake, providing vital spawning grounds and a migratory pathway for fishes, as well as feeding grounds and habitats for a globally significant assemblage of water-birds and mammals, including Lesser adjutant, Greater adjutant, Grey headed fish eagle, Mekong giant barb, striped catfish, golden carp, yellow-head temple turtle, hairy-noised otter, and Indochinese silvered langur. On top of this immense biodiversity value, this wetland provides essential natural resources and livelihoods for impoverished native communities that live there.



Drone-captured view of Tong Chong Kong, a fish conservation pool in the Stung Sen Ramsar site



Water bird species were spotted at the Stung Sen Ramsar site during the monthly patrol

At the Stung Sen Ramsar site, NLC collaborates closely with the Kampong Thom Provincial Department of Environment to provide support for government rangers at two stations, one Community Protected Area (CPA), and one youth club at Phat Sanday Middle School.

Key Achievements within 2023:

1. Site Management

NLC has been working in close partnership with the Kampong Thom Provincial Department of Environment to enhance the management of the Stung Sen Ramsar site, a critical international wetland. Our collaborative efforts have yielded significant achievements and contributed to the conservation of this vital ecosystem.

- With NLC's support, government rangers, and Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA committees undertook regular monthly patrols utilizing SMART patrol techniques for effective law enforcement and biodiversity monitoring. In 2023 alone, rangers completed 170 patrols, covering 4124 km. During these patrols, they recorded 62 bird species and cracked down 29 cases of illegal fishing. Similarly, CPA committees conducted 47 patrols, documenting 30 bird species, and reporting 12 instances of illegal activities. Notably, CPA members observed a flock of 6 smooth-coated otters near their headquarters, highlighting the Ramsar site's rich biodiversity.

- We conducted an assessment on the use of SMART Mobile technology to evaluate rangers' proficiency levels. Subsequently, a refreshment workshop was organized to facilitate knowledge exchange and discussion of best practices among TPL CPA committees. Monthly meetings provided a platform to review patrol outcomes, address challenges, and strategize plans for enhanced SMART patrol and device utilization. Additionally, refreshment training sessions were conducted for 13 TPL CPA committee members and 3 women, focusing on overcoming data collection challenges and enhancing biodiversity monitoring efforts.
- A site-based Stakeholder Forum was held at the Stung Sen Ramsar site, in collaboration with the Freshwater Wetland Conservation Department of the Ministry of Environment. This forum aimed to address current issues and plan cooperation. The forum brought together 38 key stakeholders, including government officials, NGOs, and community representatives. The discussions centered on conservation projects, biodiversity protection, and community empowerment. One of the key initiatives was to form a working group to combat illegal fishing and establish communication channels for timely intervention. The forum was approved by the Freshwater Wetland Conservation Department for hosting bi-annual forums at Stung Sen Ramsar site.
- A fruitful partnership meeting with the Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT) resulted in Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA joining esteemed networks such as the Tonle Sap Ecotourism Network and Cambodian Fishermen's Alliance. CPA members underwent SMART training and were equipped with smartphones to monitor fish catch effectively.

Patrol Routes of Government Rangers within 2023

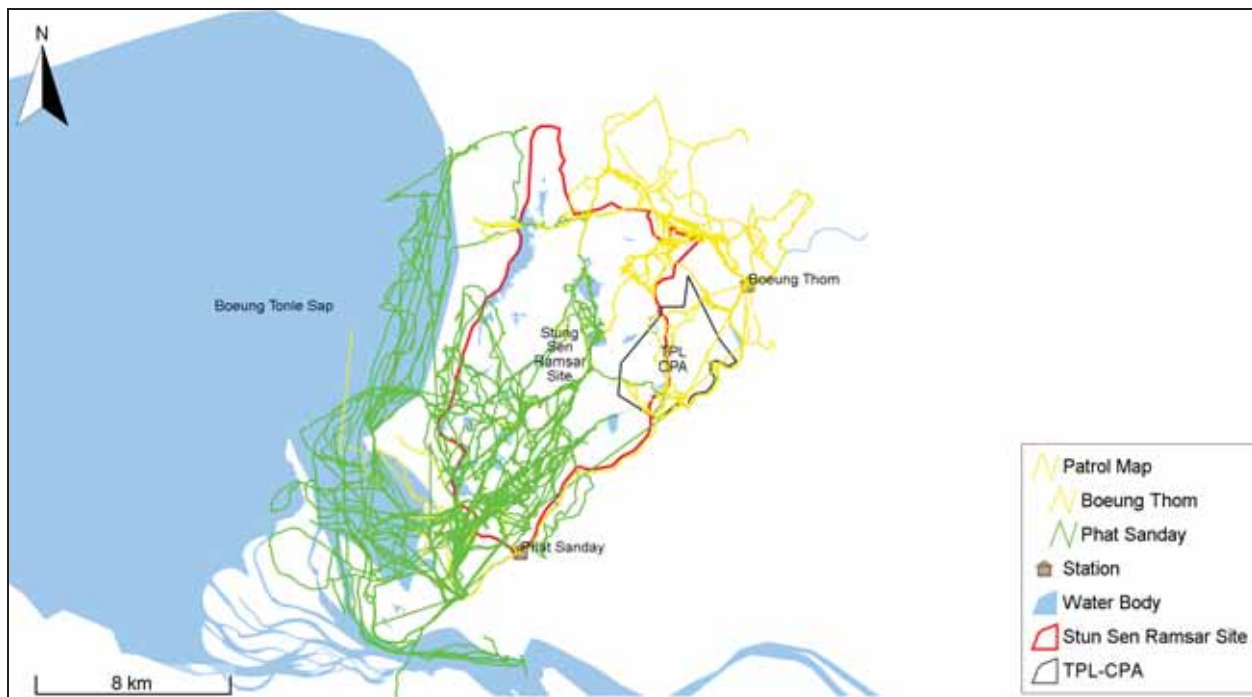


Table: Results of Observation on Human Activities by government rangers at the site

| Human Activities | Number of Cases | Number of People |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Boat across colony | 1 | 1 |
| Collect snails | 33 | 60 |
| Find Firewood | 1 | 2 |
| Fishing | 1 | 2 |
| Legal fishing | 6 | 9 |
| Travel across the Protected Area | 6 | 18 |

Table: Results of Law Enforcement by Government Rangers on Illegal Activities within 2023

| Types of Fishing Gear | Number of Cases | Number of gears | Length (m) |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Encircling net with mesh size less than 3 cm | 5 | 9 | 2500 |
| Fence Seine | 6 | 6 | 1430 |
| Lop Tol/Lop Prueh Douen | 1 | 1 | 62 |
| Mosquito Net | 15 | 42 | 1955 |

Table: Results of Law Enforcement by Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA within 2023

| Action Taken | Number of Cases | Activity Type | Number of People |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Educated | 13 | Entering Conservation Zone | 36 |
| Educated | 1 | Fishing in conservation zone | 1 |

*Monthly Patrol Activities of Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA*



Law Enforcement Activities of Government rangers during a monthly patrol



Patrol and Human Activities Observation by government rangers during a monthly patrol



Partnership Meeting with FACT to address possible cooperation

Community Empowerment and Livelihood Improvement

NLC has undertaken a comprehensive approach to bolster community engagement and uplift livelihoods, fostering active participation in the co-management of the Stung Sen Ramsar site. The outcomes of these initiatives reflect a commitment to building awareness, transparent cooperation, and collaborative problem-solving at the site.

- Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung is actively involved in managing the Stung Sen Ramsar site and CPA. With support from NLC, they conduct monthly patrols for biodiversity monitoring and law enforcement using the SMART Mobile application, as well as taking photos with a camera.
- A feasibility study has identified smoked fish as a biodiversity-friendly product, contributing to livelihood improvements for Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA at Stung Sen Ramsar site. The ongoing process involves finalizing the study report and drafting a protocol for a pilot scheme and supply chain to improve income and sustainability.
- To promote community-based products and enhance livelihoods, three representatives from Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA participated in the 7th River Festival in Kampong Thom Province from March 8 to 10, 2023. Showcasing items such as grilled fish, salted fish, prahok, and handicrafts, this event underscored the importance of supporting local products while contributing to wildlife and fish conservation.
- An Eco Club has been established comprising 85 students from Phat Sanday Middle School at Stung Sen Ramsar site to empower students in raising awareness and for conservation advocacy, with their achievements showcased at the Asian Wetland School Network in South Korea.
- On June 12, 2023, an impactful Awareness Raising Campaign was conducted around the Stung Sen Ramsar site. Themed "Close Season of Fishing and Impacts of Climate Change," this campaign involved 85 Eco Club students from Phat Sanday Middle School playing a pivotal role. Through educational outreach in five villages, the Eco Club used visual materials, banners, and an audio message from Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen to emphasize the importance of fish conservation during the Close Season of fishing. This event showcased the vital role of youth in natural resource protection.

- To promote gender equality within the CPA management structure, NLC partnered with Oxfam to conduct a Gender Training program, introducing the Gender Action Learning System (GALs) to 15 CPA members, including 7 women. This initiative was followed by stakeholder consultations, recruitment of local community volunteers, and the development of a protocol to guide gender-focused training.
- Recognizing the importance of gender diversity in CPA participation, the project team worked with CPA committees to establish patrol protocols specifically for a women's patrol group. With an interim group of three members actively participating in monthly patrols since September 2023, additional training on SMART Mobile and other essential skills.



Sharing Session to Middle School Students on Wetland Values from Key Stakeholders at Stung Sen Ramsar site





Awareness Raising Campaign at Stung Sen Ramsar site conducted by Youth Club



Mimosa Control activities by local community (left), stakeholder forum at Stung Sen Ramsar site (right)

Species and Habitat Monitoring

At Stung Sen Ramsar site, NLC collaborates closely with government rangers and Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA to conduct regular biodiversity monitoring through monthly support and annual census efforts. Additionally, a pilot study on invasive species has been initiated to enhance management and conservation practices.

- In July, we organized a comprehensive workshop on wildlife photography, which was attended by 9 rangers, 8 CPA members, and 5 youths. The workshop aimed to enhance monitoring capabilities at the Stung Sen Ramsar site by providing essential equipment such as cameras and binoculars to rangers and CPA members. Through hands-on training and guidance on photography techniques, participants learned to capture high-quality images during their patrols. This initiative not only improved biodiversity monitoring but also fostered public engagement and awareness about the Ramsar site's ecological importance.

- In July 2023, a workshop on "The Impact of Invasive Species and Control" engaged 44 participants, including rangers, Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA members, villagers, and Eco Club members. Following the workshop, participants joined hands to implement control and monitoring activities across a 50-hectare area, addressing the threat of invasive species.
- A team of 20 individuals from Tuol Neang Sav Plov Loung Community Protected Area, alongside local villagers, collaborated on a Mimosa Control Pilot Study covering a 50-hectare plot within Stung Sen Ramsar site. This community-driven initiative utilized flooding control methods, with specific groups assigned to fruit cutting, collecting, and incineration, as well as plant removal.
- The Asian Waterbird Census takes place every year during January and February to study waterbirds. In 2023, the NLC collaborated with 12 rangers and 8 CPA committee members to conduct the census. The survey recorded 33 bird species at Stung Sen, including three near-threatened species: the Asian Golden Weaver, Oriental Darter, and Grey-headed Fish Eagle.
- In 2023 alone, rangers completed 170 patrols, covering a distance of 4124 km, and recorded 62 bird species, 4 Mammal, and 2 reptile species. Similarly, CPA committees conducted 47 patrols, documenting 30 bird species. Notably, CPA members observed a flock of 6 smooth-coated otters near their headquarters, highlighting the Ramsar site's rich biodiversity.

Table: List of Waterbird Species recorded by government rangers within 2023

| No | English Name | Khmer Name | Status | Number of Observation | Maximum | Average | Minimum |
|----|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | Asian Barred Owlet | មៀមតូចព្រៃ | LC | 1 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| 2 | Asian Golden Weaver | ចាបពូកទ្រូងលឿង | NT | 37 | 8 | 2 | 1 |
| 3 | Asian green Bee-eater | ត្រដែវតូច | LC | 11 | 8 | 3 | 1 |
| 4 | Asian Openbill | ចង្កៀលខ្យង | LC | 72 | 500 | 41 | 1 |
| 5 | Barn Swallow | ត្រចៀកកាំ | LC | 61 | 150 | 28 | 2 |
| 6 | Bay Weaver | ចាបពូកទ្រូងត្នោតលាត | LC | 16 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| 7 | Black Bittern | កុកខ្មៅ | LC | 43 | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| 8 | Black-crowned Night Heron | ក្រសារតូចបន្ទូលក្បាលខ្មៅ | LC | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 9 | Black-shoulder Kite | ស្នាំងលលក | LC | 63 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| 10 | black-winged Stilt | ជើងទៀន | LC | 33 | 50 | 10 | 2 |
| 11 | Blue-tailed bee-eater | ត្រដែវក្បាលបៃតង | LC | 31 | 6 | 2 | 1 |

| No | English Name | Khmer Name | Status | Number of Observation | Maximum | Average | Minimum |
|----|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 12 | Cattle Egret | កុកគោ | LC | 18 | 50 | 6 | 1 |
| 13 | Chinese Pond Heron | កុកក្រកក្បាលឆ្មោតចាស់ | LC | 89 | 26 | 9 | 1 |
| 14 | Comb Duck | ទាកប៉ាព្រៃ | LC | 10 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 15 | Common Kingfisher | ចបាត់ត្រីម | LC | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 16 | Common Lora | ស្វិតទេចៅ | LC | 9 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | common Myna | សារិកាតែវគោ/វីកគោ | LC | 9 | 50 | 10 | 2 |
| 18 | Cotton Pygmy-goose | ប្រវែក | LC | 12 | 25 | 10 | 2 |
| 19 | Dark-necked Tailorbird | ចាបតេតព្រៃ | LC | 23 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| 20 | Oriental Darter | ស្មោញ | NT | 81 | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| 21 | Eastern Jungle Crow | ក្អែកទឹកដំពុះរៀក | LC | 60 | 15 | 5 | 1 |
| 22 | Fork-tailed Swift | ត្រចៀកកាំកន្ទុយឆែក | LC | 23 | 28 | 9 | 1 |
| 23 | Garganey | ទាព្រៃក្បាលឆ្មោតស | LC | 23 | 6 | 2 | 2 |
| 24 | Great Cormorant | ក្អែកទឹកធំ | LC | 35 | 12 | 4 | 2 |
| 25 | Great Egret | កុកគោធំ | LC | 88 | 150 | 10 | 1 |
| 26 | Greater Adjutant | ត្រជក់ធំ | NT | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 27 | Greater Coucal | ល្អិតធំ | LC | 71 | 9 | 3 | 1 |
| 28 | Greater Racquet-tailed Drongo | អន្ទេបទងកន្រ្ទ | LC | 55 | 12 | 3 | 1 |
| 29 | Green-billed Malkoha | តុកាតូ | LC | 42 | 8 | 3 | 1 |
| 30 | Grey-headed Fish Eagle | អកត្រីក្បាលប្រផេះ | NT | 85 | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| 31 | Grey Heron | ក្រសារប្រផេះ | LC | 66 | 15 | 2 | 1 |
| 32 | Indian Cormorant | ក្អែកទឹកមជ្ឈម | LC | 38 | 50 | 9 | 2 |

| No | English Name | Khmer Name | Status | Number of Observation | Maximum | Average | Minimum |
|----|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 33 | Indochinese Roller | ទាវខៀវ | LC | 46 | 15 | 4 | 1 |
| 34 | Intermediate Egret | កុកគ្រោងមធ្យម | LC | 54 | 250 | 13 | 2 |
| 35 | Javan Pond Heron | កុកក្រកក្បាលត្នោត ខ្មែរ | LC | 27 | 25 | 7 | 1 |
| 36 | Lesser Coucal | ល្អិតតូច | LC | 21 | 8 | 3 | 2 |
| 37 | Lesser Whistling Duck | ប្រឺក | LC | 52 | 20 | 5 | 2 |
| 38 | Little Cormorant | ក្អែកទឹកតូច | LC | 63 | 85 | 10 | 1 |
| 39 | Little Egret | កុកគ្រោងតូច | LC | 38 | 500 | 34 | 2 |
| 40 | Little Grebe | ពពុះទឹក | LC | 4 | 8 | 4 | 1 |
| 41 | Oriental Dollarbird | ទាវព្រៃ | LC | 6 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| 42 | Oriental Magpie Robin | ល្វាចេក | LC | 35 | 8 | 2 | 1 |
| 43 | Painted Stork | នាស់ពណ៌ | NT | 2 | 10 | 5 | 1 |
| 44 | Pheasant Tailed Jacana | ប្រហិត-ស | LC | 3 | 20 | 8 | 1 |
| 45 | Pied Fantail | កញ្ចក់ស្នាខ្មៅ-ស | LC | 25 | 8 | 3 | 1 |
| 46 | Purple Heron | ក្រសារធូង | LC | 47 | 8 | 1 | 1 |
| 47 | Purple Swamphen | ទោម | LC | 37 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| 48 | Red Collared Dove | លលកទ្រាំង | LC | 65 | 18 | 3 | 1 |
| 49 | Spot-billed Duck | ទាកាបព្រៃ | LC | 21 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| 50 | Spot-billed Pelican | ទុងប្រផេះ | NT | 25 | 10 | 4 | 1 |
| 51 | Spotted Dove | លលកបាយ | LC | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 52 | Stork-billed kingfisher | ងាវកក | LC | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 53 | Streak-eared Bulbul | ពពិចត្រចៀកឆ្នុត | LC | 19 | 4 | 2 | 1 |

| No | English Name | Khmer Name | Status | Number of Observation | Maximum | Average | Minimum |
|----|---------------------------|------------------------|--------|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 54 | Tuft Duck | ទាព្រៃ | LC | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 |
| 55 | Watercock | ក្ដីម | LC | 21 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| 56 | Whiskered Tern | រំពេចពោះប្រដេះ | LC | 83 | 200 | 41 | 5 |
| 57 | White-Breasted Waterhen | មាន់ទឹក | LC | 42 | 10 | 2 | 1 |
| 58 | White-throated kingfisher | កងបន្ទ្រង់ស | LC | 17 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| 59 | White-vented myna | សារិកាតែក្របី/រឹកក្របី | LC | 34 | 27 | 8 | 2 |
| 60 | White-wing-duck | ទាព្រៃស្លាប-ស | LC | 1 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 61 | Yellow-bellied prinia | ចាបដង្កូវពោះលឿង | LC | 15 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| 62 | Yellow Bittern | កុកសំបកត្រពាំង | LC | 22 | 9 | 2 | 1 |

Table: List of Mammal and Reptile Species recorded by government rangers within 2023

| Target Species | Number of Observation | Maximum | Minimum | Average |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Cobra | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Python | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| Crab-eating Mongoose | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Indochinese Silvered Langur | 22 | 35 | 3 | 14 |
| Long-tailed Macaque | 3 | 12 | 2 | 8 |
| Small Asian Mongoose | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |

Zonation and Management Plan Development

NLC is working with the Cambodian Sustainable Landscape and Ecotourism Project (CSLEP) of the Ministry of Environment to develop the management plan of Stung Sen Ramsar site. CSLEP has conducted several consultations at the commune and province levels to collect information and inputs from stakeholders.

- On April 19th, 2023, NLC attended a consultation meeting at Phat Sanday Commune Hall organized by CSLEP. The meeting was attended by 41 participants, including the commune chief, Ramsar rangers, committees of Toul Neang Plov Loung CPA, and local villagers. The purpose of the meeting was to identify challenges and threats and collect inputs from stakeholders to develop the first draft management plan of Stung Sen Ramsar site. The group discussions addressed challenges such as illegal fishing activities, geographic conditions of Stung Sen Ramsar site, and low knowledge and awareness of local people. The groups also discussed future solutions towards raising awareness, building cooperation on the ground, and livelihood improvement by livelihood option intensification.
- NLC also participated in a consultation meeting on August 28, 2023, organized by CSLEP at the Kampong Thom Provincial Department of Environment. The meeting was attended by 37 participants, representing various stakeholders such as MoE Officials, FACT, NLC, Commune chief, Ramsar rangers, and committees of Toul Neang Plov Loung CPA and Phat Sanday Community Fisheries. The aim of the meeting was to gather insights from relevant stakeholders for the development of the Management Plan of the Stung Sen Ramsar site. The discussions covered a range of topics, including a review of zoning and outcomes from the commune consultation. CSLEP will integrate all the inputs gathered during the meeting to produce the first draft of the management plan.



Consultation Meeting conducted by CSLEP at the Commune level (left) and at the Provincial Level (right)



Key species of Stung Sen Ramsar site Silver leaf monkey (left) Greater adjutant(right)

BOEUNG TONLE CHHMAR RAMSAR SITE

Boeung Tonle Chhmar Ramsar site is located in the northeast of the Tonle Sap Lake. It is a permanent water body surrounded by a network of canals and flooded forests. During the rainy season, these forests become part of the Tonle Sap Lake. This Ramsar site covers a total area of 28,000 hectares of Kampong Thom and Siem Reap provinces and is also a part of the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve. Boeung Tonle Chhmar Ramsar site plays a crucial role in hydrology and biology in the natural processes of two major rivers, namely Stung Stong and Stung Chikreng. It is geographically well-suited to support a large collection of plant species, fish, and aquatic birds, most of which are listed as endangered.



Rangers' floating station during flooding season (left) and Lesser Adjutant (right)



Grey-headed Fish Eagle (left) and Spot-bill pelican recorded by rangers during their monthly part

At Boeng Tonle Chhma Ramsar site, NLC works closely with Kampong Thom Provincial Department of Environment to support government rangers of three stations and one Community Protected Area (CPA).

Key Achievements within 2023:

Site Management

NLC has cooperated with Kampong Thom Provincial Department of Environment to support the better management of Boeng Tonle Chhma Ramsar site with the following milestones:

- In August, we organized a comprehensive workshop on wildlife photography, which was attended by 10 rangers, and 3 CPA members. The workshop aimed to enhance monitoring capabilities at

the Stung Sen Ramsar site by providing essential equipment such as cameras and binoculars to rangers and CPA members. Through hands-on training and guidance on photography techniques, participants learned to capture high-quality images during their patrols. This initiative not only improved biodiversity monitoring but also fostered public engagement and awareness about the Ramsar site's ecological importance.

- NatureLife Cambodia, in collaboration with the Provincial Department of Environment in Kampong Thom, established a Storehouse for Confiscated Tools at Balot Station as part of its Tonle Sap Project. This initiative supports rangers in Boeng Tonle Chhmar Ramsar site by providing a facility for storing confiscated tools and hosting various project-related activities. During the event, Mr. Pen Thearath, Deputy Director of the Department of Environment of Kampong Thom Province, endorsed the partnership by signing an agreement with NatureLife Cambodia. This achievement highlights the effective collaboration between the two entities to manage crime evidence and streamline operations across the Ramsar site.
- Government rangers at Boeng Tonle Chhma Ramsar site and Balot CPA have been trained on SMART Mobile to improve data collection on the field and report development. Additional equipment and tools were provided to support rangers and CPA committees in their work. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) provided cooperation to this training.
- NLC collaborated with the Fishing Cat Project to conduct a pilot survey at Boeung Tonle Chhma Ramsar site using camera traps. While fishing cats were not captured on camera, the survey recorded 18 species, including six mammals and 12 birds. Notably, three species are globally threatened, such as the endangered Indochinese Silvered Langur and Long-tailed Macaque, along with the Near Threatened Grey-headed Fish Eagle. Moving forward, the Fishing Cat Project plans to deploy 4-6 additional camera traps with NLC and government rangers to continue the search for fishing cats.
- With support from NLC, government rangers of two stations at Boeung Tonle Chhmar Ramsar site and one CPA have conducted regular monthly patrols and applied SMART patrol for law enforcement and biodiversity monitoring. In 2023, 15 rangers have completed 262 patrols, covered approximately 8103 km of distance and crackdown 86 cases of illegal fishing. Meanwhile, 9 committees of Balot CPA have completed 48 patrols and reported 6 illegal cases to rangers at Boeung Tonle Chhma Ramsar site.

Table: Results of Observation on Human Activities by government rangers within 2023

| Human Activities | Number of Cases | Number of People |
|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Collect Freshwater clam | 2 | 16 |
| Collect snails | 2 | 3 |
| Illegal Fishing | 1 | 2 |
| Legal fishing | 10 | 14 |
| NTFPs Collection | 2 | 2 |

Patrol routes of government rangers in 2023

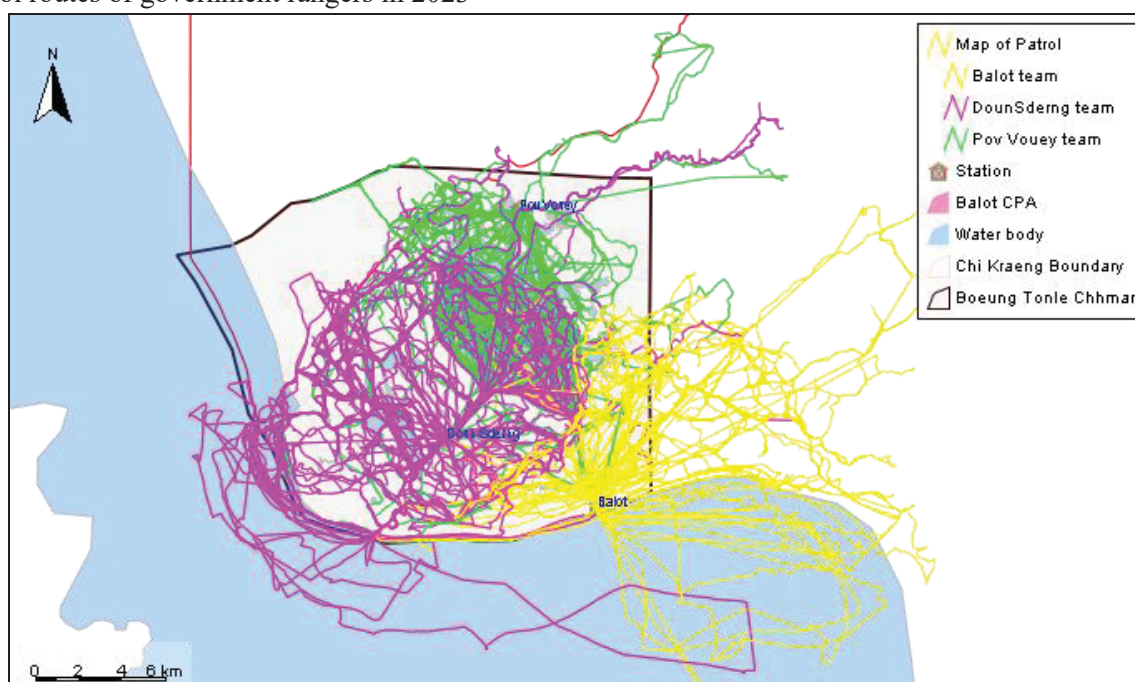


Table: Results of Law Enforcement on illegal activities by Government Rangers

| Types of Fishing Gear | Number of Cases | Number of gears | Length (m) |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| All kind of net with mesh size bigger than 3 cm | 2 | 2 | 350 |
| Bongkol Chhnok | 10 | 22 | 338 |
| Electric inverter | 3 | 3 | 15 |
| Encircling mosquito net less than 3 cm | 1 | 1 | 250 |
| Encircling Mosquito net less than 3 cm | 21 | 21 | 7600.4 |
| Fence Seine | 3 | 2 | 210 |
| Feshwater trawling or push net | 1 | - | 2 |
| Fixed net or all kind of boa nets | 3 | 3 | 600 |
| Manh/push net with mechanic | 1 | 1 | - |
| Mechanized pushing scoop basket | 1 | 1 | - |
| Mosquito Net | 40 | 73 | 6325 |

Table: Results of Law Enforcement of Balot CPA

| Types of Illegal Fishing Gear | Number of Cases | Number of gears | Length (m) |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Mosquito Net | 6 | 6 | 741 |



Law Enforcement activities of government rangers at Boeung Tonle Chhma Ramsar site



Monthly Patrol Activities by Committee of Balot CPA



Waterbird species captured by rangers during their patrol after receiving training and camer

Species and Habitat Monitoring

- The Asian Waterbird Census is an annual event held in January and February to study waterbirds. In 2023, NatureLife Cambodia's Tonle Sap Team commenced the census on January 8th at two Ramsar sites: Stung Sen and Boeng Tonle Chhma. Collaborating with 24 rangers, 10 CPA committee members, the survey recorded 31 at Boeng Tonle Chhma, including 3 near-threatened species: the Asian Golden Weaver, Oriental Darter, and Grey-headed Fish Eagle.
- In 2023, with NLC's support, government rangers conducted 262 patrols, documenting 62 bird species and 2 mammal species, including 8 globally endangered species. Additionally, Balot CPA committees conducted 48 patrols and recorded 29 bird species.

Table: List of waterbird Species recorded during monthly patrol by government rangers

| No | English Name | Khmer Name | Status | Number of Observations | Maximum | Average | Minimum |
|----|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | Asian Golden Weaver | ចាបពូកទ្រូងលឿង | NT | 3 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| 2 | Asian Green Bee Eater | ត្រងេវតូច | LC | 58 | 12 | 2 | 1 |
| 3 | Asian Openbill | ចង្កៀលខ្យង | LC | 109 | 10000 | 361 | 1 |
| 4 | Barn Swallow | ត្រចៀកកាំ | LC | 34 | 300 | 72 | 10 |
| 5 | Black Bittern | កុកខ្មៅ | LC | 17 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 6 | Black-crowned Night Heron | ខ្លែក/ក្រាសារតូចបន្ទូល ក្បាលខ្មៅ | LC | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 7 | Black Drongo | អន្ទបខ្មៅ | LC | 14 | 10 | 2 | 1 |
| 8 | Black-headed Ibis | ត្រយ៉ង់ខ្លួនស | NT | 4 | 200 | 77 | 1 |
| 9 | Black-shoulder Kite | ស្នាងលលក | LC | 18 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 10 | black-winged Stilt | ជើងទៀន | LC | 45 | 350 | 51 | 1 |
| 11 | Blue-tailed bee-eater | ត្រងេវក្បាលបៃតង | LC | 26 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 12 | Brown Wood-owl | មៀមធំគូក | LC | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 13 | Cattle Egret | កុកគោ | LC | 4 | 30 | 10 | 1 |
| 14 | Chinese Pond Heron | កុកក្រកក្បាលត្នោតចាស់ | LC | 146 | 100 | 5 | 1 |
| 15 | Common Kingfisher | ចបាតក្រឹម | LC | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 16 | common Myna | សារិកាកែវគោ/វីកគោ | LC | 1 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 17 | Cotton Pygmy-goose | ប្រអែក | LC | 21 | 50 | 21 | 1 |
| 18 | Oriental Darter | ស្មោញ | NT | 87 | 22 | 3 | 1 |
| 19 | Fork-tailed Swift | ត្រចៀកកាំកន្ទុយឆែក | LC | 2 | 100 | 75 | 50 |
| 20 | Garganey | ទាព្រៃក្បាលឆ្នួតស | LC | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 21 | Glossy Ibis | ត្រយ៉ង់ខ្លួនលោង | LC | 8 | 500 | 114 | 2 |

| No | English Name | Khmer Name | Status | Number of Observations | Maximum | Average | Minimum |
|----|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 22 | Great Cormorant | ក្អែកទឹកធំ | LC | 100 | 100 | 11 | 1 |
| 23 | Great Egret | កុកគ្រោងធំ | LC | 215 | 4000 | 52 | 1 |
| 24 | Greater Adjutant | ត្រីដកធំ | NT | 8 | 50 | 8 | 1 |
| 25 | Greater Coucal | ល្អិតធំ | LC | 104 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| 26 | Greater Flameback | ត្រសេះខ្នងភ្លើងធំ | LC | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 27 | Greater Racquet-tailed Drongo | អន្ទេបទងកន្រ្ត | LC | 15 | 16 | 3 | 1 |
| 28 | Yellow Bittern | កុកសំបកត្រពាំង | LC | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 29 | Grey-capped Emerald Dove | លលកស្លាបបៃតង | LC | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 30 | Grey-headed Fish Eagle | អកត្រីក្បាលប្រផេះ | NT | 92 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 31 | Grey Heron | ក្រសារប្រផេះ | LC | 93 | 20 | 2 | 1 |
| 32 | Indian Cormorant | ក្អែកទឹកមធ្យម | LC | 141 | 500 | 25 | 1 |
| 33 | Indochinese Roller | ទាវខៀវ | LC | 112 | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| 34 | Yellow-Bellied Prinia | ចាបដង្កូវពោះលឿង | LC | 5 | 20 | 7 | 1 |
| 35 | Intermediate Egret | កុកគ្រោងមធ្យម | LC | 91 | 500 | 37 | 1 |
| 36 | Javan Pond Heron | កុកក្រកក្បាលត្នោតខ្ចី | LC | 1 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 37 | Large-billed Crow | ក្អែកទឹកជំពុះរៀក | LC | 34 | 25 | 5 | 2 |
| 38 | Lesser Adjutant | ត្រីដកតូច | NT | 22 | 50 | 5 | 1 |
| 39 | Lesser Whistling Duck | ប្រឺរីក | LC | 3 | 200 | 69 | 2 |
| 40 | Little Cormorant | ក្អែកទឹកតូច | LC | 94 | 1000 | 27 | 1 |
| 41 | Little Egret | កុកគ្រោងតូច | LC | 13 | 300 | 51 | 5 |
| 42 | Little Grebe | ពពុះទឹក | LC | 1 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 43 | Oriental Magpie Robin | ល្វាចេក | LC | 22 | 5 | 2 | 1 |

| No | English Name | Khmer Name | Status | Number of Observations | Maximum | Average | Minimum |
|----|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 44 | Painted Stork | រោលពណ៌ | NT | 5 | 100 | 66 | 1 |
| 45 | Pied Fantail | កញ្ចក់ស្នាខ្មៅ-ស | LC | 12 | 10 | 2 | 1 |
| 46 | Pied kingfisher | កងបខ្មៅស | LC | 4 | 100 | 27 | 2 |
| 47 | Purple Heron | ក្រសារធូង | LC | 41 | 10 | 1 | 1 |
| 48 | White-wing-duck | ទាព្រៃស្លាបស | LC | 8 | 35 | 9 | 2 |
| 49 | Red Collared Dove | លលកទ្រាំង | LC | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 50 | Spot-billed Duck | ទាកបព្រៃ | LC | 21 | 8 | 3 | 1 |
| 51 | Spot-billed Pelican | ទុងប្រផេះ | NT | 20 | 35 | 4 | 1 |
| 52 | Spot-breasted woodpecker | ត្រសេះខ្មៅសពោះអង្កន់ | LC | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 53 | Stork-billed kingfisher | ងារកក | LC | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 54 | Streak-eared Bulbul | ពពិចត្រៀកឆ្នួត | LC | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 55 | Streak-throated Woodpecker | ត្រសេះបៃតងទ្រូងពញាក់ | LC | 7 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 56 | Tuft Duck | ទាព្រៃ | LC | 22 | 84 | 8 | 1 |
| 57 | Whiskered Tern | រំពេរពោះប្រផេះ | LC | 176 | 500 | 63 | 2 |
| 58 | White-Breasted Waterhen | មាន់ទឹក | LC | 18 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 59 | White-throated kingfisher | កងបទ្រូងស | LC | 10 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 60 | White-vented myna | សារិកាកែវក្របី/រឹកក្របី | LC | 51 | 200 | 10 | 1 |

Table: List of Waterbird Species recored by Balot CPA

| N.O | header_0 | maximum Number of Animal (Wildlife) | average Number of Animal (Wildlife) | minimum Number of Animal (Wildlife) |
|-----|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Asian Barred Owlet | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | Asian Golden Weaver | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| 3 | Asian Openbill | 329 | 5700 | 1 |
| 4 | Black Bittern | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| 5 | Black-shoulder Kite | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 6 | Black-winged Still | 24 | 200 | 3 |
| 7 | black-winged Stilt | 17 | 48 | 4 |
| 8 | Cattle Egret | 6 | 26 | 1 |
| 9 | Chinese Pond Heron | 5 | 15 | 2 |
| 10 | Comb Duck | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 11 | Cotton Pigmy-goose | 5 | 17 | 2 |
| 12 | Crested Serpent Eagle | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 13 | Darter | 1 | 6 | 1 |
| 14 | Great Cormorant | 10 | 18 | 2 |
| 15 | Great Egret | 16 | 150 | 1 |
| 16 | Grey-headed Fish Eagle | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| 17 | Grey Heron | 1 | 7 | 1 |
| 18 | Indian Cormorant | 7 | 35 | 1 |
| 19 | Intermediate Egret | 8 | 70 | 1 |
| 20 | Javan Pond Heron | 6 | 18 | 1 |
| 21 | Lesser Adjutant | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 22 | Lesser Whistling Duck | 11 | 28 | 2 |
| 23 | Little Cormorant | 8 | 46 | 1 |
| 24 | Little Egret | 8 | 130 | 1 |

| N.O | header_0 | maximum Number of Animal (Wildlife) | average Number of Animal (Wildlife) | minimum Number of Animal (Wildlife) |
|-----|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 25 | Milky Stork | 300 | 350 | 250 |
| 28 | Painted Stork | 46 | 150 | 2 |
| 26 | Purple Heron | 1 | 8 | 1 |
| 27 | Purple Swampphen | 4 | 7 | 1 |
| 29 | Python | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 30 | Red Collared Dove | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 31 | Spot-billed Duck | 2 | 6 | 2 |
| 32 | Spot-billed Pelican | 2 | 5 | 2 |
| 33 | Spot-billed Pelican | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| 34 | Spotted Wood Owl | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 35 | Watercock | 1 | 2 | 1 |

Community Empowerment and Livelihood Improvement

In 2023, NatureLife Cambodia continued to support Balot CPA in promoting long-term participation by reviewing and updating key documents and supporting regular patrols inside the CPA and Ramsar site. This resulted in several outcomes, including:

- A Social Economic Survey conducted by NLC from February 11-13, 2023, to collect and analyze data on the social and economic conditions of the villagers at Balot CPA. The survey found that fishing is the main source of income for the majority of households, with most respondents earning between USD 100-1000 per month depending on fishing conditions and resources. Based on their income and property ownership, villagers were classified into four groups: wealthy, middle-class, poor, and very poor.
- A meeting organized by NLC in collaboration with the Local Community Development Office of Kampong Thom Provincial Department of Environment to discuss zoning development and demarcation plan of Balot CPA. Key stakeholders, including local authorities, Balot villagers and committee members of Balot Community Protected Areas, came to an agreement and demarcated the CPA into 4 key zones: fish conservation zone, inundated forest restoration zone, sustainable use zone, and community zone.
- The CPA Establishment Proposal of Balot CPA committee was processed and submitted to the Ministry of Environment. The MoE received the proposal in early March 2023 and assigned a technical team to conduct a ground check at the CPA in April 2023 before issuing an official Prakas.

- A consultation meeting organized by NLC in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Kampong Thom Provincial Department of Environment to discuss and verify the boundary of Balot CPA located at Boeng Tonle Chhma Ramsar site. The participants discussed the history of the CPA, land use, livelihood schemes, natural resources accessibility, and potentials of key areas in Balot CPA and eventually had a mutual agreement on the proposed size without any dispute. The team then took a boat trip to the site to check each boundary pole to verify CPA’s size and collect UTM for map production. The Ministry of Environment eventually issued a Ministerial decree Prakas in recognition of Balot CPA on May 26th, 2023.
- A Fish Inventory Training organized by NatureLife Cambodia at Kampong Thom Provincial Department of Environment to provide technical knowledge and tools for fish inventory. This was attended by 10 participants, including 3 committees of Balot CPA, 5 DoE staff, and 2 NLC staff.
- A 3-day fish inventory conducted by NatureLife Cambodia in collaboration with the Local Community Development Office of Kampong Thom Provincial Department of Environment at Balot CPA located in Boeng Tonle Chhmar Ramsar site at Peam Bang Commune, Stoung District, Kampong Thom Province from June 19-20th, 2023. The purpose of this fish inventory was to study the number of fish caught by the fishing community.



Consultation meeting on the management plan of Balot CPA (left) and Fish Catch Interview (right)

Zonation and Management Plan Development

- NLC actively participated in crucial consultation meetings and provided significant inputs and documents towards the development of the Zonation and Management Plan of the Boeng Tonle Chhmar Ramsar site. The Ministry of Environment has officially endorsed the Management Plan of the Boeng Tonle Chhma Ramsar site, while the zonation is currently under final review.

FLAGSHIP SPECIES CONSERVATION COORDINATION CAMBODIA VULTURE WORKING GROUP

There are three vulture species that are resident in Cambodia; White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis* (WRV), Slender-billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris* (SBV), and Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus* (RHV) are now restricted to small populations in Cambodia and Myanmar (Clements et al., 2012; Sum and Loveridge, 2016; Hla et al., 2011). Vulture conservation in Cambodia is implemented at a site level by various organisations, but guided at a national level by a national species working group, the Cambodia Vulture Working Group. The core partners of the Cambodia Vulture Working Group (CVWG) consist of the Angkor Centre for Conservation Biodiversity (ACCB), NatureLife Cambodia, Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd, WCS Cambodia Program, WWF Cambodia, the Ministry of Environment (MoE), the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). In 2023, NatureLife Cambodia functioned as the central coordinator of the Cambodia Vulture Working Group.

Vulture conservation in Cambodia follows the strategies set out in the national guiding document ‘Cambodia Vulture Action Plan’, which is produced by the CVWG and covers ten years; the current plan covers the period from 2016 to 2025 (succeeding the 2006-2015 Action Plan). Conservation interventions have been implemented in Cambodia (CVCP, 2005; Sum and Loveridge, 2016), principally the provision of supplementary food via monthly vulture restaurants, which have been proven as an effective way of monitoring vultures, supporting populations that may be suffering from food shortages (Garcia-Ripolles et al. 2004), and reducing exposure to poisoned carcasses (Gilbert et al. 2007). Additional actions undertaken include; nest protection and monitoring, carcass and prey surveys, mitigation of the threat posed by the illegal poisoning of wild and domestic animals, working with relevant stakeholders to control the use of veterinary drugs harmful to vultures, community-level awareness-raising to promote the benefits of vultures and to discourage all persecution activities and habitat destruction, and the publication of a scientific paper in Bird Conservation International titled ‘Poisoning causing the decline in South-East Asia’s largest vulture population’ (Loveridge et al, 2018) which reviews and analyses Cambodia Vulture population trends and primary threats.



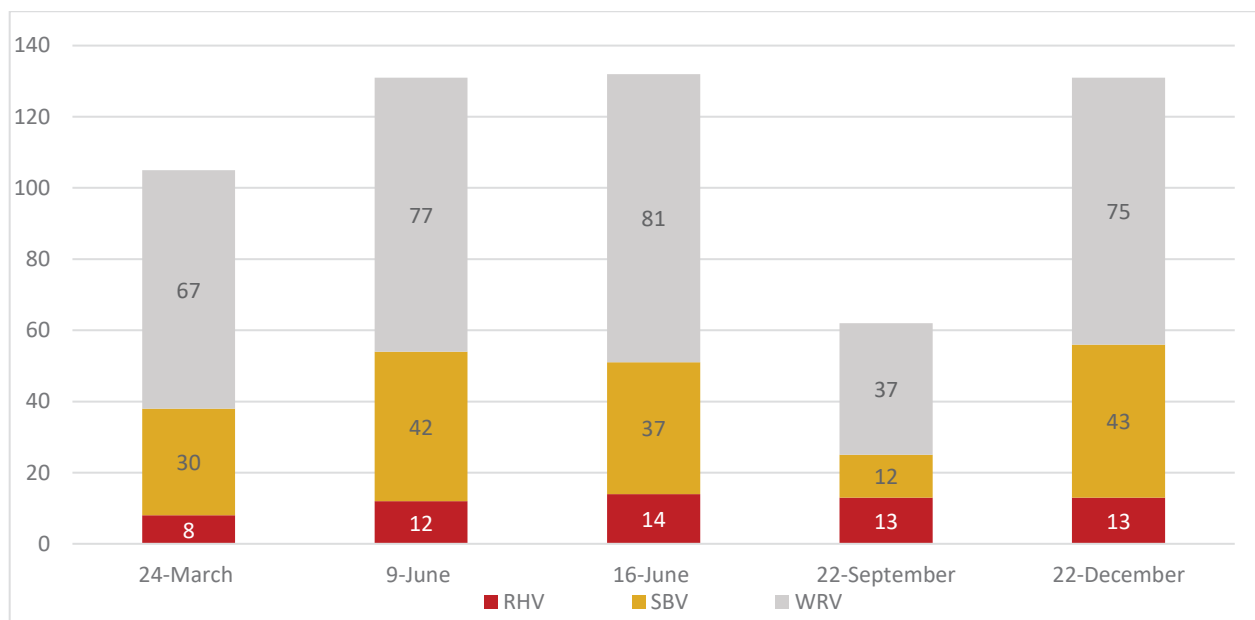
An adult and juvenile Red-headed Vulture in Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary

National Vulture Population Monitoring in 2023

In Cambodia, since 2006 the population trend of the three resident vulture species has been estimated by employing where supplementary food is provided to attract vultures. In 2023 there were four sites managed by three CVWG member organisations that provided and monitored a carcass, with the minimum recommended frequency of once per month, but more often at some sites.

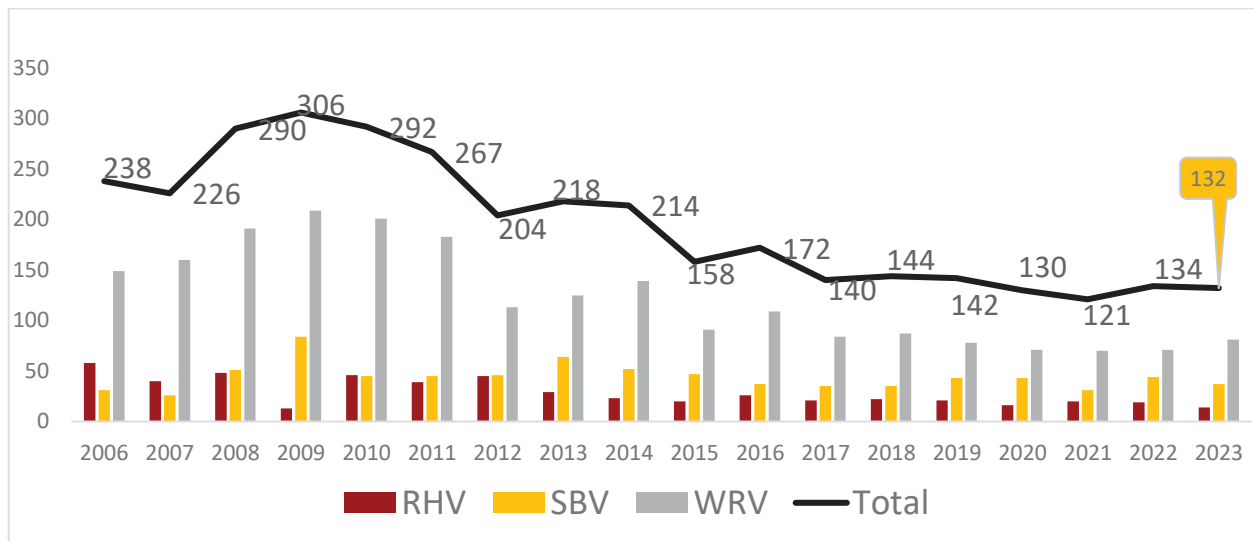
As well as monthly provision the four sites also joined in conducting the five standardised, synchronised counts at all sites that are termed the national vulture censuses. Each year, the census counts take place in March, twice in June, once in September and the last one in December. It is from these census counts that population estimates and trends are produced. As the CVWG coordinator, NatureLife Cambodia plays an important role in organising the census events, as well as collecting, consolidating and sharing the results.

The census 2023 record highest combined count of all three species of vultures from all sites was 132; made up of 81 White-rumped Vultures, 37 Slender-billed Vultures, and 14 Red-headed Vultures.



National Vulture Census Results 2023

This can be seen as reasonably positive result. From around 2009, the number of vultures recorded by the national census began to decline, however the maximum count of 132 vultures in 2023 was only 2 lower than the previous year, and higher than the results from 2020 and 2021.



The highest annual census count from 2006-2023

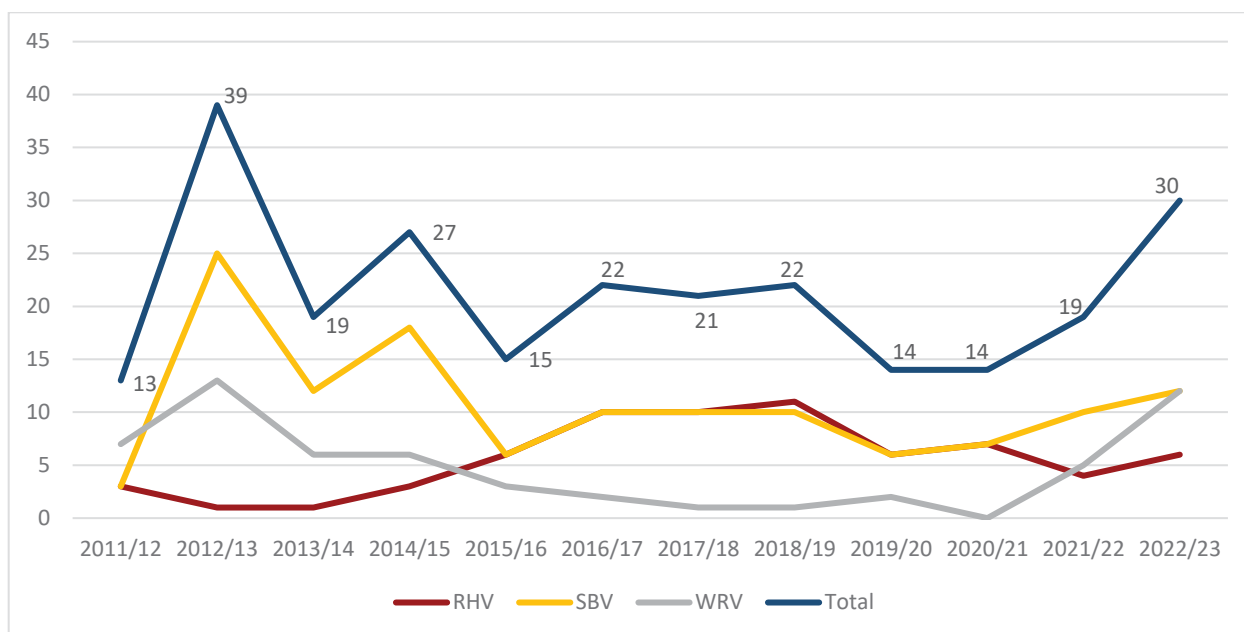
Nest Searching and Protection

The vulture breeding season in Cambodia occurs from around November through to April or May the following year. Nest searching, monitoring and protection activities are handled by the CVWG members for the respective sites, however the nest data is aggregated and communicated by NatureLife Cambodia as the group coordinator. Similar to the population census data, the number of nests found each year generally showed a decline in numbers in the decade leading up to 2020. This was especially true for White-rumped Vulture nests, which, despite it being the most numerous species at census counts, declined to zero nests found in 2020/21. Since that time however, a colony has been located a short distance from Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, but located in Laos PDR.

The result of 30 nests (12 SBV, 6 RHV, 12 WRV) found in 2022-2023 was a positive result for vulture conservation, and the highest result since 2012/13.

In the 2022-2023, there were three CVWG members that located nests, in Chhaeb Wildlife Sanctuary in Preah Vihear Province, Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary in Stung Treng Province, and in the Mekong Flooded Forest area in Kratie Province. No nests were recorded from the EPL, LWS or Sesan sites, all sites where vultures have been known to breed until recently.

All nests were monitored to record nesting success. Of the 30 nests found, 26 successfully fledged chicks resulting in a total of 26 chicks (9 SBV, 5 RHV, and 12 WRV). This is nest success rate of 86%, which is a positive result when broadly compared to success rates reported by other South Asian countries, although there is some possibility of survivorship bias.



Vulture Nest Record from 2011-2023

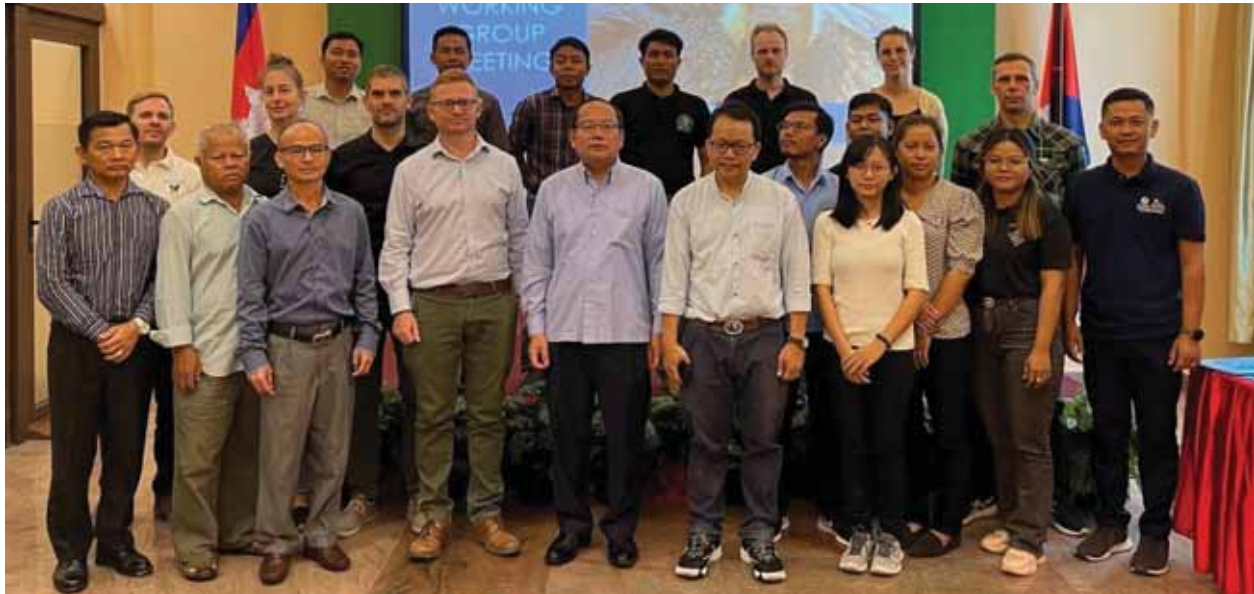
Cambodia Vulture Working Group Coordination and capacity building

As the group coordinating organisation, NatureLife Cambodia leads in driving the platform that allows collaboration between vulture conservation NGOs, as well as between the NGOs and the relevant governmental stakeholders.

- Official Endorsement of the Group. In 2023, around the time of the General Election, the Ministry of Environment demonstrated its commitment and support for the Cambodia Vulture Working Group by signing a new Decree, officially consolidating the working group within the government's formal structure. This new Decree both strengthens the collaboration and engagement with vulture conservation and provides a platform for the future.

- CVWG Annual Report. The production of Annual Reports for the working group is an essential piece of work, to consolidate and share the results of vulture conservation over the year at a national level, as well as to comply with government requirements and engage decision-makers/ The CVWG Annual Report for 2022 was produced by NatureLife Cambodia and shared to all members and stakeholders in July 2023.

- Working Group Meetings. During 2023, three working group meetings were organised and held by NatureLife Cambodia, all in Phnom Penh. The first meeting took place on the 19th of April, and was attended by 17 participants. The second meeting took place on the 29th of August with 25 participants, and during which the group's government endorsement Decree was presented and approved. The third meeting of 2023 was conducted on the 11th of December and was attended by 15 participants.



CVWG meeting on 29th August 2023

Engagement with Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction (SAVE)

In 2023, NatureLife Cambodia conducted a number of actions as part of engagement with SAVE, in the role of coordinator of the CVWG. These included attending the SAVE Annual General Meeting in Nepal on January 2023, and presenting a country update of vulture conservation for Cambodia, and compiling the SAVE blueprint entry on behalf of the CVWG.

International Vulture Awareness Day 2023

In 2023, NatureLife Cambodia conducted two activities to mark International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD) 2023.

- Social Media Awareness Campaign. We designed eight media graphics highlighting the need to conserve vultures and their benefits, as well as one short video for posting to social media channels. Coordinating through the CVWG, these media were posted through the social media channels of CVWG members through a coordinated package which lasted from the 2nd to the 6th of September.

The media aimed to highlight the important role of vultures in the ecosystem, describing the vulture species resident in Cambodia and about the vulture supplement activities. The package also included the up-to-date information on the status of the Cambodia vulture populations gained from the long-term monitoring programs.

- In-person Vulture Awareness Open Day Event, at the RUPP, 23rd of September 2023. Led by NatureLife Cambodia, an event to celebrate IVAD 2023 was held at the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) on 23rd September 2023. The RUPP is the only academic institution in Cambodia to provide a wildlife conservation degree, and also incorporates the Centre of Biodiversity Conservation (CBC), which produces the Cambodian Journal of Natural History. The event was arranged by NatureLife with the CBC, and was joined by CVWG representatives from WCS, Rising Phoenix, and the Cambodian Bird Guide Association. The main objective of the event was to engage the students who were undertaking academic courses in the environmental fields, to inform and engage them about the benefits of vultures and need to conserve them.

The event was attended by up to 250 people, including many Master's and Bachelor degree students from the biology, geography, environmental, and natural resource management departments. For the event, a range of interactive displays were produced, alongside a vulture photography display. A series of talks and interactive activities and discussions were also presented.

Welcome and opening remarks were given by Ms. Meas Seanghun, CBC-RUPP representative, and Mr. Alistair Mould, of WCS and vice-chairman of the CVWG. Other talks included an overview of vulture conservation and ecology by Mr. Oliver Gray-Read, the history of vulture conservation and conservation status of Cambodian vultures by Ms Ny Naiky (both of NatureLife Cambodia), the bird-watching ecotourism sector with a particular focus on vultures. by Mr. Chean Sophal of the CBGA, and about vulture-tagging and restaurant monitoring program at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary by Mr. Eang Samnang from Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd.



Celebrating the International Vulture Day at RUPP on 23th September 2023

CAMBODIA IBIS WORKING GROUP

Ibis Conservation Activities

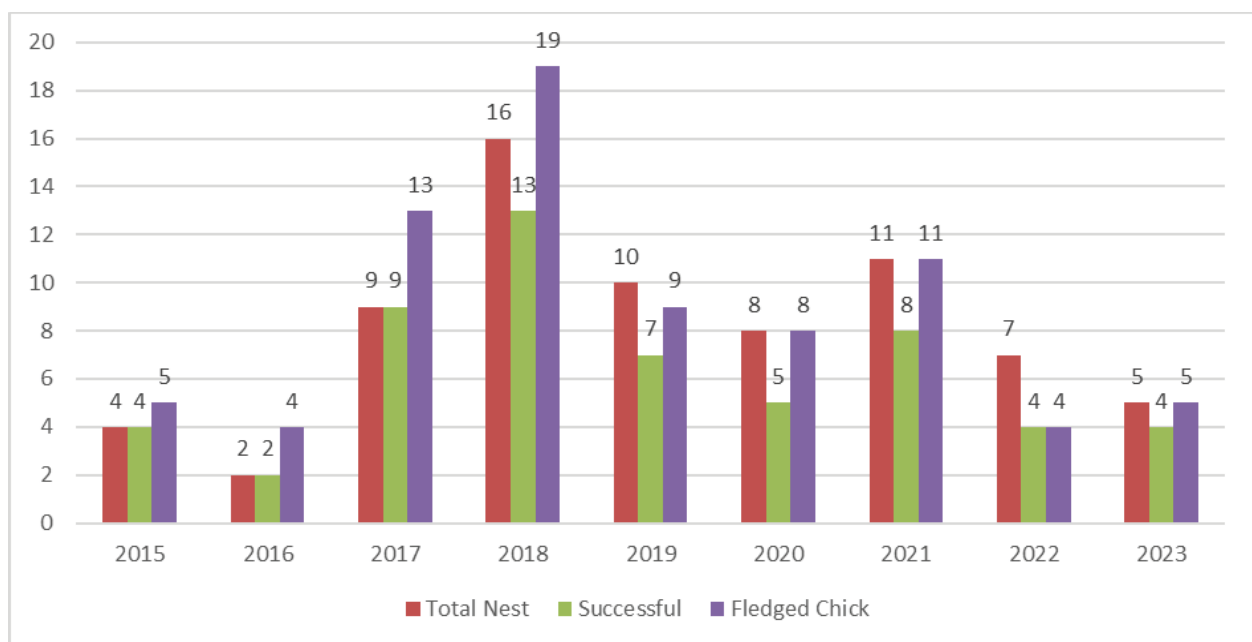
There are two ibis species listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List that are resident in Cambodia; the Giant Ibis *Thaumatibis gigantea*, and the White-shouldered Ibis *Pseudibis davisoni*. NatureLife Cambodia, formerly the BirdLife International Cambodia Program has been a leading organisation in the conservation of these species of ibis for over a decade. Ibis conservation activities in 2023 were conducted along two lines: conservation interventions and monitoring in Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary, and coordinating the national working group, the CIWG, including national census counts.



Giant Ibis Nest Monitoring

Surveys to locate Giant Ibis breeding pairs began prior to the nesting activity commencing in June, with field teams conducting field surveys to follow up historical nesting data and recent incidental sightings, and gathering local ecological knowledge from Indigenous people in the area. Nests once found and confirmed active were then monitored up until the chicks fledged and parents leave the nest, which generally happens in October.

In 2023, 5 Giant Ibis nests were located and monitored, with 4 successfully fledging a combined total of 5 chicks. The central area in the west of the Sanctuary continues to represent the most productive habitat for detecting Giant Ibis nests, followed by the eastern core zone east of the river. The new areas located outside at the west of the sanctuary are possibly the new important areas that we should consider strictly.



Nesting data from 2015 to 2023



Giant Ibis nest

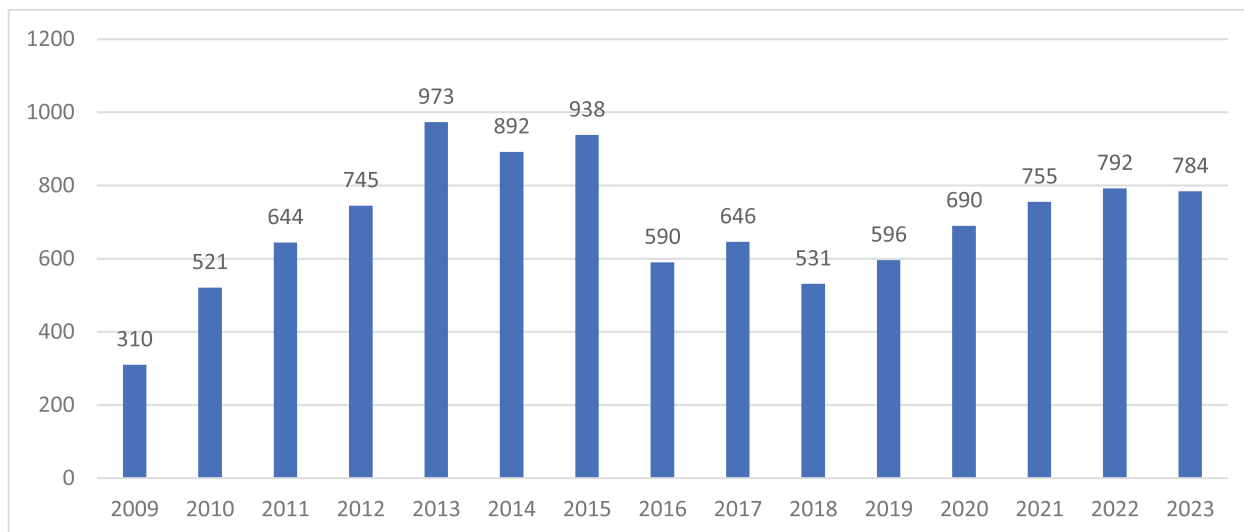
White-shouldered Ibis Roost Census

During the wet season, White-shouldered Ibis congregate in large groups to roost overnight, making possible coordinated national census methodology to count these groups on synchronized dates. The census surveys for White-shouldered ibis during the non-breeding season each of the four months from July to October, with two counts per month, one count taken in the evening and another at daybreak the next morning.

For the roost census counts conducted by NatureLife Cambodia in Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary in 2023, either 10 or 11 personnel were deployed for each of the four monthly census events, with total personnel used of 15 persons. Over the whole season, 10 communal roost sites in 5 Communes across the Lomphat landscape were recorded as visited by White-shouldered Ibis during census surveys.

By the conclusion of the 2023 census season in Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary, the highest count of white-shouldered ibis recorded was 22 individuals, which occurred in both September and October, with 17 recorded in August. This is a positive result, significantly higher than the previous three years.

The 2023 census result continues to show good signs for the non-breeding population of WSI in the Lomphat landscape. Twenty-two birds are higher than any result obtained over the previous three years, and furthermore counts of 22 were recorded in two consecutive months (September and October), with the third highest result of 17 in August also higher than the previous three years.



Census results from 2009 to 2023



White shouldered Ibis roost

Cambodia Ibis Working Group (CIWG) Coordination and capacity building

In 2021, NatureLife Cambodia instigated the creation of a national level working group, the CIWG, focusing on the two resident species of Critically Endangered ibis: the Giant Ibis *Thaumatibis gigantea*, and the White-shouldered Ibis *Pseudibis davisoni*. Now fully established, this working group. Some significant achievements were realised in 2023:

- Official Endorsement of the Group. In 2023, around the time of the General Election, the Ministry of Environment demonstrated its commitment and support for the Cambodia Ibis Working Group by signing a new Decree, officially consolidating the working group within the government's formal structure.

This new Decree consolidates the group's place within the official government structure, and provides a great basis for continued collaboration and cooperation for ibis conservation in the future.

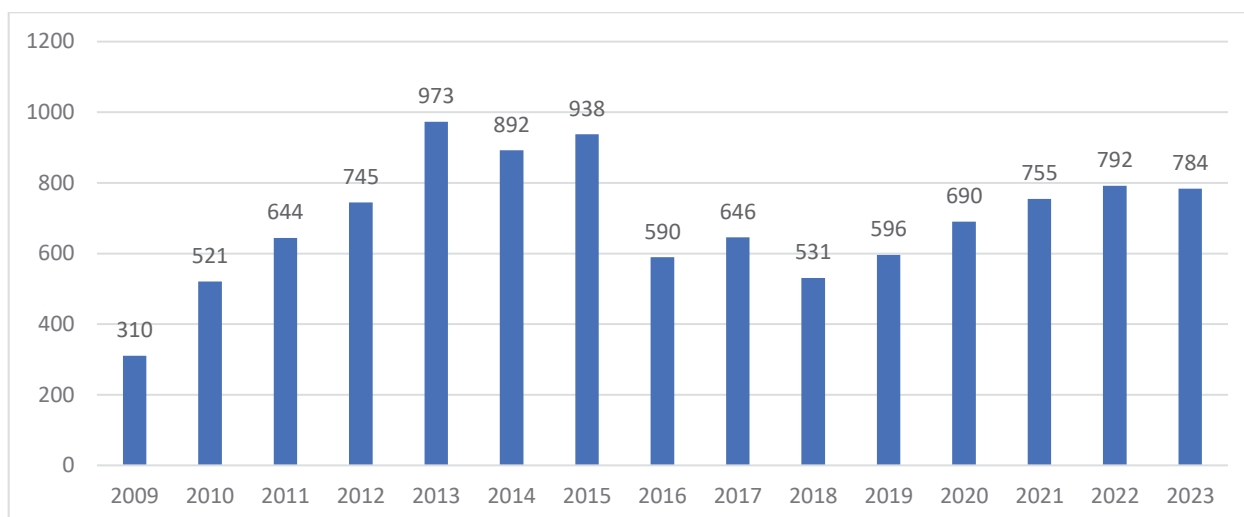
- CVWG Annual Report. The production of Annual Reports for the working group is an essential piece of work, to consolidate and share the results of ibis conservation over the year at a national level, as well as to comply with government requirements and engage decision-makers. Being a new group, the CIWG had yet to produce its first Annual Report, and in 2023 the first Annual Report was produced, this was a significant task as it required the agreement of all members on the structure and contents, as well as consolidating data from all site extending back as far as data has been collected for the various lines of monitoring. The draft of the CIWG Annual Report for 2022 was drafted and shared with members for comment in December 2023, and will form the foundation for further annual reports going forward.

- Working Group Meetings. During 2023, three working group meetings were organised and held by NatureLife Cambodia, all in Phnom Penh. The first meeting took place on the 19th of April, and was attended by 17 participants. The second meeting took place on the 29th of August with 25 participants, and during which the group's government endorsement Decree was presented and approved. The third meeting of 2023 was conducted on the 11th of December and was attended by 15 participants.



CIWG meeting on 11th December 2023

- Coordination of the National White-shouldered Ibis Census. NatureLife Cambodia's role in the national census, alongside organising roost counts in Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary, is to centrally coordinate the dates for the census, and to aggregate and share the data to the members. The highest count from the four censuses in 2023 reached 784 individuals, recorded across 7 separate sites. This is quite a positive result; less than the previous year – but only by two individuals, and higher than many other preceding years.



White shouldered Ibis population trend

CAMBODIA SARUS CRANE WORKING GROUP

NatureLife Cambodia has led the establishment of the Cambodia Sarus Crane Working Group (CSCWG) group and is assigned as the working group coordinator. For site-based conservation activities NatureLife Cambodia conducts the annual wintering census counts across three Protected Areas: Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary in the Northeast of the country, and Anlung Pring and Boueng Prek Lapouv Protected Landscapes in the Mekong Delta region. Nest monitoring of Sarus Cranes is also conducted during breeding season in Lomphat.

The Cambodia Sarus Crane Working Group (CSCSWG)

The Cambodia Sarus Crane Working Group was established as an official group on 14 July 2023 by ministerial decree by the Ministry of Environment. This species working group is led by H.E Kim Nong, General Director of the General Directorate of Natural Protected Areas, and membered by Forestry Administration and key conservation NGOs including NatureLife Cambodia, ACCB, WCS, WWF, WWT, ICF.

In 2022, government agencies and key conservation NGOs agreed to establish the Cambodia Sarus Crane Working Group for implementation of the priority activities in the Cambodia Sarus Crane Action Plan. Since the Cambodia Sarus Crane Working Group has been established, regular meetings every four months have been organised, with one in March and one in September.

- The first meeting of Cambodia Sarus Crane Working Group (CSCWG) of 2023 took place at the Phnom Penh Era Hotel (Phnom Penh City) on the 14th of March. The full-day meeting started at 08:30 and finished at 17:00, and was attended by 14 participants. The main objective of the meeting included: presentation/review of the National Conservation Action Plan for the Sarus Crane conservation in Cambodia (2020-2030, conservation updates from Sarus Crane conservation sites, and to jointly draft and decide the various components of the ToR (including; vision, mission, objectives, and roles of members) for the final formation of the working group.

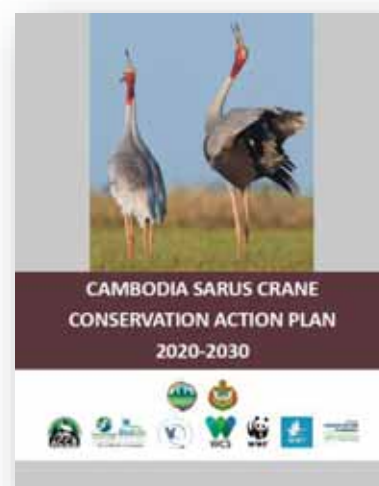
- The second meeting of Cambodia Sarus Crane Working Group (CSCWG) of 2023 took place at the Phnom Penh Era Hotel (Phnom Penh City) on the 11th of September. The full-day meeting started at 08:30 and finished at 17:00, and was attended by 16 participants. The main objective of the meeting included: dissemination of the documents and progress for the working group's official establishment, to select or decide/agree on components of the group's public identity, to review and share conservation results from all key sites, and to review the draft of the Sarus Crane nest searching protocol.



The Cambodia Sarus Crane Working Group Meeting on 11th September 2023

Cambodia Sarus Crane Conservation Action Plan 2020-2030

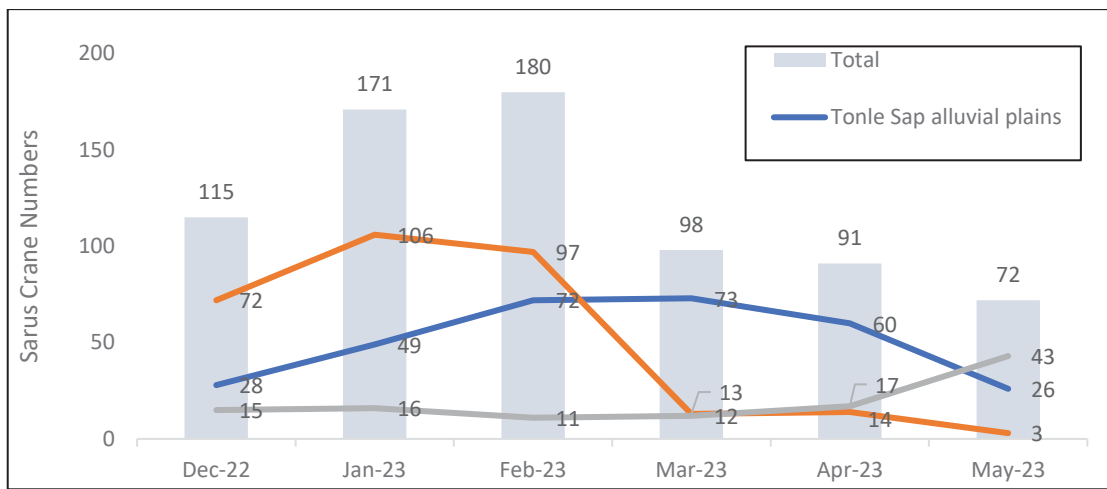
Following a workshop in 2019 the production of the Cambodia Sarus Crane Conservation Action Plan 2020-2030 was finalised in 2023 as a guiding document detailing the required activities to be implemented between 2020 and 2030 in order to prevent the extirpation of Cambodia's Sarus Crane population. The challenges to recover this charismatic species are enormous but can be accomplished if sufficient action is taken promptly. The conservation actions required to be implemented for the continued existence of Eastern Sarus Cranes, both in Cambodia and for the Lower Mekong Basin population in general, are varied and extensive, and as such have been the focus of identification, discussion, and prioritisation in a series of dialogues and workshops. The document presents the outputs of this work, set out for implementation in Cambodia over the ten-year period of 2020 – 2030.



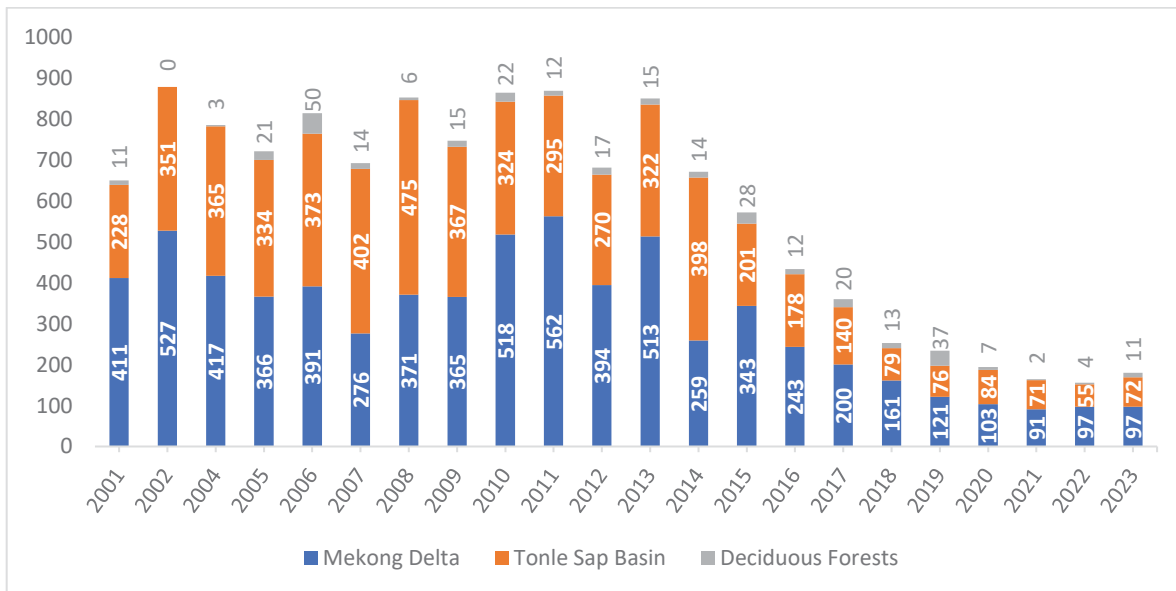
Annual wintering census of the Cambodia-Vietnam Population of Eastern Sarus Cranes

Synchronized counts to monitor and record the Lower Mekong Basin population of Eastern Sarus Cranes *Grus antigone sharpii* are conducted annually. The census consists of field teams counting cranes over two-day periods at the end of each month from December to May. In 2023 at 11 sites in Cambodia and Vietnam were covered.

The 2023 census result of the maximum number of 180 individual cranes represented an increase from the previous year of 15% (156 Cranes in 2021). This represents the first time the census number has increased from the previous year from 2012 to 2013. The result also indicates that the steeply declining trend in the Cambodia-Vietnam Sarus Crane population that began in 2014 may be halting, or at least continuing at a much slower rate compared to previous years.



The Sarus Crane Census Result 2022-2023



Coordinated counts of Eastern Sarus Cranes during the non-breeding season in Cambodia and Vietnam from 2001-2023. Data are the highest count in a given year

Sarus Crane Nest Monitoring at LWS

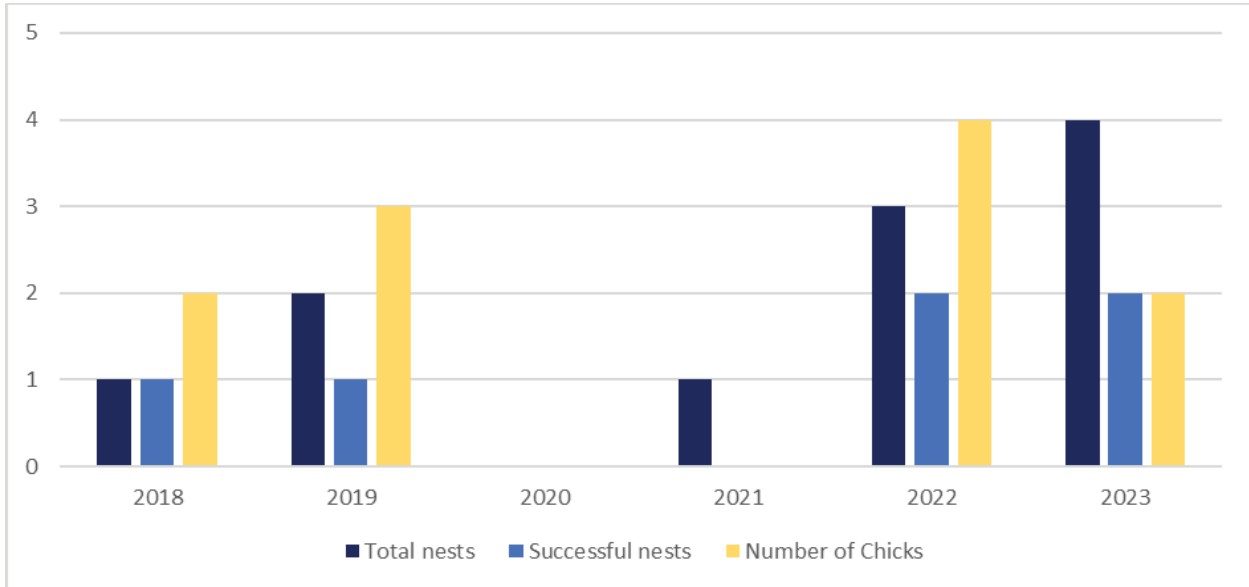
Despite conservation efforts, the Lower Mekong Basin population of Sarus Cranes population has declined at an alarming rate over the last ten years. Ensuring the continued breeding success of this population of Eastern Sarus Cranes is vital to sustaining their existence, and is rated as an ‘Essential Priority’ in the Cambodia Sarus Crane Conservation Action Plan 2020-2030.

NatureLife Cambodia, formerly the BirdLife International Cambodia, has been monitoring Sarus Cranes during nesting season in Lomphat since 2017, with more standardised data since 2018. Prior to 2021, there was less knowledge of Sarus Crane nest locations, with only one found per year in the years from 2018 to 2021, but in 2022 three nests were recorded.

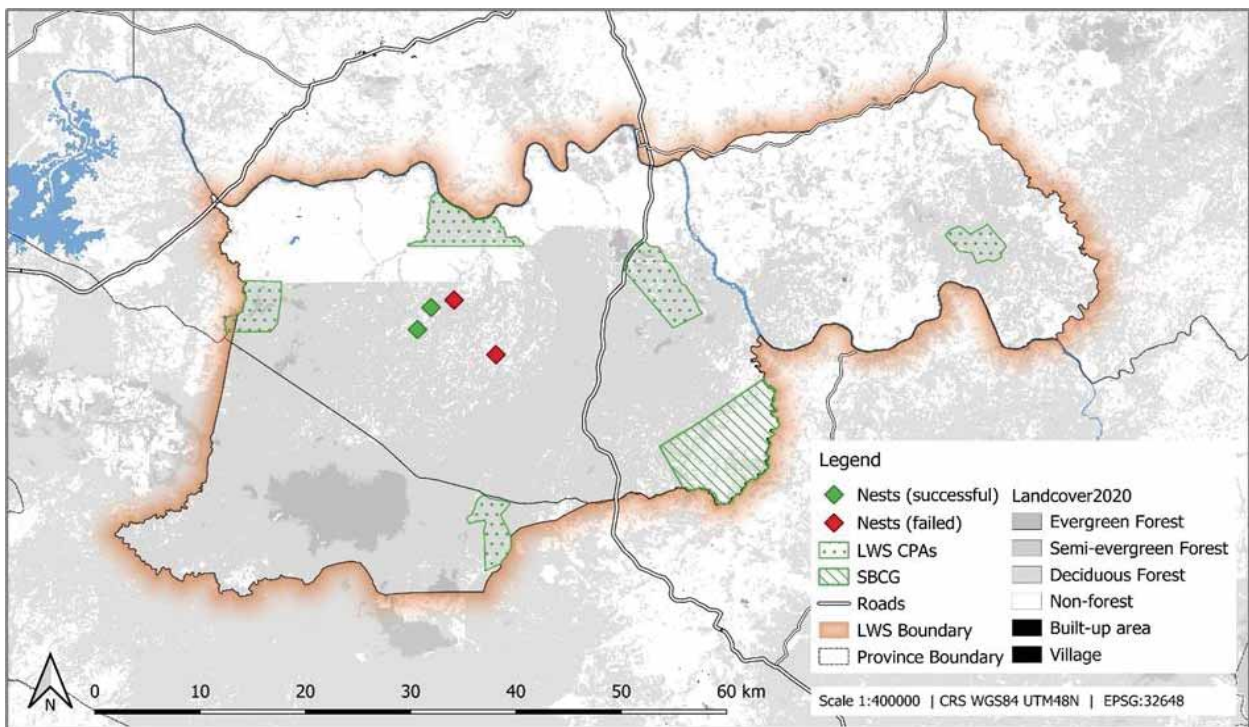
Prior to the nesting season, a training and recruitment process was carried out to recruit members from local communities to join nest searching teams. The invitation to join the meeting was extended to all members of the community, and information on the training was shared during village, commune and CPA/CBO meetings, as well as disseminated by the community leaders. Following the training, participants were invited to volunteer for recruitment on the nest-searching teams. By the end of the season 13 people had been involved in direct nest searching, including the addition of 8 community members in the nest searching teams. A total of 44 days of nest searching effort were applied by all team members in searching for Sarus Crane nests, including 31 days by community nest searching teams, 2 by MoE ranger staff, and 12 by NLC Biodiversity Monitoring Team members.



By the end of the breeding season, five separate nests had been located. Nests are considered successful if the breeding pair manage to fledge at least one healthy chick. This can either be confirmed either by direct observation in the field by a member of the nest monitoring team, or by camera trap evidence. Of these two nests successfully fledged one chick each. Two other nests were built and frequented by the breeding pair, however no eggs were ever observed, and the nests apparently abandoned by the breeding pair early to mid-way through the breeding season. One nest was built, and one egg laid, however for unknown reasons, the egg did not hatch, and eventually rotted.



All nests were found in the same Commune: Serei Mongkol commune. The nests were all located within fairly close proximity to each other, with the closest being approximately 2.2km apart, and the furthest being approximately 7.7km apart. The general habitat features of the area are of typical DDF forest with large clearings. The nests were all located close to the western Core Zone of the Wildlife Sanctuary, and as such are in an area with the least amount of human settlements or presence of people.



The deployment of Sarus Crane nest searching teams drawn from local communities was implemented with no issues and marked a significant increase in the mobilization of conservation efforts over previous years. Assisted by NatureLife Cambodia Biodiversity monitoring team members, these community-based teams received on-the-job supervision, ensuring the quality of data, as well as ensuring that protocols were

followed correctly. Camera trap monitoring again proved extremely useful, in the case of one nest, the result of fledging would have been unknown had it not been for the camera trap record of the fledged chick returning to the nest with parents.



CAMBODIA YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING MONITORING NETWORK

The Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*) is a critically endangered species that defined in IUCN red list. In Cambodia, this species is notified to see them in group in rainy season at cropped land, rice field, and grass land and they also stay along rice field area. It is recorded in some places as Takeo, Kratie, and Kampong Thom provinces. It is defined that the population was being declined due to hunting by using trap, nets, poisonous substance, and other ways for any purpose as food and selling to the market. It is known this small migratory bird are facing to decline more and more in Cambodia even it lacks of data in Cambodia and most of Asian region parts. On 10th September 2019, the national workshop was conducted in Cambodia in order to disseminate the status of Yellow-breasted Bunting in the world and collect inputs for conservation action. Result from this workshop was used as reference to develop Yellow-breasted Bunting Action plan.

Key Achievements within 2023:

- From December 2022 to May 2023, with funding support from Japan Bird Research Association, NatureLife Cambodia has build a network with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Sam Veasna Conservation, and Cambodia Bird Guide Association to conduct the first yellow-breasted bunting census in Cambodia. As result 4800 birds were recorded as maximum in Boeung Prek Lpov protected landscape. 300 birds recorded as maximum in Bakan Protected Landscape, 600 birds recorded in Baray BFCA, 150 birds recorded in Chikraeng BFCA, 800 birds in Chong Doung BFCA, and Preahood 100 birds. The result of census show that Cambodia provide key wintering sites for this critically endangered bird species.
- Promote profile and attracted more people to pay attention on yellow breasted bunting
- On 12 October 2023, Yellow Breasted Bunting stakeholders meeting was organized as result the Cambodia yellow breasted bunting monitoring network was formed and conduct bunting count in 2023 and 2024.
- Input to Yellow breasted bunting conservation plan and it was adopted by convention migratory species (CMS)
- Support bird watcher to count Yellow Breasted Bunting in new sites including Kratie and area around Tonle Sap.
- Submitted the proposal to Oriental Bird Club for organize the first training workshop on bird ranging in Cambodia.



Yellow-breasted bunting in Boeung Prek Lapouv



Bunting monitoring network meeting

STORY OF THE YEAR

Crane Rice initiative contribute to sarus crane conservation



Grasslands used to stretch across vast swathes of the Mekong delta in South-East Asia, annually flooding during the monsoon season, leaving pockets of wetlands that support a diverse range of waterbirds throughout the year. However, following decades of extensive conversion to agriculture – and more recently aquaculture – an ever-dwindling number of intact habitat patches remain.

South-eastern Cambodia's Kampong Trach is one of these. Straddling the border with Vietnam, this Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) is made up of over 1,000ha of seasonally inundated grasslands interspersed with *Melaleuca* scrub. Although home to a range of waterbirds, such as Oriental Darter and Black-tailed Godwit (both Near Threatened), it's most renowned for its globally important population of Sarus Crane (Vulnerable).

The largest of the crane family, Sarus Crane's sport a bright red head that contrasts sharply with its grey body, and combined with its spectacular courtship ritual, is one of Asia's most recognisable waterbirds. It occurs in three disjunct populations from India to northern Australia and is sadly declining across its range. The South-East Asian subspecies, *Sharpii*, in particular trouble. A combination of habitat loss and degradation, hunting and egg collecting has resulted in the crane becoming locally extinct in Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Its population now largely persists in Cambodia, where it's thought that to number only around 200 birds. Kampong Trach and the nearby Boeng Prek Lapouv – another IBA in danger that also supports an important population of Bengal Florican (Endangered) – are home to the country's most important wintering populations of Sarus Crane. Fortunately, much of the IBA is formally protected as part of the Anlung Pring Protected Landscape. However, its small size – combined with the fact it's surrounded by farms that regularly encroach on the wetlands and use high-levels of chemical pesticides that pollute its land and water – has left it highly threatened.

Sadly, these threats are reflected in the Sarus Crane population. 97 of these enigmatic cranes once fed in Kampong Trach and its adjacent rice paddies during the dry season, before journeying to Cambodia's northern plains to breed. However, this figure has steadily declined in recent years, and BirdLife Partner

NatureLife Cambodia's 2021 annual census of the species recorded a record low number of birds, with less than 100 cranes recorded in Kampong Trach.

NatureLife Cambodia quickly stepped into action to protect these threatened cranes, and alongside government partners (Ministry of Environment) that manage the Anlung Pring Protected Landscape, has started a new project to protect these cranes. At the heart of their efforts are training and encouraging farmers surrounding the IBA to comply with 12 criteria of Crane Rice and use bird-friendly farming methods, which include growing the native and crane preferred rice varieties, reduced the use of chemical substance or use the organic fertilisers, leaving a portion of their rice crops free for cranes to feed on and agreeing to not encroach on the protected area and not involved with illegal activities.

Known as 'Crane Rice', farmers that sign up are then able to sell their harvest for a premium. Although the scheme only began in 2022 – following a successful pilot project the year before – 100 farmers are already engaged in the project, increasing the area of healthy Sarus Crane habitat within the IBA by nearly a third. The use of synthetic fertilisers has also already significantly decreased, and NatureLife Cambodia is now trialling a new, more commercial rice variety, which will provide local communities with greater profits.

“Based on 2022, monitoring result, Anlung Pring attracted more than 50% of total Sarus Crane population in Cambodia and Vietnam and 82% of them foraged in crane rice fields for 132 days, this is a good sign to proof that Crane Rice scheme contribute to address food shortage” say Vorsak Bou, CEO of NatureLife Cambodia. “At the end 2022 harvest season, about 200 tons of rice were harvested, 85% of collaborated farmers happy and proud to involve with project due to it is not only help to save sarus crane but also contribute to improve the local livelihood” he added.

“Crane Rice is an excellent example of a partnership between local communities, government agencies and civil society, to secure the future of one of Southeast Asia's and Cambodia's most emblematic birds,” says Ding Li Yong, Flyways Coordinator at BirdLife Asia.

Alongside encouraging Crane Rice, NatureLife Cambodia has also trained various community members to patrol the IBAs important wetland sites alongside park rangers. It has also run various workshops and events with local schools and communities to raise awareness of the importance of healthy wetlands. Promisingly, despite the project still being in its infancy, there are already signs that the Sarus Crane population in the area is beginning to stabilise, offering fresh hopes to this iconic species.

Krong Buk Ratanakiri Rubber Development Joint Stock Company provide funding to establish the community forestry

Refer to their cooperate social and environmental responsibility, Krong Buk Ratanakiri Rubber Development Joint Stock Company (KRRC) provides funding to indigenous communities in Chhan and Kanat villages to establish Phnom Ton Torng Community Forestry, located in Taveng and Andong Meas district of Ratanakiri through NatureLife Cambodia. Covered an area of 2600 hectares, this forest is adjacent to this company's rubber plantation. Illegal land encroachment, hunting, and logging are the main threats that emerge in this forest. To cease the crime and protect the forest for the next generation, the above indigenous communities with support from NatureLife Cambodia have requested local authorities and the cantonment of forestry administration to establish community forestry. The agreement signing ceremony was done on 25 March 2023 at this rubber company office and presided by Taveng district governor, deputy director of Ratanakiri provincial department of agriculture forestry and fishery, deputy director of KRRC, CEO of NatureLife Cambodia, Representative of Oxfam Cambodia, Andong Mease district authorities, the cantonment of forestry administration, and communities. Mr. Sovann Thin (governor of Taveng district)

said that “ On behalf of the local authority, I am pleased to see the joined force between the private sector, NGOs, communities, and government focal points to protect and manage the community forest, I welcome this kind of initiatives to conserve wildlife and protect the forest available in Taveng district”. Thanks to Oxfam-Fair for All for financial this activity.



How empowerment and capacity-building of local communities is vital to the long-term strategy to conserve Critically Endangered White-shouldered Ibis in the Lomphat Landscape.

The White-shouldered Ibis *Pseudibis davisoni* was once widely distributed across South-East Asia, but, due mainly to the loss of Dry Deciduous Forest habitats, declined severely throughout the 20th century. Today it is almost exclusively confined to the dry forests of Northern and Eastern Cambodia, with potentially one very small population still existing on the island of Borneo. While sharing largely similar distribution to another related and also Critically Endangered species, the Giant Ibis, the White-shouldered Ibis differs ecologically as it appears heavily dependent on low-intensity, traditional agriculture land-use within the dry forest landscapes. This dependence means that it is most often found in the vicinity of rural villages, and therefore it’s survival is inextricably linked with communities and sustainable local practices. One area where White-shouldered Ibis have been holding on to healthy breeding populations is near the southern boundary of Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary around the village of Sre Chrey, in the Nang Khi Loek Commune of Mondul Kiri Province.

In 2019, the Ministry of Environment and NatureLife Cambodia formed an agreement to develop a REDD+ Project in Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary, and in 2022 NatureLife Cambodia secured the support USAID Morodok Baitang to begin implementing the project, including the biodiversity conservation long-term strategies. Mr Jeudi Say, the NatureLife Cambodia Senior REDD+ Coordinator recently spoke to many key local stakeholders in the Sre Chrey Village area, to find out how White-shouldered Ibis conservation was being achieved, the initial challenges that needed to be overcome, and the outlook for the future.

The village of Sre Chrey was until recently an isolated and remote location, and has a diverse ethnic mix of people, 37% of which are formed of a variety of Indigenous groups, including Stieng, Tompuonn, Charay, Bunong, and Kroal ethnicities. Since 2010, a new road was built, National Highway 76. The road passes relatively close to the Sre Chrey Village, and while dramatically improving the villages connection to the transport network, ushered in a new era of pressure on the forest and biodiversity. Previously tasked with the sustainable use of natural resources, law enforcement of PA laws became increasingly disconnected from the local community, and the problems often associated with PA enforcement surfaced.

Remembering the situation, the Sre Chrey Village Vice-Chief Mr Bunsorn Jouch, and Commune Council Mr Pov Munny, explained “the enforcement of forest crimes suffered from a lack of collaboration among the competent authorities, and the area was not well managed. It would often happen that the wrong doers would conspire, and it would end up that people who did not commit the crimes would be arrested. There was a lot of misunderstandings”. These misunderstandings resulted in significant friction between the community and PA authorities.

To turn the situation around, the community requested the assistance of the leading conservation NGO in Lomphat, NatureLife Cambodia to set up a formal community-run group to better manage the natural resources. Initially, the plan was to form a Community Protected Area, but this could not be fulfilled due to administrative legacy issues regarding the status of the village at District and Provincial levels. Undeterred, a Community-Based Organisation (CBO) was formed instead: the Sre Chrey Biodiversity Conservation Group (SBCG). Officially formed in 2017, the group is able to perform almost all of the functions of a CPA, and is designated to cover an area of around 2760 hectares. The main objectives of the SBCG are to monitor endanger species and protect biodiversity and natural resources.

Speaking in 2023, the current SBCG team leader, Mr Nhoeng Seng described the initial situation “the challenges have been that the perpetrators usually commit crimes such as poaching, logging or land clearance during the night. This has been very challenging for the SBCG team. Additionally, at the beginning the home-made guns were often used by the perpetrators against the group’s patrol teams.”

One aspect of the formation of this official group has been the platform and channel to communicate and collaborate directly with PA Law Enforcement teams, which were also overhauled and improved in LWS in 2017. Part of this has been the ability to clearly disseminate information about the PA laws to the community. Mr. Chakk In, MoE Ranger at Sre Chrey Sub-station observed that “for rangers who enforce the protected area law, it’s very difficult when the villagers do not know or understand the laws”. Mr Chakk was speaking from his experience working at the Ranger Sub-station Post, which was originally placed within the actual village of Sre Chrey around 2013, but to improve operation was moved to its current location, around 8 Km from the Sre Chrey Village in 2021. Also supported by NLC, the four Rangers permanently stationed there have been able to improve the alignment with the local community. Mr. Chakk In said that “the rangers have built good collaboration with local authorities and SBCG. The rangers have been reported about the serious crimes by the SBCG, village and commune authorities. This good collaboration has made them effectively enforce the law and intervene on time.”

The community themselves also have recognised this improvement in connectedness and relationship, not just with the Rangers, but many key stakeholder groups. On behalf of the commune council, Mr Pov Munny said since early 2022, he has tried his best to enhance collaboration between the villagers, the village authorities, and the Provincial Department of Environment, including holding monthly meetings, adding “the Village, Commune, SBCG group, and Rangers now have built good communications together, contacting and reporting to each other”. Key issues frequently addressed are collaboration in patrolling to prevent illegal forest encroachment, and by educating offenders to dissuade them from committing future crimes.

With this collaboration, Mr Nhoeng Seng, the SBCG group leader, hopes that the biodiversity can increase the forests preserved. Speaking about the group’s desire to see the development of the group through the support of the LWS REDD+ Project, he says he hopes that Sre Chrey can become the role model for other villages in the REDD+ project area. “The key to the good collaboration so far has been maintaining the constructive dialogue”, he added. Currently, there are six people including team leader, that make up the voluntary patrol group of the SBCG.

During the 2022-2023 breeding season, the group was proud to show that Sre Chrey had become the number one location in LWS for breeding White-shouldered Ibis, with six nests recorded in the local area, including some which were almost in sight from the villager’s houses. During the non-breeding wet season, the SBCG, alongside the NatureLife Cambodia biodiversity monitoring team have started to see the number of roosting White-shouldered Ibis increase again also.

Today, it is possible to visit White-shouldered Ibis nests, with the birds sitting unperturbed and unmolested just a short walk from the village, and the community are keen to develop tourism opportunities for keen bird-watchers. Without local willpower, this type of close coexistence of people and wildlife is impossible, but Sre Chrey and the SBCG has proven what communities can achieve when local stakeholders are aligned and working in the same direction, towards the same goals.



White-shouldered Ibis at home in their nests near to the Sre Chrey Village

NATURELIFE CAMBODIA FINANCIAL REPORT**FINANCIAL STATEMENT IN 2023**

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Fund Received from donors | 754,113.68 |
| Other income | 23,167.43 |
| Total Receipts | 777,278.36 |
| DISBURSEMENTS | |
| Personnel costs | 371,667.96 |
| Office supplies / Materials / Utilities | 8,735.30 |
| Telecom / Post / Internet | 3,735.84 |
| Community conservation | 244,033.03 |
| Workshops / Meetings | 87,354.29 |
| Equipment and supplies | 64,818.26 |
| Travel | 66,998.46 |
| Overhead | 2,090.00 |
| Audit | 76,706.09 |
| Sub-grant | 11,581.79 |
| Total Disbursement | 937,721.02 |
| Surplus / (Deficit) of receipts over disbursements | (160,442.66) |
| Fund balance as at beginning of year | 340,871.85 |
| Fund return | 0.00 |
| Fund balance as at end of year | 180,429.19 |
| Represented by: | |
| Cash at bank (CPB) | 167,976.08 |
| Cash at bank (ACLEDA) | 727.64 |
| Cash on hand | 1,287.68 |
| Staff & Sub-grant advance | 8,737.79 |
| Office rental deposit | 1,700.00 |
| Total | 180,429.19 |

NATURELIFE CAMBODIA STAFF

STAFF LIST IN 2023

| No | Name in Khmer | Name in English | Position | Phone number |
|----|------------------|------------------|---|--------------|
| 1 | ប៊ូ វរសក្យ | Bou Vorsak | Chief Executive Officer | 012 222 073 |
| 2 | ថុល សុវណ្ណារិទ្ធ | Thol Sovannarith | LWS-Project Manager | 099 551 156 |
| 3 | សយ ស្សីឌី | Say Jeudi | Senior REDD+ Development Coordinator | 070 343 443 |
| 4 | សាន ស៊ីនាង | San Sineang | Senior Tonle Sap Project Coordinator | 098 344 254 |
| 5 | លី សម្ពុស | Ly Samphors | Lower Mekong Wetland Project Coordinator | 092 500 698 |
| 6 | នី ណៃគី | Ny Naiky | Flagships Species Project Coordinator | 097 971 2567 |
| 7 | ប៉ាល់ ហុលី | Pal Holly | Senior Admin/Finance Officer | 017 228 337 |
| 8 | ណារី រចនា | Nary Rachana | Community Engagement Assistant | 015 453 495 |
| 9 | ហ៊ឹម លក្ខិណា | Him Leakhena | Admin/Finance Assistant | 017 518 356 |
| 10 | សន សារ៉ា | Son Sara | Finance Officer | 081 421 383 |
| 11 | បី ថុនា | Bi Thonea | Crane Rice Project Assistant | 010 574 523 |
| 12 | មៃ ផាន់នី | Mey Phanny | Tonle Sap Project Officer | 017 384 929 |
| 13 | វ៉ាន់ សីហា | Vann Seyha | Project Assistant | 097 947 7102 |
| 14 | ទឹម ហុន | Tem Hon | Senior Community Engagement FPIC and Livelihood Officer | 031 342 2555 |
| 15 | មុត ស្រីមុំ | Muth Sreymom | Biodiversity Project Officer | 077 758 181 |
| 16 | ហ៊ឹម យុននី | Him Khunny | Community Support Officer | 017 490 384 |
| 17 | ប៉ោយ សុម៉ាលី | Bao Somaly | Admin/Finance Assistant | 088 746 4207 |
| 18 | រឿន វ៉ាន់ថេត | Roeun Vanthet | Senior SMART and Data Management Officer | 097 268 2642 |
| 19 | ម៉ោញ ពេជ្រ | Mogn Pech | Law Enforcement Support Officer | 097 875 1555 |
| 20 | វុទ្ធី វិចិត្រ | Vuthy Vichet | Biodiversity support project assistant | 097 522 9876 |
| 21 | មួង ប៊ុនម៉ាត | Mourng Bunmart | Community Support Officer | 088 510 2210 |
| 22 | ញិន វិរិយៈ | Gnin Viriyak | Community Support officer | 097 977 0876 |

| | | | | |
|----|-------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| 23 | មាស បញ្ញា | Meas Panha | FMT Supporter | 096 791 5301 |
| 24 | មហា កុម្មុះ | Moha Kompheak | Vulue Chain and Coordination Officer | 069 965 458 |
| 25 | សៀន សុភី | Souen Sophy | Cleaner | 017 603 084 |
| 26 | ប៊ុន ធី | Bun Thy | Guard | 088 448 1116 |



Governing board meeting



NLC staff 2023

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