

Q4 2020

Keo Seima REDD+ Project **Impact Report**

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**Wildlife
Conservation
Society**

2020 Impacts



Forest Patrol

- Additional 14 Community Patrol Teams were established, trained and equipped
- Conducted nearly 450 km of patrolling in the forests



Biodiversity Monitoring

- The population of 11 key species in the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS) were monitored between 2010 — 2020 using line transects
- A total distance of 1,260 km of line transects walked by five teams over six months
- Estimated 110 Elephants in the project area (450 left in Cambodia)



Community Development

- 20 villages signed agreements for spending REDD+ community development funds
- In this round of funding, each village will receive \$10,000, and community development activities funded by this begin in January 2021
- Three additional indigenous communal land titles (ICT) obtain pre-approval
- 33 farmers agreed to join Ibis Rice scheme

REDD+ community development fund delivers progress and encourages community engagement in conservation of the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary

As a direct result of payments made through the REDD+ community development fund, communities experience significant improvements in health and education services, access to clean water, and better infrastructure. The community is strongly involved in the prioritization and implementation of REDD+ activities and continues to be committed to forest and wildlife protection.

- ✓ 20 villages sign agreements to activate community development initiatives
- ✓ Boundaries marked to prohibit illegal activities and protect natural resources
- ✓ A rare and reassuring elephant herd sighting
- ✓ Verification of the final year of the first 10-year baseline period





20 villages sign agreements to activate community development initiatives

A critical part of the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary REDD+ investment involves engaging with local communities. During this period, all 20 REDD+ villages signed agreements — meaning they can receive funds for community development in proportion to the amount of income from carbon credit sales. In this round of funding, each village will receive \$10,000, and community development activities funded by this will begin in January 2021. The annual REDD+ community work plans and terms and conditions were discussed with communities before signing at an event attended by REDD+ community committees, community protected area committees, commune councillors, village chiefs, and other key stakeholders.

During this round of funding, the priority activities selected by the local communities, which take place through a transparent and participatory process, included support to small-scale ecologically sensitive businesses, home gardening, livestock raising and community patrolling. Additionally, the funding will support education and health, and small-scale infrastructure initiatives such as building pump wells, household water supply, and repairs to roads, schools, and meeting halls.



Highlights



Boundaries marked to prohibit illegal activities and protect natural resources

The Sre Preah Community Protected Area (CPA), which consists of over 200 families across three villages in the Sre Preah commune — OChra, Pu Char, and Pu Kong — brought forward improving the management of their borders as a high priority this past quarter. These CPAs, which give communities the right to directly manage and use forest resources in a sustainable way, were established in January 2019.

During Q4, The Sre Preah CPA management committee began to install signboards marking their CPA boundary in order to improve management and to deter illegal encroachment and other crimes. The signboards serve to inform people of the CPA boundaries, detail prohibited activities, and explain the importance and the need to protect natural resources.

Wildlife Conservation Society facilitated the production of 250 CPA boundary signboards following a request from the Sre Preah community committee for posting along Sre Preah CPA border. Signboard installation was carried out by CPA committee members, the chief of the *ni e en f n i i v i n i e en f n v i n e n , i e e s , en f e en n g e s , e v i g e i e f , n i i f e n s e v i n i e s n* December 2-4, 2020. To date 63 out of 250 signboards have been nailed to trees along boundary of the CPA, and the rest will be installed in early 2021.





[Watch the Video Here](#)

A rare and reassuring Elephant herd sighting

Whilst walking in the south of Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary to collect non-timber forest products late last month, villagers from Pu Char village heard the sound of approaching elephants. They quickly climbed trees for safety and one of them, Mr. Poeun Koeun, immediately took out his smartphone to

The herd included at least 14 individuals, and several young elephants, and appeared in good physical condition. Herds are normally led by an older female, and often include her relations and their

Elephants across Cambodia are threatened by the destruction of the forest in which they live, which is often cut illegally for farms inside protected areas. With only 450 elephants left in Cambodia, it is

Verification of the final year of the first 10-year baseline period

The verification of the final year of the first 10-year baseline period is a critical step in the process. It involves a thorough review of the data collected during the baseline period to ensure its accuracy and reliability. This process is essential for the project to be able to claim VERs in the future.

The results of the verification show that the data is consistent with the previous years. This highlights the critical and urgent need for VER sales to scale, allowing for the project to strengthen its capacity to get out ahead of the very real and dangerous threat of deforestation.





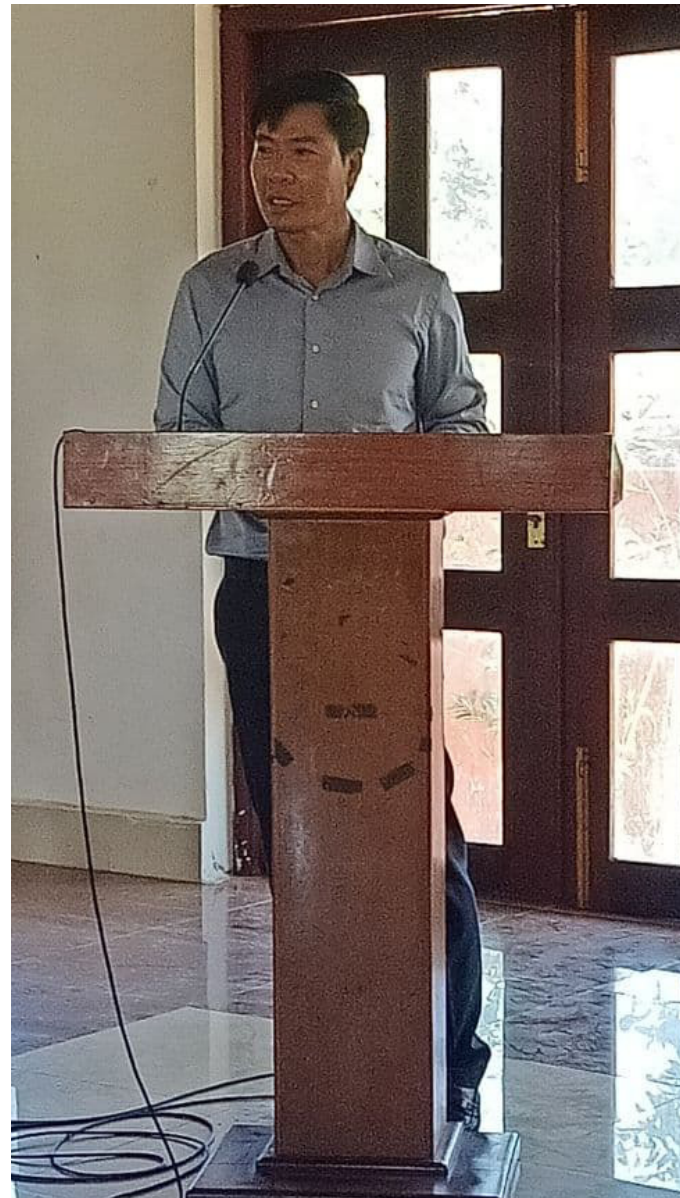
Strong support from local authorities will help improve the effectiveness of conservation work

Support from local authorities plays a critical role in supporting the conservation of the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary and community development in the REDD+ villages. There is an opportunity to increase the participation of local authorities in this important conservation work by collaborating with commune chiefs and local communities to integrate the workplan for the REDD+ community funds with the Commune Investment Plans (CIPs). This collaborative approach means that REDD+ activities get
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council while also bringing sub-national authorities into the KSWs REDD+ project.

- ✔ Integration and collaboration with local authorities to benefit the community
- ✔ Provincial spatial planning to balance prosperity and the protection of natural resources
- ✔ Restrictions from COVID-19 cause minor disruptions to field activities



Challenges



Integration and collaboration with local authorities to benefit the community

During this past quarter, Wildlife Conservation Society supported communities from 20 REDD+ villages to take part in a process of Commune Investment Plan development. This entailed ensuring the effectiveness, sustainability and efficiency of sharing funds in an integrated way.

In order to successfully implement the workplans for REDD+ community development funds, it was necessary to integrate the workplans with the commune workplans.

Through this process, each REDD+ village had the opportunity to identify which proposed activities had budget support from REDD+ funding and which activities would be best supported under the Commune Investment Plan (under the Ministry of Economy and Finance Commune Investment Fund).

This integration of REDD+ community development workplans into local Commune Investment Plans is a significant step in ensuring the effectiveness of the activities, as well as ensuring that sharing activities in REDD+ villages are successfully integrated into the Commune Investment Plans.



Provincial spatial planning to balance prosperity and the protection of natural resources

development in the Mondulikiri Province.

Due to the rapid pace of development in the Mondulikiri Province, forests such as the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary are at risk from unplanned developments — such as illegal settlements, new road construction or upgrading, and the construction of inappropriately located ecotourism facilities.

To address these issues, the provincial government is implementing measures by the Mondulikiri provincial government to help develop a spatial plan for Mondulikiri (2020–2040). Provincial spatial planning aims to determine the future spatial structure of the province and assigns responsibilities for the future has been elaborated based on situation analysis, existing planning documents elaborated by provincial administration and line departments, and consultation with key stakeholders.

The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss with the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC) the critical importance of preventing infrastructure development in the core of conservation zones of KSWs and to avoid overlap with the KSWs REDD+ project area.



Restrictions from COVID-19 cause minor disruptions to field activities

There were two small COVID-19 community outbreaks in Phnom Penh during November and December 2020, which caused some disruption to activities at the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary. As a precaution, Wildlife Conservation
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leading to delays in implementation of activities. Some activities, such as the consultation on use of the REDD+ community development funds and the signing of agreements, were able
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while others have been postponed until conditions are more suitable.

WCS continues to ensure that activities are conducted in line with current government recommendations and that the safety
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prioritized. The number of people attending in-person meetings have been reduced, which makes the dissemination of project activities to the wider community more challenging.



Impact Over Time



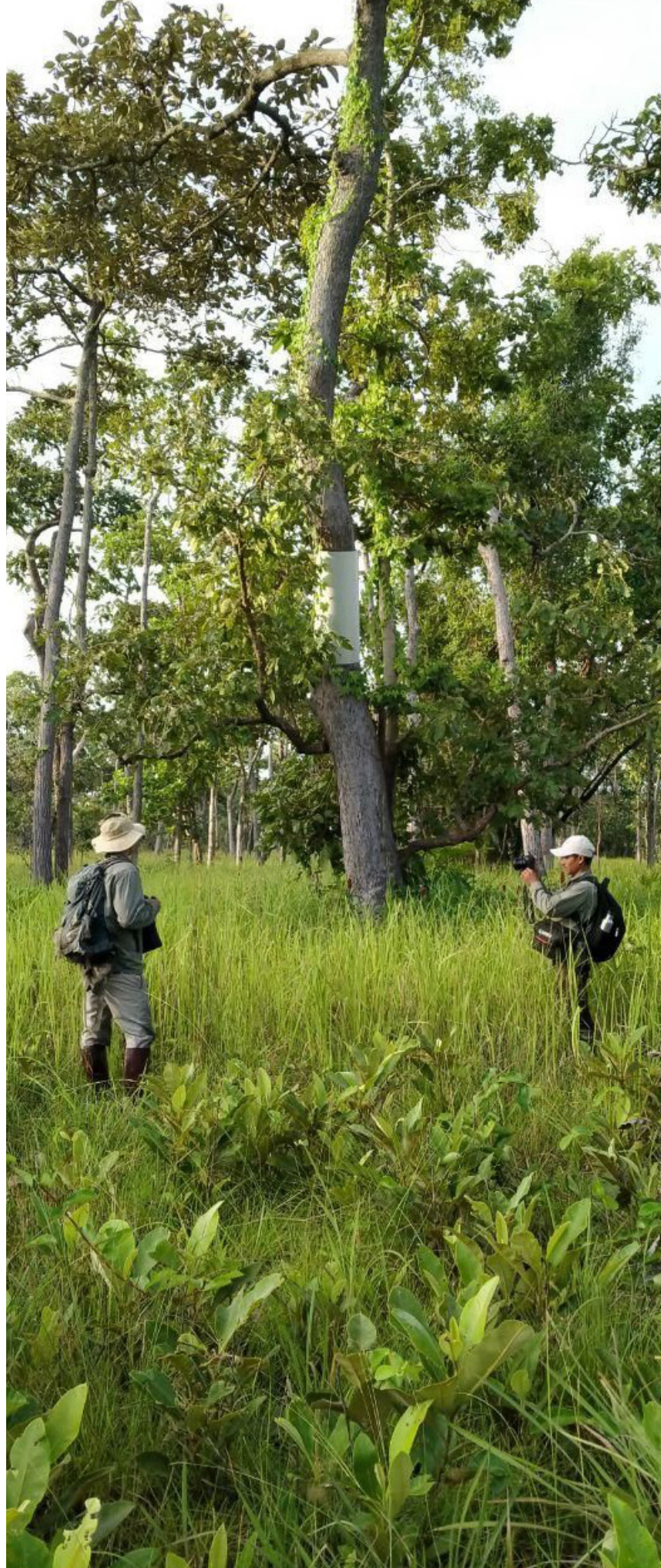
Forest Impacts



25,000 hectares of deforestation avoided since 2010



12,763 Community members trained on a wide range of sustainable natural resource management skills, including NTFP collection and bamboo harvesting, ecotourism service provision, and community patrol team skills



Wildlife Impacts



- ✓ **Highest** number of wildlife species recorded in any protected area in Cambodia
- ✓ World's **largest** stable populations of several charismatic primate species
- ✓ **Living** zonation process, with more than **40** spatial data layers



Impact Over Time

Community Impacts



- ✓ Preserved cultural identity and natural resources for over **2,500** households
- ✓ **449** jobs created through the project (law enforcement and community agents)
- ✓ Indigenous community land titles for **7** Bunong communities, **6** more under review by MoE and **4** in process
- ✓ Established the Jahoo Gibbon Ecotourism Camp, bringing more than **\$14,000** annually in community income



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One forest at a time**

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