

**EVER
LAND**

Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project, Cambodia

Impact Report Q4 2019



WILDLIFE ALLIANCE

Direct Protection to Forests & Wildlife

Q4 2019 Summary



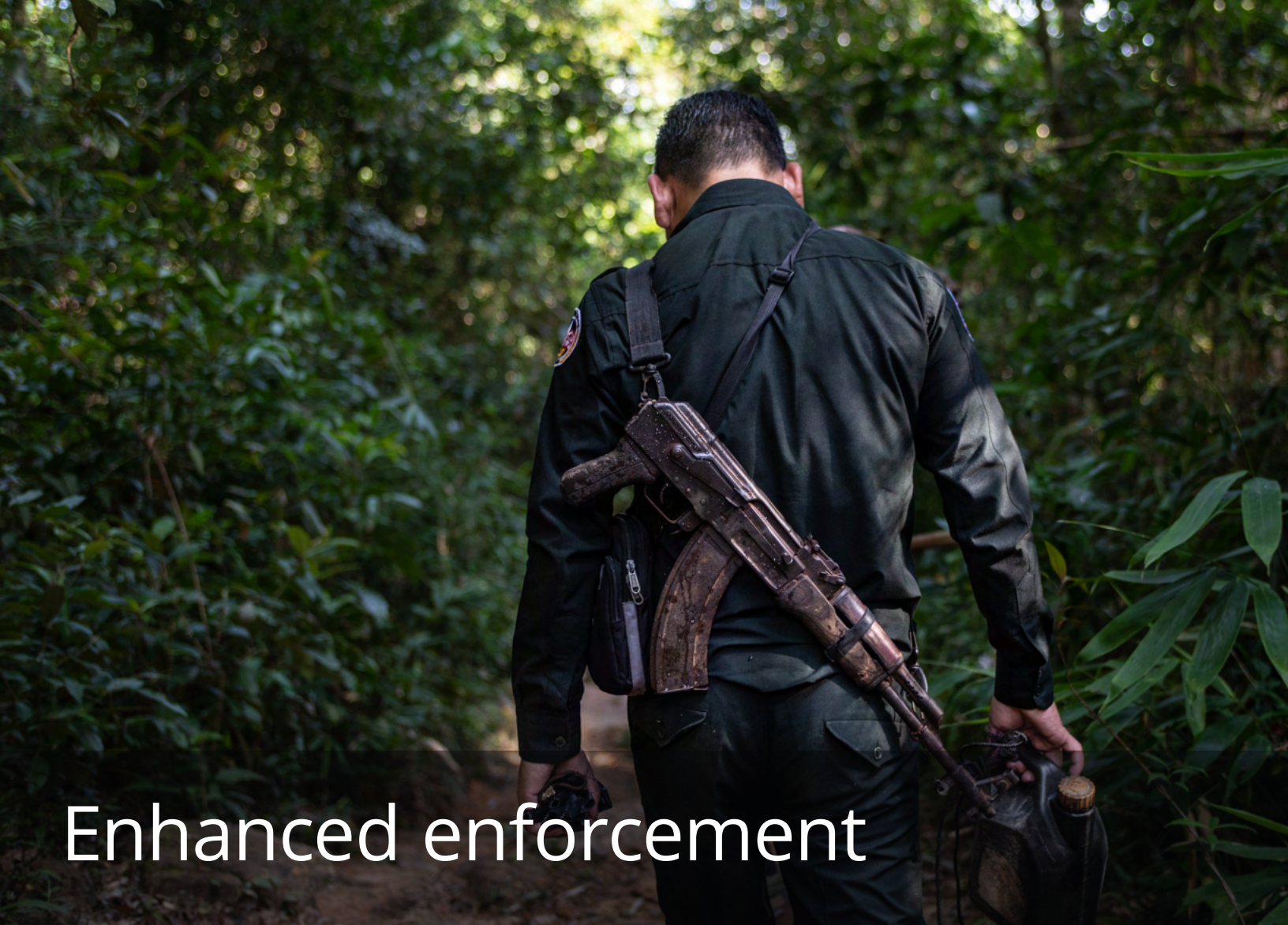
Enhanced law enforcement effectiveness

Wildlife Alliance are the global leaders in Direct Protection of Forests and Wildlife in Tropical Asia, and Asia needs effective enforcement. Weak government, the pervasive impact of Chinese investment, and the rapid growth of the consumer class throughout Asia are massively increasing pressure on the region's wild places. The biggest current driver of deforestation in the Cardamoms is investment driven land speculation.

**1,193 Patrols
conducted in 3
months from
nine ranger
stations**

**Protected
Area Land Use
Zoning for
Tatai Wildlife
Sanctuary
completed**

**Two major
Chinese backed
infrastructure
developments
inside the REDD+
zone halted**



Enhanced enforcement



The best way to protect tropical forests is through effective law enforcement patrolling. The Wildlife Alliance has led enforcement across the Cardamom Landscape since 2001. During Q4 2019 the project used REDD+ funding to open two new law enforcement stations to enhance protection of the previously lawless northern flank of the Southern Cardamom Mountains.



Twenty seven new rangers are in the forest 24/7 protecting the natural heritage from anarchic illegal logging and land speculation. In just 3 months these stations conducted 373 patrols, confiscated 307 illegal chainsaws, removed 2,562 lethal hunting snares, and took 23 serious wildlife and forest offenders to court.



Wonderful wildlife

The Cardamom Rainforest is one of Asia's most important landscapes for wildlife conservation. During Q4 2019 continued camera-trapping in the landscape recorded some very special species.

Confirmation of the recovering and breeding **Asian Elephant** population, healthy numbers of the iconic hyper-carnivore **Cinamon Wolf**, and excitingly Cambodia's first record of one of the planet's most mysterious bird species – the enigmatic **White-Eared Night Heron**.





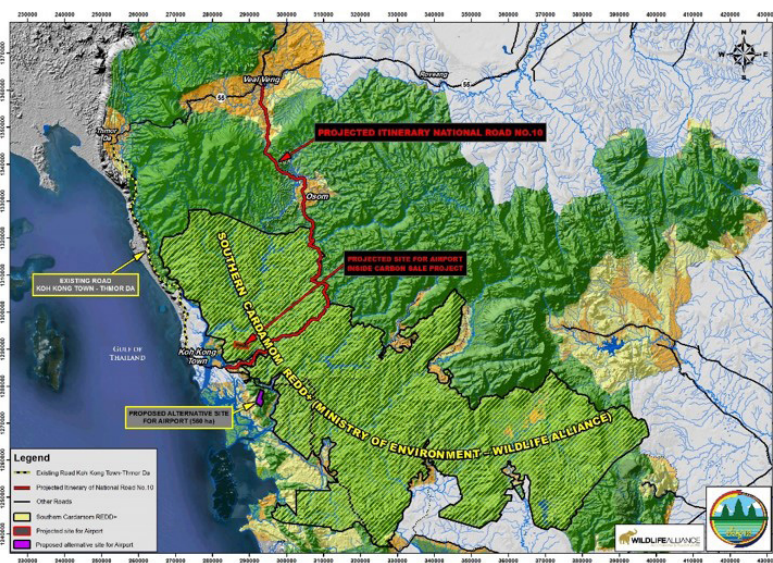
Our people

In December Wildlife Alliance celebrated the 20th anniversary of their work in Cambodia with a celebration at their Areng Community Based Ecotourism Project. In 20 years they have achieved a phenomenal amount. The landscape continuity of the Cardamom Rainforest has been secured with the creation of new protected areas, their law enforcement has achieved Zero Poaching of elephants, and their highly successful award-winning community tourism and agricultural project continue to lift communities out of poverty. None of this would be possible without the commitment of their more than 100 Cambodian staff who remain the essence of everything they do.

Challenges / Opportunities

1. Infrastructure & China

China is Cambodia's biggest investor and the country is central to The Belt and Road Initiative—the largest infrastructure project in Human History. Much of this infrastructure is planned with minimal Environmental Impact Assessment or understanding of conditions on the ground. During Q4 2019 Wildlife Alliance successfully fought two proposed developments (a road and an airport) which were planned for inside the REDD+ Project Area. These were fought with political advocacy and meticulous on-the-ground planning and mapping. This work is critical to maintaining the Rainforest for people, wildlife, and climate stability.

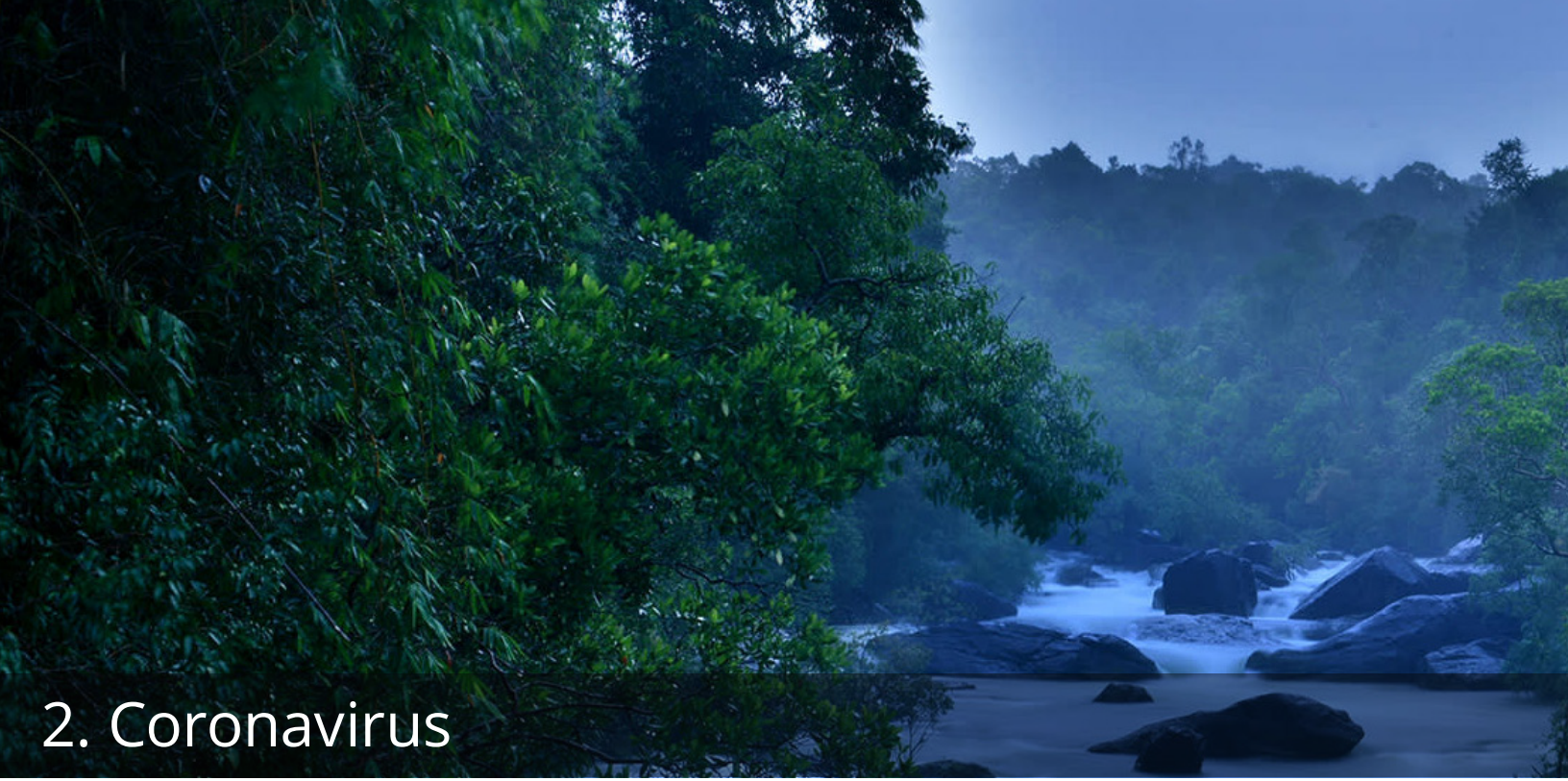


Map of proposed infrastructure



Field Visit led by Wildlife Alliance CEO and attended by two Royal Government of Cambodia Ministers





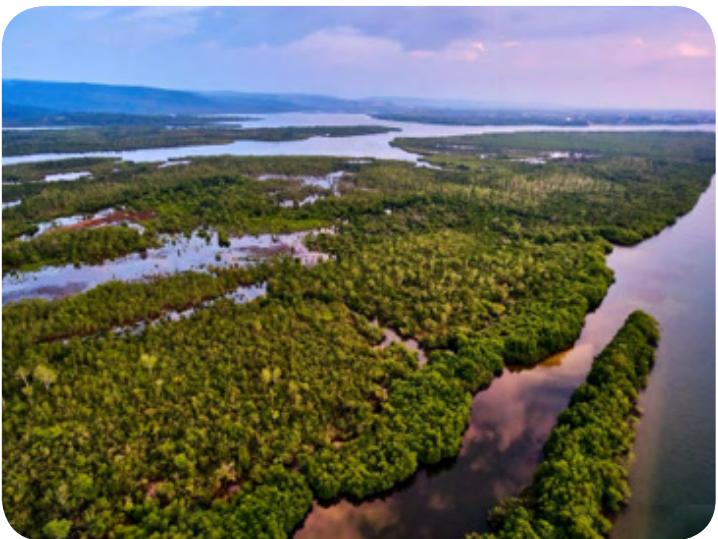
2. Coronavirus

The global Coronavirus outbreak is both an opportunity and a challenge for the Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project. Their most impactful community livelihood intervention is Eco-Tourism: in 2019 a total of 5,961 visitors generated \$US 235,000 for 12 communities. A global travel shut-down would likely impact these benefits. On the plus side the biggest impact to the landscape's wildlife is the Illegal Wildlife Trade particularly snaring. They hope that the clear links between consumption of wildlife and public health may present an opportunity to more effectively deal with the devastating wildlife trade.

Opportunity



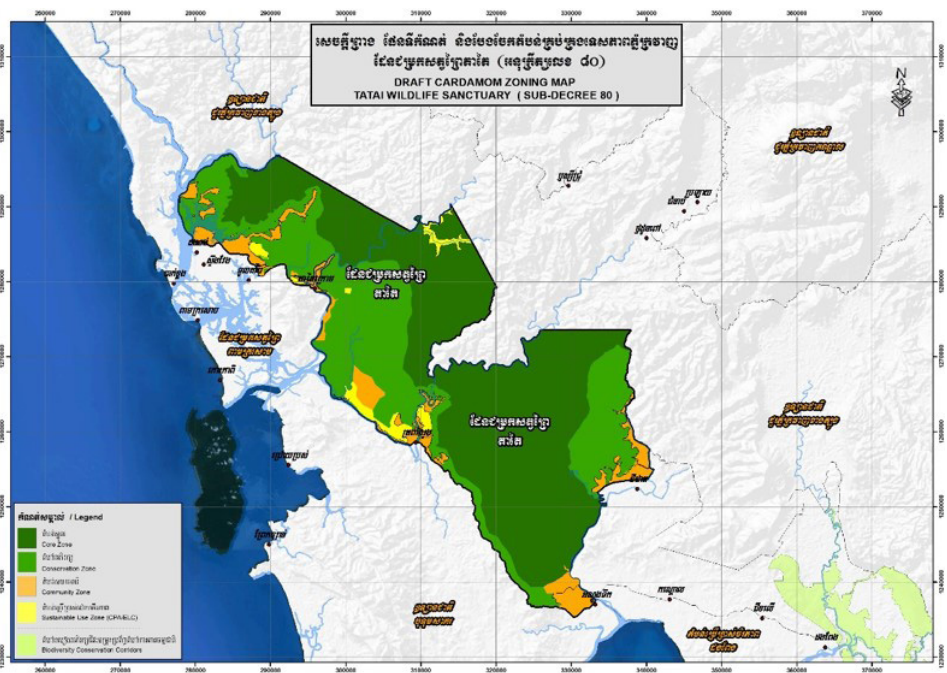
Challenge





3. Protected area zoning

The unambiguous zonation of the Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project Area is critical to both ensuring effective law enforcement and providing fair livelihood opportunities for local communities. During Q4 2019 the project completed the essential zoning of Tatai Wildlife Sanctuary (~ 144,000 hectares of the Project Area). This is a long and meticulous labour of love involving engagement of stakeholders at all levels - peasants to ministers. The zoning (see map below) was signed off in early 2020 providing an opportunity to more effectively protect the forest through enforcing Cambodia’s Protected Area Law whilst also giving secure land tenure to more than 5,000 poor families.





Impacts over time



Forest



Wildlife

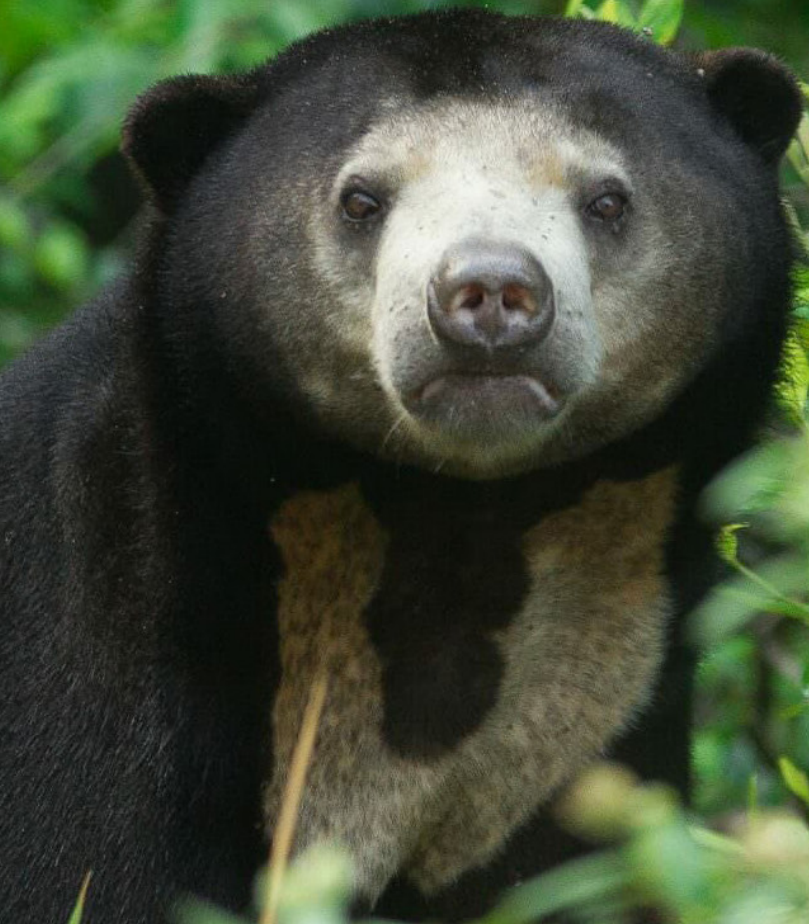


Community

3,562 land encroachment cases brought	227,726 wildlife snares removed	\$428,628 annual income to 15 villages as a direct result of Community Based Ecotourism (CBET) - 2018
3,083 chainsaws confiscated	5,031 illegal hunting camps dismantled	515 families in 12 villages fully or partially supported by CBET in Chi Phat and Chay Areng
4,806m3 of timber seized	6,171 live wildlife rescued	63% of community management positions in CBET / CADP held by women
50,881 logs seized	Zero poaching of Asian elephants (2006-)	
Annual deforestation rate reduced to <0.3% (vs. nat average ~4%)		



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One forest at a time**

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