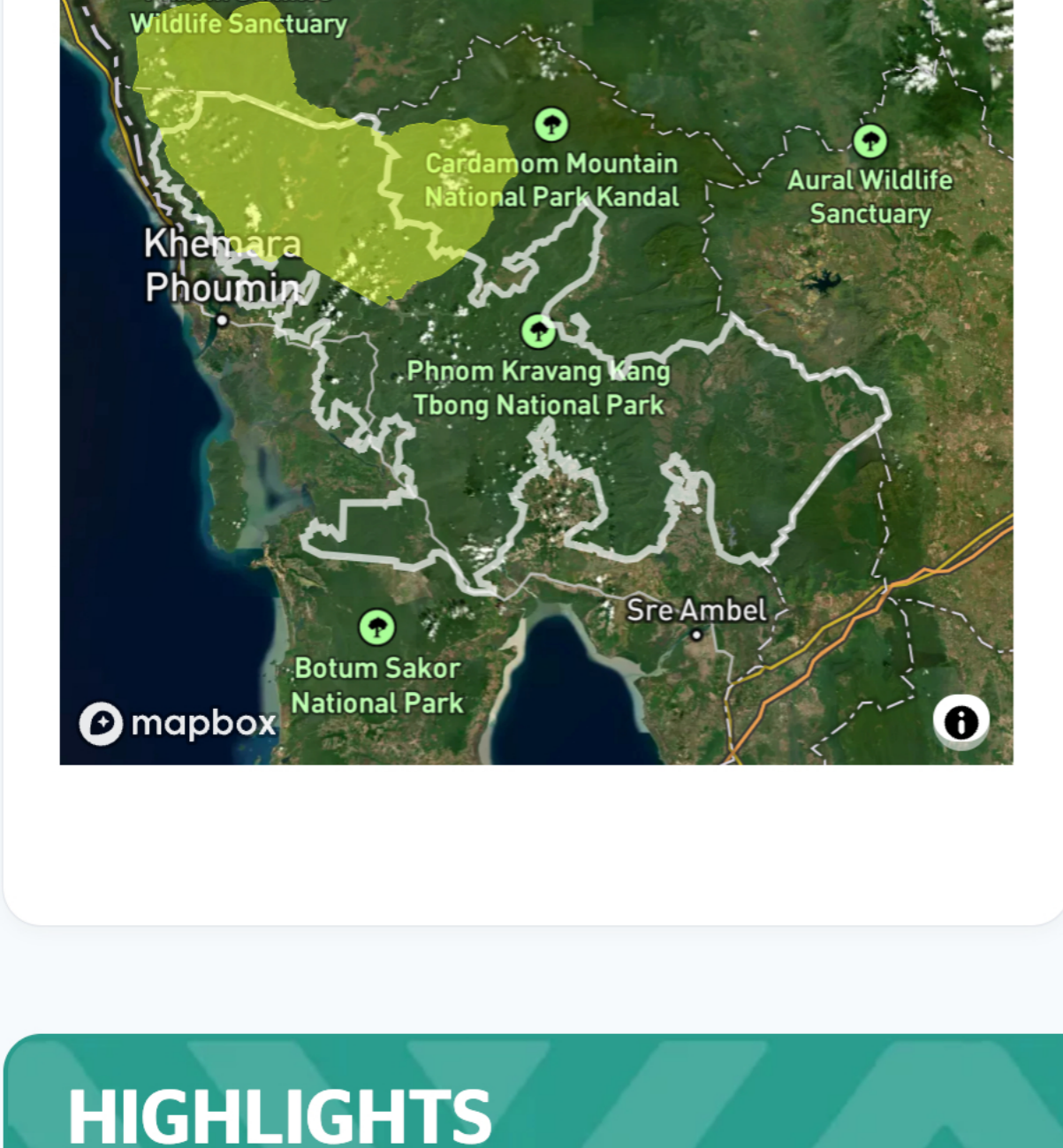




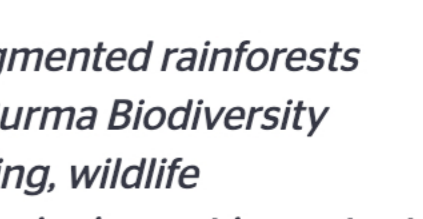
HALF YEARLY IMPACT REPORT

SOUTHERN CARDAMOM REDD+ PROJECT

Q3 - Q4 2022



Summary



The Cardamom Rainforest Landscape is one of the last unfragmented rainforests remaining in Southeast Asia and is a critical part of the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot. This area is globally significant for ecosystem servicing, wildlife conservation, and community livelihoods and serves as the region's most important watershed, climate regulator and carbon sink.

Important community infrastructure has been established during the last two quarters, including a significant water well, various village roads, a series of new toilets, and new chicken coops for the Community Livestock Raising project. A recent scholarship student is excelling in his studies. Recent sightings of gibbons at three ranger stations highlight the importance and impact of the enforcement program. Community outreach is initiated as part of the tiger reintroduction program following the official sign-off of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the governments of Cambodia and India.

(Map: Tiger Core Reintroduction Zone highlighted in yellow)

HIGHLIGHTS

21 families implement chicken raising as part of the Community Livestock Raising Project

The Chhay Louk village in O'som commune is located at the intersection of the Southern Cardamom REDD+ project and the Phnom Samkos REDD+ project (currently under development). The community members in this region are economically disadvantaged and have a history of conducting slash-and-burn agriculture and poaching endangered species, viewing the protected forest as a free resource.

Over the last two quarters, 21 families in this village signed up to participate in a sustainable chicken-raising program following initial community outreach and feasibility studies conducted by Wildlife Alliance in the spring. This feasibility assessment included a regional market analysis to assess the agricultural products with the best return on investment for the communities. Based on initial results, the communities were consulted to discuss the most appropriate opportunities - ultimately deciding on chicken raising, which has been unsuccessful in the past due to limited knowledge of best practices.

As part of the chicken raising program, the participating families have agreed to not undertake illegal logging or poaching and are committed to following the technical training and procedures to ensure the program is successful. Thus far, each family has received detailed training on chicken raising and chicken coop set-up techniques and have been provided with the following equipment and materials:

- 1 set of vaccines
- 1 set of chicken coops and heating cabinets
- 50 chicks, 2 roosters and 10 hens
- 9 bags of chicken food
- 4 water cups and 4 food cups
- 5 incubator eggs for test

This program represents an important income stream for communities through the selling of chicken and eggs, while also providing a nutritious, sustainable food source. The project team is also assisting in the facilitation of market sales, ensuring the community receives reasonable prices for their products. Based on the initial success, the project is planning to offer this program to an additional 10 families in 2023.

The Forest Plan Pillars



COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

Sustainable Development Goals



DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH ZERO HUNGER



Inauguration of a large water well and three village roads in Chi Phat commune

On January 18, 2022, a ceremony was held in Chi Phat commune to inaugurate a large-scale solar pumped water well for 176 families living inside the rainforest of the Cardamoms, with a 10,000L storage capacity. The ceremony was attended by Wildlife Alliance staff, community members, village chiefs, the Koh Kong Deputy Provincial Governor, the Deputy District Governor of Thmar Bang, and the MoE (Ministry of Environment) Undersecretary of State and National REDD+ Focal Point (Chuop Paris).

This ceremony also celebrated the building of three new roads which enable access to markets and hospitals for 638 families. This event highlights the important role that the Southern Cardamoms REDD+ project plays in supporting 29 villages from the sale of carbon credits.

"Access to water was a huge challenge for families in Kamlot village before. Every year, villagers used to face a long struggle with water shortages. Each family would spend an average of \$2.50 per day to buy drinking water. By having access to water, their quality of life will be greatly improved." - Mr. Men Vibol, Deputy Commune Chief of Chi Phat

Since 2021, the Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project has constructed a total of 43 water wells bringing water to 11 villages, directly benefiting around 3,627 people. The project team conducts regular commune consultations to establish which infrastructure improvements would be most beneficial, depending on local challenges.

The Forest Plan Pillar



COMMUNITY

Sustainable Development Goals



CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

The first toilets built improve sanitation for hundreds of community members

As part of the Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project's commitment to improving sanitation for beneficiary communities, the project has built 74 new toilets in the Chhay Areng valley area, where toilets have never existed before:

- 38 in Chamna village
- 30 in Samraong village
- 2 in Chamna village
- 2 in Pralay commune hall
- 2 in Thmor Daunpov commune hall

Without these toilets, the community members are forced to relieve themselves in the surrounding forests, which can be problematic for a variety of reasons. First, there is a high potential to contaminate the watershed as areas along the riverbed are commonplace for natural toilets. Additionally, women and girls face privacy concerns, often feeling forced to go under the cover of the night. Unfortunately, this can be very dangerous as there have been many incidents of women and girls being attacked at night by both men and wild animals. By providing vital access to sanitation, particularly for women and girls in the Shhay Areng area, these risks are being mitigated.

An additional 14 toilets will be built in the coming months, including 3 school toilet blocks.

The Forest Plan Pillar



COMMUNITY

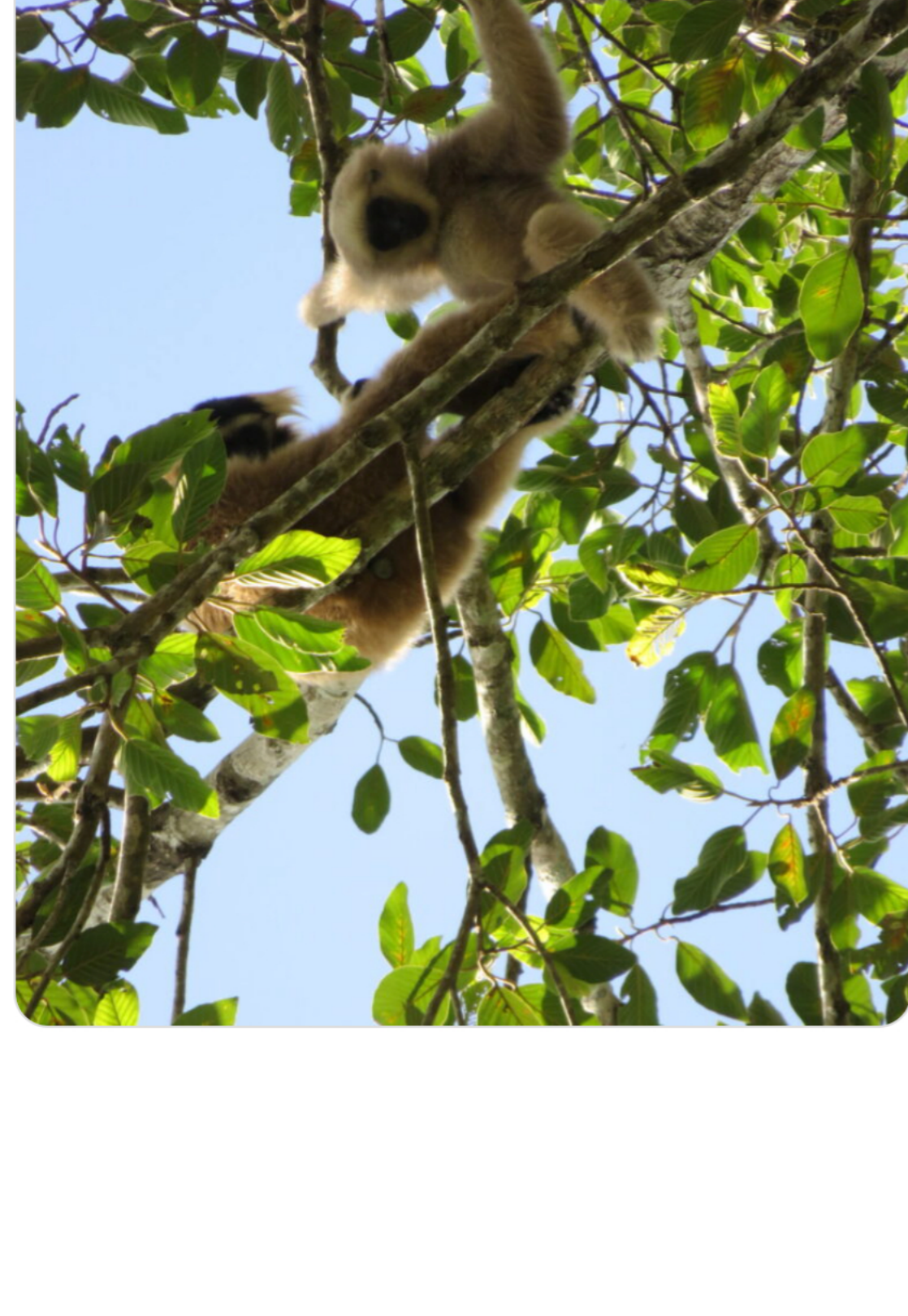
Sustainable Development Goals



CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION GENDER EQUALITY



OPPORTUNITIES



Return of gibbon calls and sightings

Before the REDD+ project, poaching was a significant issue in the Cardamom mountains. The forest was silent - no gibbon songs could be heard. Gibbons - particularly the pileated gibbon (*Hylobates pileatus*: IUCN RED List Endangered) are threatened by poachers who capture them for the exotic pet trade. They are commonly seen in cages or chained to trees in front of villas in Cambodia and Vietnam as a status symbol.

The Wildlife Alliance rangers have worked tirelessly to reduce poaching in the region. Recently, rangers from 3 stations have observed a notable increase in gibbon presence after years of absence. This can be directly attributed to effective law enforcement that stopped the destruction of their habitat and allowed the rainforest to regrow. Calls and sightings in both early morning and evening are the results of the rangers' efforts to stop forest encroachment, illegal logging, and wildlife poaching.

Increased gibbon calls and sightings have been observed at the following sites:

- Preik Nornoung and Damnak Koh for the Stung Proat Ranger Station
- Kampong Som valley around Kongcha village for the Sre Ambel Ranger Station
- O'Vorl Pein on other side of the reservoir for O'som Ranger Station

The Forest Plan Pillar



WILDLIFE

Sustainable Development Goal



LIFE ON LAND

Hard work paid off: one of the Scholarship Students funded by the Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project receives Grade A at the university

Mr. Thorn Khak (O'som village) started his bachelor's degree in Agriculture Science at the Royal University of Agriculture (RUA) in February 2022 after receiving a full university scholarship for 2022-2026 from the Southern Cardamom REDD+ project.

He has been hard at work and is now one of the outstanding students at RUA where he passed his end-of-year exams with Grade A. He has enjoyed his studies so much that he intends to pursue his master's degree in Agriculture in the United States if the opportunity arises. He wants to bring agricultural knowledge to the community where he lives.

The Forest Plan Pillar



COMMUNITY

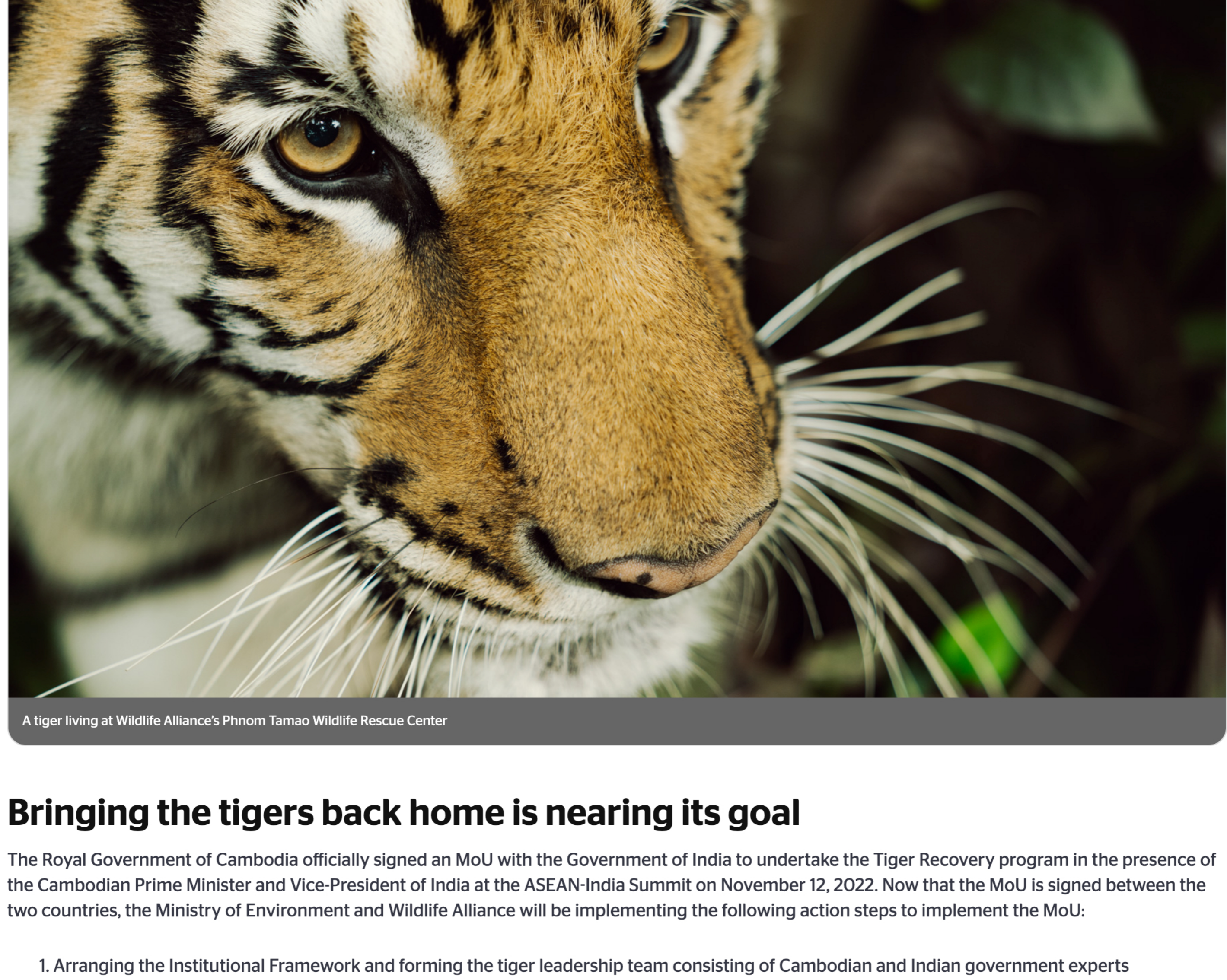
Sustainable Development Goal



QUALITY EDUCATION



CHALLENGES



Bringing the tigers back home is nearing its goal

The Royal Government of Cambodia officially signed an MoU with the Government of India to undertake the Tiger Recovery program in the presence of the Cambodian Prime Minister and Vice-President of India at the ASEAN-India Summit on November 12, 2022. Now that the MoU is signed between the two countries, the Ministry of Environment and Wildlife Alliance will be implementing the following action steps to implement the MoU:

1. Arranging the Institutional Framework and forming the tiger leadership team consisting of Cambodian and Indian government experts
2. Writing the Action Plan for Tiger Recovery (which will include the results of the Feasibility Assessment)
3. Conducting Capacity Building Training for long-term release monitoring and database
4. Strengthening the tiger prey base
5. Awareness raising among the communities
6. Identifying Tiger Source Population in protected areas in India
7. Relocating tigers to the Cardamoms and reintroducing them into the habitat
8. Implementing Post Release Monitoring and Scientific Backstopping

Importantly, as part of the community engagement (Step 5), the project will be establishing a special team to conduct three rounds of visits to schools and villages, with particular focus on villages near the tiger core zone. The closest village is 20 km from this zone, and a total of three villages are expected to be impacted by the reintroduction. A livestock compensation fund is currently being developed to provide financial assistance to those who may encounter tigers once released into the wild. The tiger enclosure is ready, pending a few minor improvements.

Given the scale of this effort, REDD+ revenues will be a vital financial resource to ensure the success of this program.

The Forest Plan Pillars



WILDLIFE GOVERNANCE

Sustainable Development Goal



LIFE ON LAND

