



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2023**



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SIEM PANG
EXPERIENCE
CO.LTD

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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Message from the Chairman - Dominic Scriven OBE

Dear friends of Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, following the strategic high notes that brought 2022 to a close, the focus in 2023 has been on roll-out and delivery. Our mandate from the Ministry of Environment is now clear: conserve the Sanctuary, engage with local stakeholders, and develop evidence that private sector conservation of natural habitats can work both for communities and the Nation. A tall order, I'm sure we all agree, most particularly in Southeast Asia, where there is a dearth of reliable and proven role models. Thus we must add a twist of pioneering entrepreneurialism to the Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary mix.

Our four active legal entities, Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd, Rising Phoenix Conservation Inc. in the USA, Siem Pang Conservation, and Siem Pang Experience, are now up and running. Jonathan, Meng, and John deal further with these in this report. Amazingly, our combined headcount at Rising Phoenix is now close to 100 staff. We have offices in Siem Pang, Phnom Penh, and the USA. All expenditure plans are funded by grants/investments from governments, endowments, friends and directors. In 2023 we successfully disbursed some US\$1.35 million. Much of this enterprise is conducted by mail, zoom,

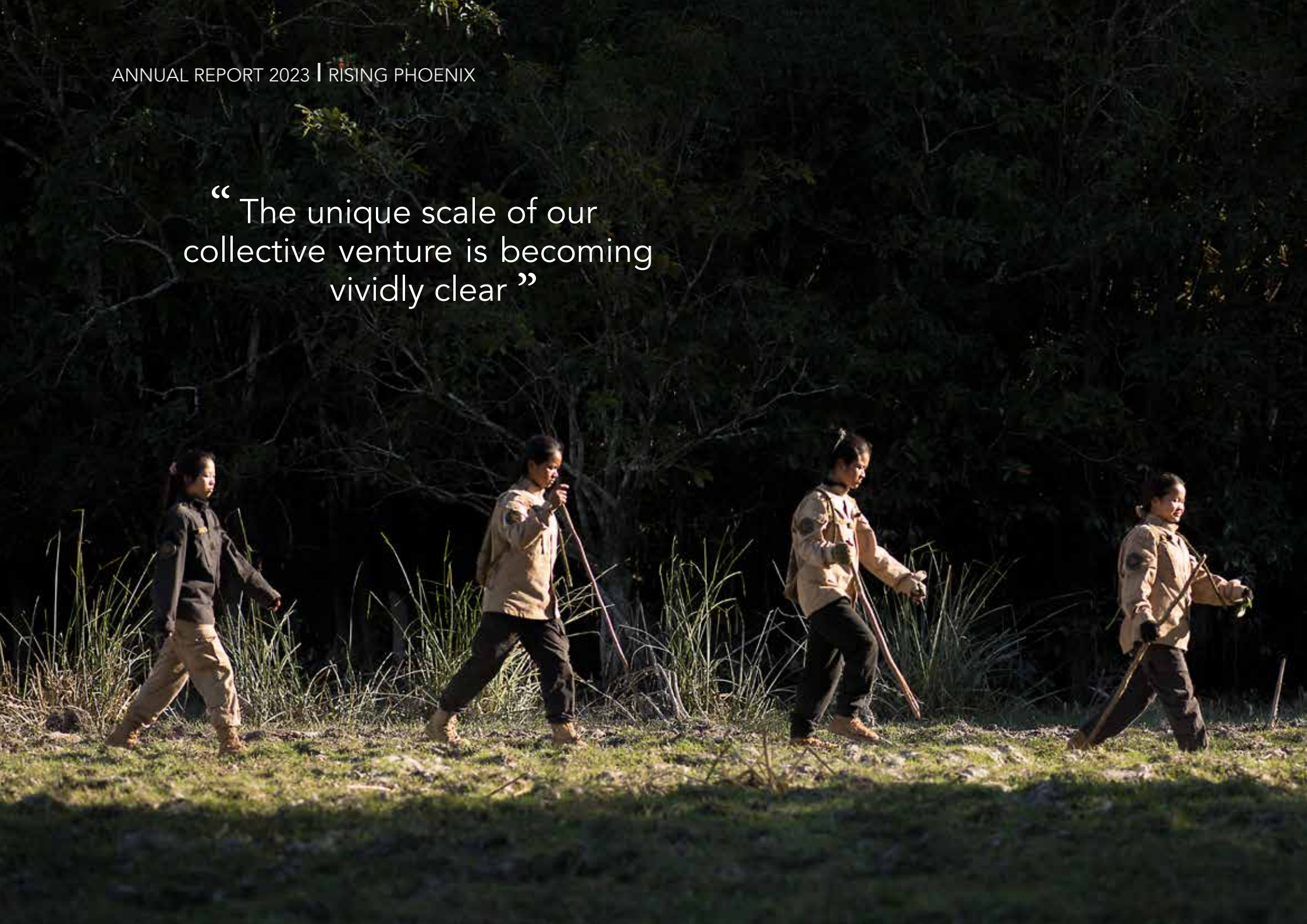
appointment and submission. But it is only when one is actually in the forest, on a snare patrol with our young indigenous female scouts; following chief tracker Mai through the early morning bird calls or seeing the nests made by newly released crocodiles, that the unique scale of our collective venture becomes vividly clear.

2024 is now underway, and Rising Phoenix has US\$2.5m of planned budget disbursements, including construction of 42 km of border fence. The Siem Pang Experience will be starting construction on the Siem Pang Forest Lodge, together with its own airstrip. These undertakings will require deep focus, determination, flexibility and patience. As ever, on behalf of all of us, please allow me to thank Jonathan, Meng and John for their energy and inspiration; the entirety of our enthusiastic team for their dedication, and of course all of our friends and supporters, who provide light and warmth when the path seems dark and cold.

Dominic

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'D' followed by a series of vertical lines and a final upward stroke.

“The unique scale of our
collective venture is becoming
vividly clear”



Message from the CEO - Jonathan C. Eames OBE

Working with such a great team and having strong support from our donors is a privilege. It does however, make picking highlights from the year ever more difficult. Looking back over the year, three events stood out, demonstrating our collective excellence in delivering conservation and sound protected area management. The first breeding in the wild of our released Siamese crocodiles is tremendously encouraging and shows that our project is succeeding. The further expansion of the IBIS Rice project to new villages has resulted in Siem Pang District, accounting for 70% of total IBIS Rice production in 2023. Thirdly, the removal of over 4,300 snares by the scout team demonstrates their value and what a well-trained, highly motivated and professionally managed team can accomplish.

The attempts at breeding by our re-wilded Siamese crocodiles was notable. We recorded six nests, but sadly all were predated by water monitor lizards and wild pigs. Nest failure is a common occurrence amongst young female Siamese crocodiles. However, they have a long breeding lives ahead of them, laying several hundred eggs during the course of their lifetime, and we hope for future success. In 2023 we released a further 22 Siamese crocodiles into the restored Boeung Khampa and further

habitat restoration and crocodile releases are planned for 2024.

In 2023 we embarked on a second species reintroduction project for the Endangered elongated tortoise. This project is more accurately termed a species reinforcement since the species still occurs in the Sanctuary but in much diminished numbers. This project is a collaboration with the Angkor Centre for the Conservation of Biodiversity. During the year, we constructed a one hectare soft-release enclosure at a remote location and transferred 100 captive bred tortoises. Each tortoise had passed a blood test in an overseas laboratory to ensure no pathogens could be inadvertently introduced into the ecosystem. Despite the legendary slowness of tortoises, the enclosure is required to acclimatize and settle the animals to prevent them dispersing too widely.

During 2023 we developed and expanded our species monitoring programmes. In April, we welcomed Andre Botha from the Endangered Wildlife Trust in South Africa to assist with fitting GSM trackers to a number of vultures. By the year's end we had tagged ten vultures, including two red-headed vultures which were lured using lifelike decoys. This work is supported by Fondazione A.R.C.A. (Animal Research Conservation in Action) from Italy.

We worked once more with Dr Paul Meek from the Government of New South Wales, who helped place over 50 camera traps in the deciduous dipterocarp forest to monitor our Eld's deer population.

In 2022 the Community Development Unit working with Samsun Mlup Prey made Siem Pang district the largest producer of IBIS Rice in Cambodia. In 2023 together with USAID Morodok Baitang, we were able to expand the number of villages in the scheme from 11 to 15. This resulted in 949 households selling 1,348 tonnes of paddy to IBIS Rice generating US\$ 530,504 in household income. In 2023 each household received US\$ 657 from paddy sales to IBIS Rice. In 2024 we will work with another Cambodian company, Agri House to pilot cricket production units in 50 households, using a similar modality to IBIS Rice; the company provides the inputs and extension training and buys the product, which is exported at a premium price benefiting the households, and Rising Phoenix undertakes the compliance.

The Logistics Support Unit played a key role in supporting our mission in 2023 by restoring seven trapeangs and digging ten irrigation water tanks in Khamphouk village. These are designed to hold water for the irrigation of rice seedlings at the start of the rice growing season. The unit




further supported our conservation work by building two bridges, and 4 km of road in the Sanctuary to improve access to key sites. The vital role this unit plays is well illustrated by their maintenance of a fleet of 65 motorcycles as well as our three ranger stations and tented camp.

One major success in 2023 was the deployment of our scout team. Drawn from surrounding villages, these 21 young people, half of whom are female, are mostly recruited from the ethnic Kavet and Lao minorities. We provided them with an intensive two-week enforcement training programme by our Siem Pang PATROL Unit. Dedicated to snare removal patrols, during the course of the year, they undertook over 303 foot patrols and removed an astonishing 4,325 snares. To check encroachment along the Sekong River, in 2023 the Siem Pang PATROL Unit prepared 20 land encroachment cases and submitted them to the provincial court. A further 23 additional court cases are also under preparation. In 2024 we will double down on encroachment within the protected area.

During 2022 we secured US\$ one million in new grants from the UK Government Darwin Initiative and USAID Morodok Baitang project. A REDD+ feasibility study supported by USAID Morodok Baitang was completed



A full-page photograph of a scout in a forest. The scout is wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt, dark pants, green rubber boots, and a wide-brimmed hat. He is holding a long wooden pole and is in the process of clearing or setting snares in a dense thicket of bamboo or reeds. The scene is filled with green foliage and sunlight filtering through the branches.

“During the course
of 2023, our scouts removed
an astonishing 4,325 snares”

and published by GreenCollar. 2023 was a difficult year for REDD+ projects, with unfavourable and at times unfair criticism. Undaunted, in 2024 we will develop our REDD+ project document.

Our 2023 annual expenditure was US\$ 1,350,000 less than budgeted. In 2023 we began a new three-year collaboration with Cartier for Nature working together to restore the Sanctuary.

Our biggest undertaking in 2024 will be the construction of a 42 km southern boundary fence, which will prevent encroachment and dramatically reduce incursion of domestic dogs into the sanctuary. Protected area boundary fences are new in our region, but essential to reduce encroachment and conserve lowland ecosystems. At the time of writing we are poised to begin construction with additional staff hired, a depot constructed and machinery and materials in place. We will also be developing IBIS Rice in an additional three villages.

In 2024 the next stage of our re-wilding project will involve developing a banteng translocation plan to be implemented in conjunction with Conservation Solutions from South Africa. We also plan to train and deploy a special ranger group and further prioritise on preparing encroachment






cases to court. We aim to establish a transboundary law enforcement unit between Cambodia and Laos. This will investigate transborder wildlife and forest crime and further work to counter snaring activity in the Wildlife Sanctuary.

I would like to thank all our supporters for their unwavering help in 2023. Since the beginning, our supporters have remained steadfast and dependable. Together we are part of a unique endeavour in wildlife conservation, one that is now beginning to show its efficacy and worth. I hope I can count on your continued support in 2024 and beyond to continue with our vision for the conservation of Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, the hidden jewel of Cambodia.

Toralla Eames



“ Together we are part of a unique
endeavour in wildlife conservation, one
that is now beginning to show its
efficacy and worth ”



Message from the President of Siem Pang Conservation Meng Hieng

In 2023 we made several important steps towards realisation of our plan to strengthen conservation and build a resort within Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. Siem Pang Conservation (SPC), the Cambodian non-government organization that holds the 30-year agreement with the Ministry of Environment, has signed agreements with Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd to manage Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary and with The Siem Pang Experience to develop and operate the resort.

In May, architects Aline Ho and Nguyen Dinh Quan from Asiatique Design visited Siem Pang for the first time. This proved to be only one of several visits in 2023. We have now appointed Asiatique Design to design and formulate plans for the resort. In September Neil Steedman from South African company Lodgistics visited Siem Pang to advise on the project. The resort will be a tented camp, with 25 luxury tents, a restaurant, pool and spa. Convenient and speedy access will be critical to make the resort a success and so it will be served by a Cessna Grand Caravan operating from Siem Riep and Phnom Penh and flying guests into a forest airstrip. Later in the year a delegation from the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation, senior pilot Nguyen Ba Hai from Hai Au Aviation and myself visited our preferred location for an airstrip in the forest.

Now that we are moving ahead with our resort development plans, essential to its overall success will be having a sufficient number of employees with basic English language skills. We will need kitchen staff, chambermaids, drivers, guards, and gardeners. In July, SPC, in conjunction with the local education authority and with the full support of district governor HE Pan Yut, we began nightly evening classes in English. We are sponsoring five teachers and already have 300 students enrolled. In 2024 we plan to take the project to two new villages and plan to develop and initiate a larger education and awareness project in the district.

Throughout the year we have worked closely with a number of key government officials. We would particularly like to express our thanks to HE Kim Nong head of protected areas at the Ministry of Environment, Sreng Cheaheng, Head of the Department of Environment, Stung Treng Province. We would like to especially thank HE Stung Treng provincial governor Svay Sam Eang.

Finally, in 2024 Cambodia held a general election and we have a new Prime Minister and cabinet. This has seen HE Say Samal move from the Ministry of Environment to Ministry of Land Management and become a Deputy Prime Minister. The new Minister of Environment is HE Eng Sophallet. We congratulate them both on their new appointments.

I was able to meet with the outgoing and incoming ministers to assist with handover.

I will look forward to reporting to you all again later in 2024 as we move forward with these exciting new initiatives.

Meng Hieng

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Message from the Secretary of Rising Phoenix Conservation Inc. - John Baker

As Rising Phoenix continues to deliver stellar results on the ground for both the wildlife and our participating communities, it is both an honour and a pleasure to assist from our small team at Rising Phoenix Conservation in the United States. We help support aligned activities in Siem Pang implemented by Rising Phoenix and its partners thanks to tremendous generosity from our donors.

We are especially grateful for tremendous support from Cartier Philanthropy, Andrew Huntley, Peter Ryder, Ly Tran, Lily Jencks Charitable Trust, Anthony Foster, Duke of Omnium Fund (Peter Coolidge) and Tina Ju.

Our work creating effective and innovative wildlife conservation solutions in Siem Pang would not be possible without the terrific support of our donors.

Grants amounting to \$541,500 from Rising Phoenix US were provided to Rising Phoenix Cambodia for their patrol and enforcement team activities, Flora & Fauna for Siamese Crocodile re-introduction, FishBio for assessment and monitoring of freshwater aquatic diversity, and YEA Catalyst for youth outreach and education in the surrounding communities.



Rising Phoenix Conservation USA remains committed to advancing long term conservation priorities in Siem Pang by providing support to the groups making a difference for the forest, wetlands, wildlife and communities.

Rising Phoenix Conservation USA includes our Board Chair Susanna Bracke, Board Secretary Ly Tran and Board Treasurer John Baker.

John Baker
Rising Phoenix Conservation Inc. USA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Baker', written in a cursive style.



Our Vision

Over the next 30 years, Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary will be transformed from a degraded forest with no tourism and only a few remaining larger mammals, to a productive and flourishing haven for Cambodia's wildlife, generating revenue and benefits for local communities and national development

The Indian spotted eagle occurs at the edge of its global range in Cambodia and has bred in the Sanctuary.

Biodiversity Monitoring Unit

2023 achievements

- 22 Siamese crocodiles were released
- 6 Siamese crocodiles nested for the first time
- 52 vulture restaurants were held
- 25 vulture nests were found that fledged 12 young
- 108 vultures was the largest single count
- 17 giant ibis nests were found and 10 nests fledged 16 young
- 32 white-shouldered ibis nests were found and 27 nests fledged 51 young
- 19 Eld's deer were counted in the annual survey
- 100 elongated tortoises were transferred to a pre-release enclosure
- Toul Bosphiev Multiple Use Area was declared safeguarding the world's largest white-shouldered ibis roost
- 80 buffalo in our wilding herds



Siamese crocodile nesting

Our Siamese crocodile restoration project continued with the release of a further 22 crocodiles into the restored Boeung Khampa. Meanwhile, at Boeung Nava, where we released our first cohort of 19 crocodiles in 2022 we had our first attempted breeding.

In May, together with Senior Curator Mark Dainty and Chiara Fottiti from Angkor Wildlife and Aquarium, we released a further 22 Siamese crocodiles into the fully restored Boeung Khampa. Half were released into a fenced pre-release site, and the others were fitted with satellite tags and released into the unfenced part of the wetland. A few kilometres away at Boeung Nava, last year's cohort of released Siamese crocodiles began building nests and egg-laying. Sadly, of the six nests monitored, all were predated, either by water monitor lizards or wild pigs. Next year we hope the nesting female crocodiles will have more luck. We have also purchased an additional 60 Siamese crocodiles for future release in 2024 and beyond.

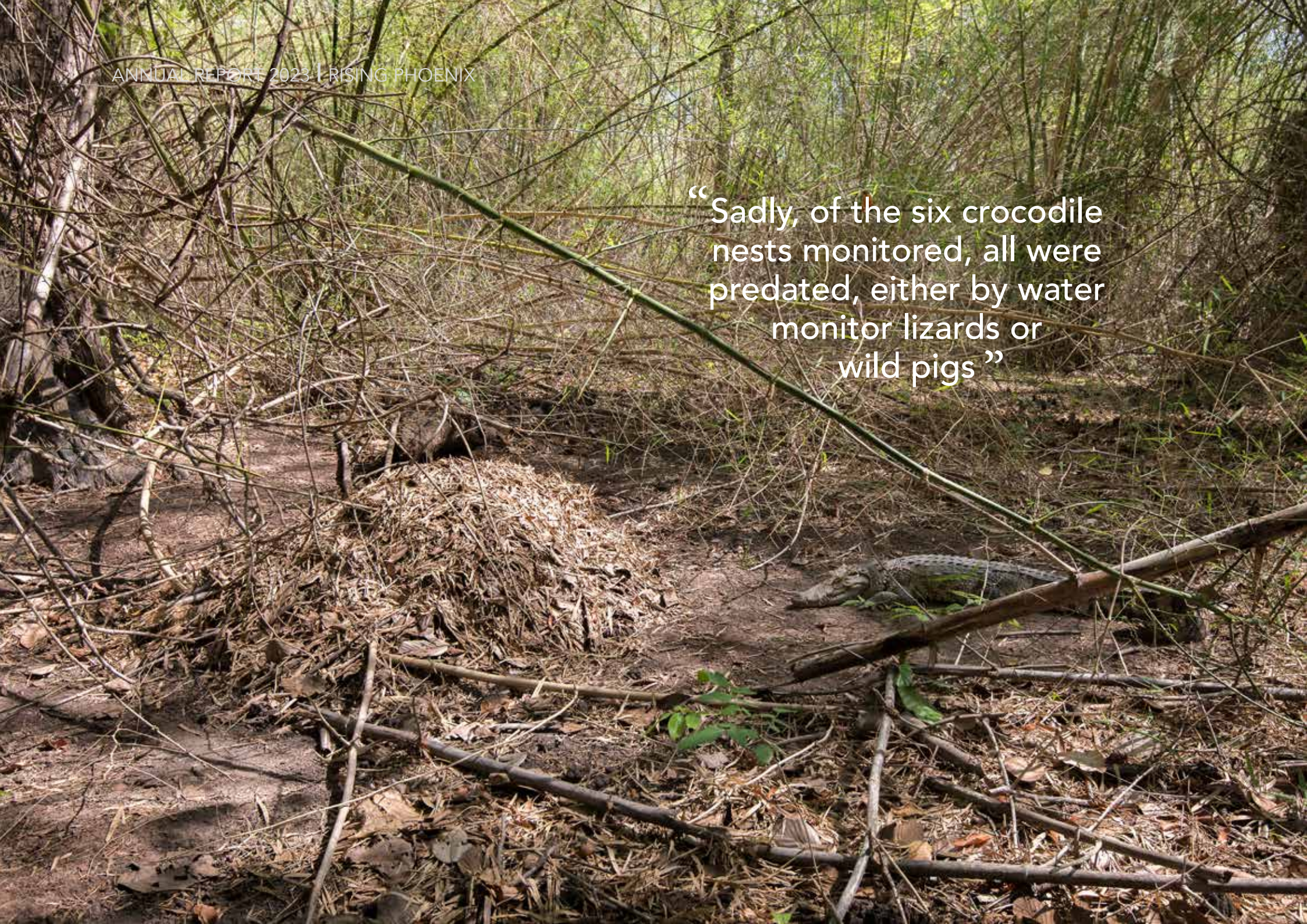
Elongated tortoise re-introduction

As an Endangered species, native to Cambodia, the elongated tortoise was identified as a species suitable for re-introduction. In April 2023, we launched our second species re-introduction programme (the Siamese crocodile project being the first) together with Angkor Centre for the Conservation of Biodiversity, when we released one hundred captive-bred elongated tortoises into a pre-release enclosure in the semi-evergreen forest. Before release, all of these tortoises has undergone blood testing in a US laboratory to ensure they were clinically suitable for release and were not carrying any pathogens or parasites that could be transmitted to the wild population, which albeit at depressed levels due to hunting, remains in the Sanctuary.



Christel Griffioen, Director of ACCB and CEPF Managing Director
Jack Tordoff examine an elongated tortoise.

“Sadly, of the six crocodile nests monitored, all were predated, either by water monitor lizards or wild pigs”



White-shouldered ibis

The white-shouldered ibis is a Critically Endangered species with over 95% of its global population in Cambodia. Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary supports the largest breeding population of the species. The loss of this protected area would result in this species taking a significant step towards global extinction.

In 2023 we found 32 white-shouldered ibis nests from which 51 young fledged, making it the second best year on record after the excellent 2022. A total of five nests failed during the 2023 breeding season, meaning overall nesting success was 84%. It is not always clear why nests fail, but in 2024 we will investigate the threat posed by villagers collecting tarantula spiders, a ground dwelling species, from beneath the trees where the ibis nest. The spider collecting season coincides with egg laying when female ibis are prone to nest abandonment.

Table 1: White-shouldered ibis breeding success at SPWS 2016 - 2023

Year	Nests Found	Successful Nests	Nest Success Rate (%)	Young Fledged	Change in Fledged Young (%)
2016*	24	10	42	16	
2017	30	21	70	35	+119%
2018	25	18	72	34	-3%
2019	29	24	83	48	+41%
2020	24	21	88	41	-15%
2021	31	26	84	53	+29%
2022	36	28	78	61	+15%
2023	32	27	84	51	-20%

* Baseline



White-shouldered ibis roost counts

We further measure changes in the white-shouldered ibis population via wet season roost monitoring during July, August, September and October. At this time of year, white-shouldered ibis form large communal roosts and are more easily counted; although hundreds of ibis descending quickly into roost as night falls presents its own challenges. Giant ibis do not form large communal roosts, so this method cannot be used for that species.

Four counts were conducted during the 2023 dry season and a maximum of 370 white-shouldered ibis were recorded. Though the number of birds observed is still below the 2013-2015 period, the population shows signs of stabilizing (Figure 1). The number of white-shouldered ibis recorded at roost counts is far greater than the number of nests found within the Sanctuary.

Clearly we do not find all the nests within the Sanctuary, and half the nests we do find and monitor lie outside in the surrounding farmland. We conclude that there remains a substantial population in the wider landscape that roost mostly at a single site, Toul Bosphiev. In 2023, we secured legal protection for this site and we are now aiming at reinforcing its protection by possibly fencing the area.

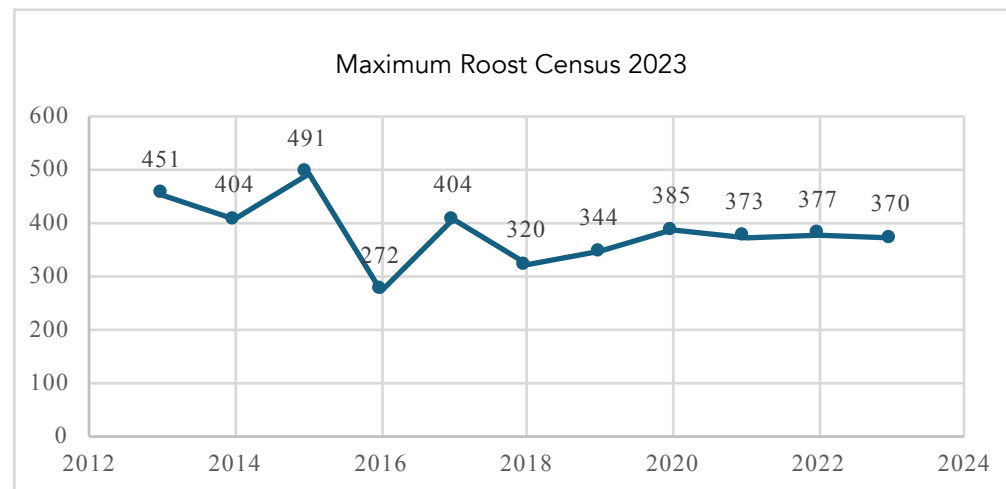


Fig. 1: White-shouldered ibis roost in Siem Pang District 2013-2023



“ Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary supports the largest breeding population of white-shouldered ibis. The loss of this protected area would result in this species taking a significant step towards global extinction ”

Giant ibis population stable

Finally, 2023 proved not to be a record-breaking year for giant ibis in Siem Pang. Instead it mirrored the trend observed since 2020. In total 17 nests were found, the same number as 2021, with 16 young fledging from the 10 successful nests. This is only a slightly lower tally than the 18 young that fledged in 2022 - which remains our best year to date. It should be noted that the sample size and the numbers concerned are too low to draw any definitive conclusions on the overall population trend. However, on the basis of nests found and monitored, the population appears to be stable.

The fate of the 131 chicks fledged since records began in 2013 remains unknown. We have no information on survival rates and what proportion eventually join the breeding population. In 2024, we plan to affix satellite trackers on three giant ibis in an effort to understand more about their survival rates and movements.



Table 2: Giant ibis nest success at SPWS between 2013 - 2023

Breeding Season (May - October)	Nests Found	Successful Nests	No. of Chicks Fledged
2013	2	1	1
2014	4	3	4
2015	11	6	6
2016	9	9	16
2017	15	13	19
2018	16	12	16
2019	11	7	11
2020	10	7	10
2021	17	11	14
2022	16	11	18
2023	17	10	16
Total	128	90	131

“On the basis of nests found
and monitored, the giant ibis
population appears to
be stable”



Vulture nesting success

2023 marked an important step in the monitoring of white-rumped vulture nesting success, as we travelled to Laos to monitor the white-rumped vulture colony located just across the border. Twelve active nests were found during our survey, and we recorded at least twelve young. Within the Sanctuary, we monitored thirteen vulture nests from which ten young fledged. These comprised 11 slender-billed vulture nests, eight of which successfully fledged one young, and two red-headed vulture nests - both successfully fledging one young.

At Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary we continue to provide supplementary feeding for vultures. This enables us to closely monitor the population. In 2023 we conducted a total of 52 vulture restaurants, providing a dead buffalo weekly throughout the year. With an average weight of 390 kg, this amounts to over 20 tonnes of buffalo meat and bones during the year! The cost too is significant. Each buffalo costs on average US\$ 700, amounting to over US\$ 36,000 per annum.

In 2023, the average vulture attendance at a restaurant was 73 birds and the maximum vulture count was 108 birds of the three species. During the year, the maximum attendance for each species was 66 white-rumped vultures, 37 slender-billed vultures and 6 red-headed

vultures. Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary remains the only site in Cambodia with three breeding vulture species, and represents the last hope for their conservation in Cambodia. Vultures are already extinct in Thailand and Vietnam. Figure 2 shows the weekly attendance of vultures at the Siem Pang vulture restaurant. The number of vultures attending the restaurant plummeted in August as a consequence of an outbreak of haemorrhagic septicaemia (a disease of water buffalo and cattle caused by *Pasteurella multocida* bacteria) that heavily impacted unvaccinated domestic cattle and buffalo in the district and increased the number of carcasses available. During the period, we also observed that the distance covered by the birds tagged was significantly reduced (Figure 3). The disease doesn't represent a threat to vultures, and our team didn't record any casualties among wild ungulates in the Sanctuary.



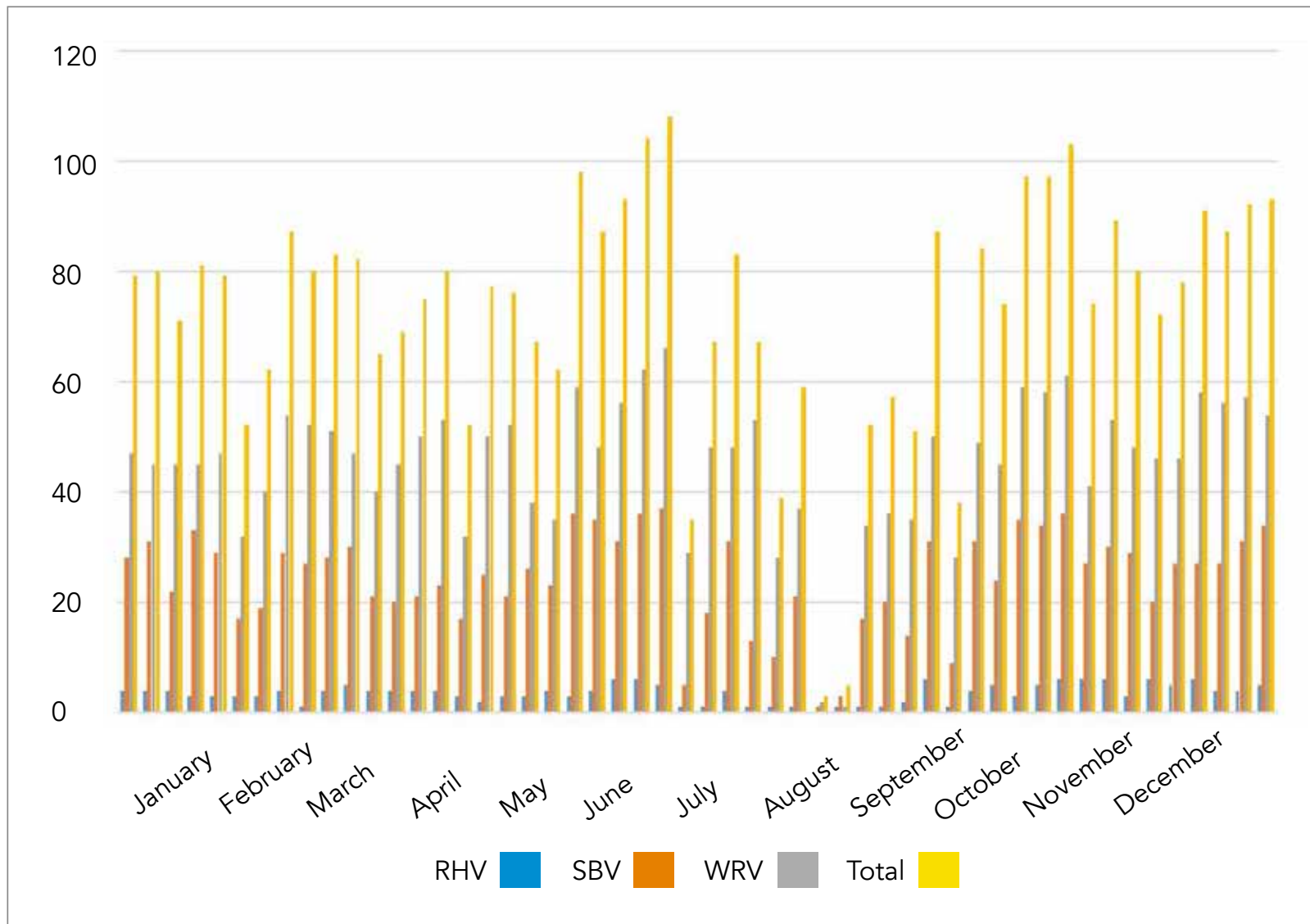


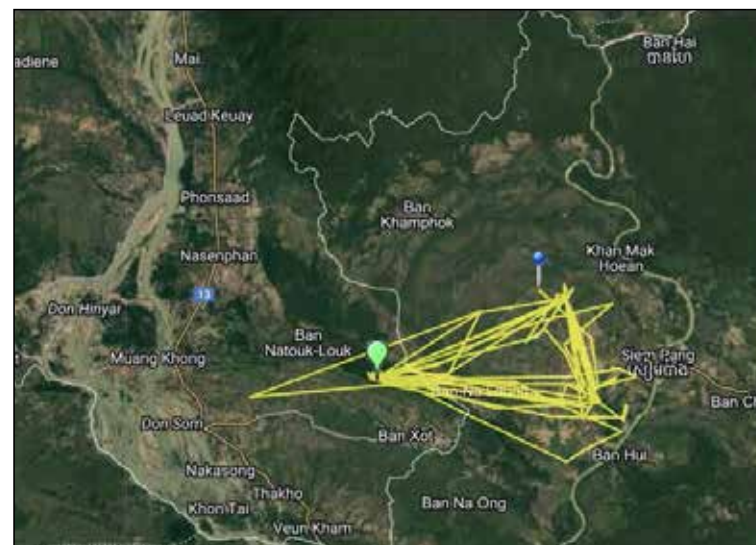
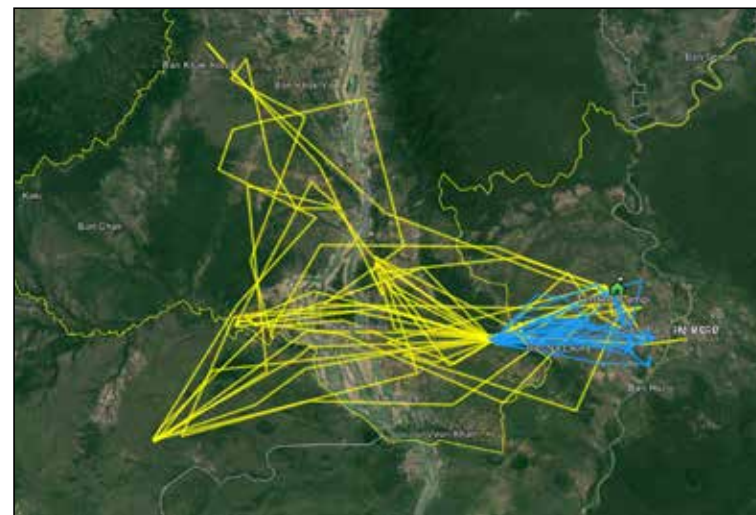
Fig. 2: Attendance at the vulture restaurant in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary in 2023

Where do our vultures go?

We continued to conduct successful vultures tagging operations during the year. All birds were safely released after tagging, and all but one device functioned properly. After 3.5 years attached to a white-rumped vulture, which was tagged in March 2020, the harness finally fell from the bird, as it is designed to do, and the tag no longer transmits.

As of 2023, a total of three red-headed vultures, two slender-billed vultures, and five white-rumped vultures are currently tracked by GPS/GSM devices providing an insight into their movements and breeding locations, which we can then monitor.

The two map figures opposite show the area covered by WRV2 in May 2023 (top) compared to the wanderings of the same bird in August 2023 (bottom). The area covered is greatly reduced due to the greater availability of food following the cattle disease outbreak and the subsequent abundance of dead animals.



“ The 272 Eld’s deer estimated
in the Sanctuary represent 70% of the total
population in Cambodia ”



Long-term Eld's deer monitoring

Research undertaken by Dr Rachel Ladd as a part of her PhD study, determined the Eld's deer population within Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary to be 272 individuals, which is 70% of the Cambodian total. A manuscript based on this study entitled *Deriving a population estimate for Eld's deer in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, Cambodia* has now been submitted for publication.

This figure was an extrapolation based on the number of male deer detected during her study. Building on Rachel's research, in 2023 we developed and initiated a new long-term Eld's deer camera trap study. Monitoring the Eld's deer population is something we consider vital to better understand the conservation measures we need to develop in order to conserve this species.

During November 2023, our colleague Dr Paul Meek from the Department of Primary Industries, Government of New South Wales, once again travelled to Cambodia, to assist with this new project. Paul has over 30 years' experience as a pest animal researcher, working with us since 2015 on Eld's deer conservation and advising Rachel during her Eld's deer study.



Paul also helped train staff and students in camera trap monitoring and survey design.

During Paul's visit, we designed a camera trap survey protocol and methodology for Eld's deer. Six staff from the Biodiversity Monitoring Unit were trained in the protocol and 54 Reconyx Professional HyperFire 2 white flash camera were deployed in a grid pattern throughout the Sanctuary. This model of camera was chosen in part because its white flash can better detect the coat pattern of female Eld's deer, allowing us to more confidently identify individual deer.

Once the 2023-2024 survey is completed, the team will attempt to apply a capture-recapture model to the data and make a more accurate estimate of Eld's deer population in the Sanctuary.

Ecosystem restoration with domestic water buffalo

Ecological restoration aims to re-establish natural processes in disturbed ecosystems. Disturbances are environmental changes that can detrimentally alter ecosystem structure and function. In Cambodia's deciduous dipterocarp forests, seasonal fires, the collapse of mega-faunal populations and logging have had a profound, but largely unquantified, impact on forest ecology. Mega herbivores, such as the domestic water buffalo, can help reinstate the ecological balance of open natural ecosystems like grasslands and open forests, as their grazing habits contribute to ecosystem succession, either by arresting or promoting it.

Our re-wilding mission in the Sanctuary aims not only to restore species, but to re-establish natural ecological processes. One way in which we are attempting this is by creating a feral water buffalo population. The wild water buffalo is now extinct in Cambodia, meaning we must rely on using domestic stock.

As little as 70 years ago, the deciduous dipterocarp forests of Cambodia supported an intact large mammal fauna. In the 1950s this was described by the American biologist Dr Charles Wharton as "this fascinating and weirdly beautiful land which shelters one of the last great game populations of the world." In his film, *The Wild Cattle of Cambodia* Wharton includes footage showing four species of wild cattle. Filmed

in Preah Vihear Province, the film is famous for including the only colour footage of the now extinct kouprey. It also includes the only known footage of the wild water buffalo in Cambodia. Almost nothing is known about their former numbers and distribution in Cambodia. Most of the world's surviving wild water buffalo are confined to India - with some populations now facing extinction.

The ecological impact on the deciduous dipterocarp forests of Cambodia by the loss of wild water buffalo is not fully understood. Our data shows that water buffalo create seasonal ephemeral pools or trapeangs throughout the forest. Via their wallowing and grazing on emergent aquatic vegetation, they arrest ecological succession. The trapeangs they create are important for frogs and invertebrates, providing a food source for white-shouldered and giant ibis and a range of other waterbirds. In areas where water buffalo are absent trapeangs become quickly overgrown with a variety of plants and soon dry-out, denying these food-rich habitats to wildlife.

We know from research conducted in grassland and savannah ecosystems elsewhere that the absence of mega-herbivores creates a less favorable grassland sward for smaller ungulates like deer. By feeding, trampling and wallowing, water buffalo create a more diverse landscape

by preventing any single plant species from becoming over-dominant. Their organic waste also provides habitat and food for many invertebrates.

With the wild water buffalo extinct in Cambodia, and international translocation not a realistic proposition, we have embarked upon a plan to use domestic water buffalo to promote ecological restoration at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.

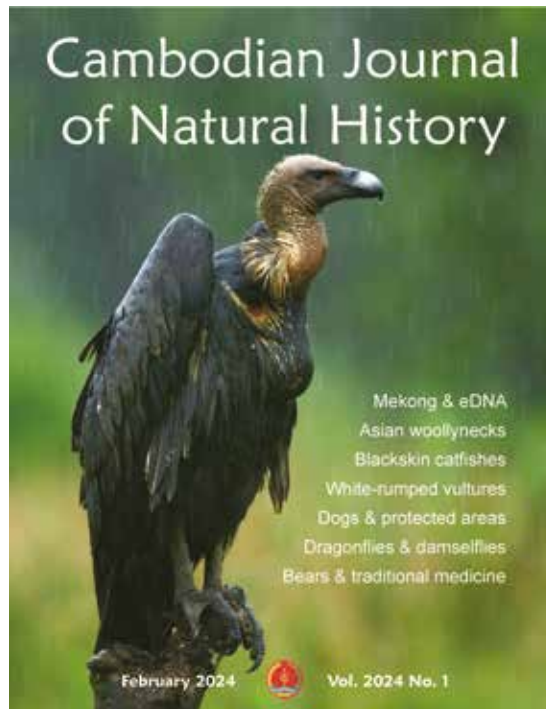
Domestic water buffalo are widely available in Cambodia. In the Sanctuary, herds owned by villagers roam the protected area for most of the year. To augment this, we have now established two herds of our own domestic water buffalo - now totalling 80 individuals. These animals have been carefully selected from areas outside our district to maximize genetic diversity and thereby minimising inbreeding depression. As domestic animals, they are ear-tagged, regularly vaccinated, and each is marked with a cold brand identifying Rising Phoenix as the owner. We have deployed GPS trackers on individuals with mixed success. Originally kept in fenced enclosures in the forest, the two herds now roam freely and their movements and welfare are monitored by a team of local stockmen. Our hope is that over several generations these buffalo will become increasingly wild and eventually feral.

There are numerous examples of wild-living domestic water buffalo establishing feral populations: across Asia including in protected areas in Java and Sri Lanka, water buffalo have established feral populations, while in Australia's Northern Territory, there are an estimated 187,000 feral water buffalo wandering free.



Recent publications

Science underpins our mission at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. Careful monitoring of our five Critically Endangered bird species, Eld's deer, and the species reintroduction and restoration projects, tells us whether our conservation mission is succeeding. Publication of the results in peer reviewed journals informs the wider conservation community while strengthening the conservation credentials of Rising Phoenix.



Hopkins, P. (2024) A first survey of the dragonflies (Odonata) of Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, northeast Cambodia. *Cambodian Journal of Natural History*, 2024, 36–56.

Ladd, R., Meek, P., Eames, J. C., Leung, L.K.P. (2023) Activity range and patterns of free-roaming village dogs in a rural Cambodian village. *Wildlife Research* 51(1).

Ladd, R., Meek, P., Eames, J.C. and Leung, L.K.-P. (2024) Demographics and practices of dog ownership in a rural Cambodian village adjacent to a wildlife sanctuary. *Cambodian Journal of Natural History*, 2024, 23–35.

Legrand, R., Eang S., Botha, A. and Eames, J.C. (2024) A first description of a breeding colony of white-rumped vultures *Gyps bengalensis* on the Cambodia/Laos border. *Cambodian Journal of Natural History*, 2024, 12–16.

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Our Targets for 2024

- 52 vulture restaurants held
- White-shouldered and giant ibis nests monitored
- Vulture nests monitored
- Eld's deer population monitored
- Banteng translocation feasibility study completed
- 20 Siamese crocodiles released
- 100 elongated tortoises released
- Riverine bird survey completed
- 2 fish surveys completed
- 4 vultures tagged
- 3 giant ibis tagged
- 6 journal papers published



Community Development Unit

2023 achievements

- Siem Pang District maintains its position as the largest producer of IBIS Rice in Cambodia
- 70% of all IBIS Rice in Cambodia was produced in Siem Pang District
- 3,574 tonnes of paddy was produced
- 949 households sold 1,348 tonnes of paddy to IBIS Rice
- US\$ 530,504 received by all households from paddy sales to IBIS Rice
- US\$ 657 received by each household
- 15 villages have now joined the IBIS Rice scheme
- 4,319 cattle and buffalo were vaccinated against disease
- 97% of IBIS Rice members adhered to their conservation contracts



Community Development as a key feature of our conservation model

Siem Pang district maintains its position as Cambodia's largest IBIS Rice producer. In 2023, 949 households across 15 villages sold 1,348 tonnes of paddy to IBIS Rice. This generated US\$ 530,504 income for 949 households or US\$ 657 received by each household. Overall food security and household income was therefore improved for 4,035 rural people. 97% of IBIS Rice members adhered to their conservation agreements, pledging to cease harmful practices such as encroachment, logging and wildlife hunting, contributing to conservation of the wildlife sanctuary.

A total of 4,319 cattle and buffalo received vaccinations against foot and mouth disease and haemorrhagic septicaemia, benefiting 447 households in 14 villages, ensuring the health and well-being of livestock and reducing disease transmission to wild cattle species.

In Kampourk and Khes Svay villages 31 families joined the pilot fish farming scheme, promoting alternative livelihoods and sustainable aquaculture practices. This scheme was reviewed at the end of 2023 and the decision jointly taken to discontinue it for reasons of sustainability.



Increasing Awareness

Over 1,000 people, including villagers, youths, students, teachers, monks, and local authority staff, have gained an increased awareness about biodiversity. The crocodile rewilding project, and conservation activities in the Sanctuary, have fostered a deeper understanding of environmental stewardship and our work.

Eight trapeangs were restored manually using locally hired labourers, benefiting 149 households by increasing household income. Ten irrigation tanks were constructed, providing water for rice production and promoting climate resilient cultivation practices, thereby enhancing agricultural productivity.



Our Targets for 2024

- IBIS Rice programme expanded to 19 villages
- 1,800 tonnes of paddy sold to IBIS Rice
- 300 land parcels in 19 villages mapped and registered
- 20 irrigation tanks built in Khes Svay and Khes Kraom villages
- 5,000 cattle and buffalo vaccinated
- 8 trapeangs restored
- 90% compliance to conservation agreements
- 50 households join cricket pilot project with conservation agreements in place



Logistics Support Unit

2023 achievements

- 7 trapeangs were restored mechanically
- 5 zoning signboards posted at strategic locations
- 2 bridges were built
- 4 km of track and road were improved or built
- 65 motorbikes maintained
- 3 pick-up trucks maintained
- 3 ranger stations maintained
- 1 tented camp maintained
- 10 irrigation water tanks were constructed in Khamphouk village



Fences, bridges and buildings

The Logistics Support Unit is the “Cinderella” unit within the organization, undertaking many critically important tasks, largely unseen. In 2023 with their input, the total number of restored trapeangs touches 60 across the Wildlife Sanctuary. The team also made a major contribution to the IBIS Rice programme by digging ten irrigation tanks, providing a source of water for rice seedlings. The bridges and road improvements now enable staff to reach sites like Boeung Nava, ever more quickly, knocking hours off the journey time. Infrastructure maintenance is also a vital function of the Unit. The maintenance of a large fleet of vehicles presents many challenges, especially servicing of our small fleet of Toyota Hi Lux upon which great demands are made.

In 2024, the Unit will embark on its biggest challenge to date, building a 42 km fence along the southern boundary of the wildlife sanctuary to control entry and reduce poaching of key species like the Eld’s deer, and prevent encroachment.



Our Targets for 2024

- Boeung Nava and 3 trapeangs restored
- 1 equipment depot constructed
- 1 tractor purchased
- 1 additional tent built at the tented camp
- 42 km built along southern boundary of SPWS
- 1 bridge constructed
- 20 irrigation tanks dug at Khes Svay, Pong Kriel and Khes Kroam



Surveillance, Intelligence and Reporting Unit

2023 achievements


- 331 patrols conducted
- 1,298 patrol days and 967 patrol nights logged
- 21,808 km patrolled
- 2,087 km boat patrols logged covering 313 km²
- 3,265 km foot patrols logged over 979 km²
- 15,508 km of motorbike patrol logged covering 155 km²
- 4,325 snares removed
- 2 boats, 2 motorbikes and 1 hand-tractor were confiscated
- 9 chainsaws were confiscated
- 50 land encroachment events were reported and prevented
- 34 cases of bushmeat incidents results in confiscation
- 7 electric fishing rods and 5 homemade guns were confiscated
- 44 mammals, birds and reptiles were confiscated and released including 1 gaur and 1 Sunda pangolin



The war on snaring

Snaring has reached epidemic proportions in Cambodia - an activity that is illegal, indiscriminate, and cruel. Since the start of 2023, we have deployed our all-new scout team to support law enforcement efforts. Trained at the end of 2022, the team is recruited from local communities with an emphasis on recruiting suitably qualified young people, half of whom are female, from the Kavet and Lao ethnic minorities. Since the commencement of activities, they have removed 4,325 snares on 331 patrols, covering an astonishing 21,808 km within the Wildlife Sanctuary. In many of these patrols they have been accompanied by Department of Environment rangers but not on all because of the few government rangers we have dedicated to work with us. The scouts have also assisted law enforcement confiscate nine chainsaws and five guns. The scouts have been a resounding success and we plan to double the size of the team. The creation of the scout team is another first for Rising Phoenix. Their success shows what is possible when staff are professionally trained, motivated and well managed.



A photograph of a scout leader and his team walking through a forest. The leader, a man with a mustache, is in the foreground, wearing a dark blue short-sleeved shirt with a circular logo on the chest and light-colored cargo pants. He is walking towards the camera. Behind him, several young women in light-colored scout uniforms are walking in a line. The forest is dense with trees and branches, and the lighting is warm, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The ground is covered with dry leaves and twigs.

“ The success of the scout team shows what is possible when staff are professionally trained, motivated and well managed ”

Wildlife veterinarians in action

The most dramatic snaring incident of 2023 was in March when one of our scout teams whilst on routine patrol east of the Sekong River, discovered a male gaur in a snare. Gaur are the largest species of wild cattle in the world. A full-grown bull weighs over a thousand kilograms. The gaur had uprooted the tree to which the snare was attached and had become entangled in a bamboo thicket. Hidden from view he could only be heard crashing around in the dense undergrowth becoming ever more entangled. Staff drove overnight to Sen Monorom in Mondulkiri Province, to collect wildlife veterinarian Dr Roopan Navaneetha, courtesy of WWF, an overnight round journey of over 560 km. Following a sleepless night, the team took a 30 minute patrol boat upstream, followed by a 6 km hike through the forest to rendezvous with the scout team. Working together Roopan, our own veterinarian Romain Legrand, Vuthy and Samnang began to execute a plan, resulting in Roopan darting the gaur from a tree – a first for him. In minutes the gaur was sedated and the snare removed whilst a wet cloth was draped over his head and water poured on his body to keep him cool during the procedure. Fortunately the snare had not cut into the skin but clearly blood flow had been restricted. Once the antidote had been administered, the gaur was on his feet in minutes and walked off into the forest.



Our Targets for 2024

- 4,500 snares removed
- 25 new scouts recruited and trained.
- Forest cover change report produced for 2023 and 2024



Siem Pang PATROL Unit

2023 achievements

- 20 land encroachment cases covering 87.7 ha were submitted to court
- 23 additional court cases under preparation
- 2 fishing boats confiscated
- 8 chainsaws confiscated
- 9 electric fishing tools confiscated
- 7 hand-tractors confiscated
- 8.4 m³ of timber confiscated
- 85 law enforcement patrols completed
- 435 patrol days logged
- 350 patrol nights logged
- 11,372 km covered on patrol
- 326 men and 114 women in 7 villages received awareness about illegal fishing
- 115 men and 32 women in 5 villages and 5 communes signed notices to not trade in illegal bushmeat







In the 2022 annual report we highlighted the levels of encroachment along the Sekong River that further threaten the riverine forest. Consequently, in 2023, there was a focus on reducing encroachment. The team prepared 20 land encroachment cases and these were submitted to the provincial court in Stung Treng. A further 23 cases are under preparation. By the end of the year one case had been before the judge and another five were tried in January 2024, with another 14 cases pending for trial in the first quarter of 2024. Due to these prosecutions, it has been reported by the Department of Environment rangers that a number of households had voluntarily given up encroached land and destroyed structures that they had assembled on the land prior to the encroachment being documented for court, covering an area of approximately 8 ha. Successful outcomes are awaited.

During the year 115 men and 32 women in five villages and five communes signed notices to stop trading in illegal bushmeat. Bushmeat is no longer sold openly in the markets of Siem Pang District due to the law enforcement awareness program and market inspections. The trade is suspected of going underground and with better intelligence in 2024, we plan to develop vehicle check points to search suspected transporters.

Our Targets for 2024

- Border crime investigation training between Laos and Cambodia
- 20 court convictions for encroachment and wildlife crime
- 50 new cases prepared and submitted to court
- 1 Special Ranger Group trained and established led by Department of Environment with Royal Gendarmerie and Border Police attached
- 1 transboundary investigation unit established



Empowering Conservation: My role in the scout team's mission to protect the Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary

In 2023, the scout team, operating under the Surveillance Intelligence and Report Unit (SIRU) began to remove snares set for wildlife in the Wildlife Sanctuary and help reduce the illegal hunting of wildlife. Currently the team consists of 25 dedicated members, 10 of whom are female. Notably, all 25 staff members were recruited from local communities within Siem Pang District, including those of the Kavet and Laos minority ethnic groups.

Prior to assuming their roles as Rising Phoenix staff, under my management, each of the 25 scouts underwent a rigorous selection process, which included comprehensive capacity assessments covering fitness and writing proficiency. Following successful selection, they underwent an intensive two-week training course, which equipped them with essential skills in first-aid, navigation and mapping, GPS usage and SMART Mobile data collection.

Over the course of the year, working in close collaboration with the law enforcement team and SIRU, the scout team has proved itself to be a dedicated force focused

on safeguarding the natural diversity of the Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. This collective effort has shown itself to be an effective strategy to provide the kind of safeguards we need if we are to move forward with our vision for the Sanctuary.

As a Deputy Unit Head involved in the planning and execution of patrol strategies, I am proud to highlight the accomplishments achieved during this period. Together, we have successfully completed our 2023 target of significantly reducing the effect of illegal hunting in the Sanctuary. Over 12 months we removed 4,325 snares and facilitated the confiscation of various illegal items, such as, chainsaws, fishing equipment and homemade guns. These achievements underscore the effectiveness of our collaborative efforts in combating illegal activities within our limited jurisdiction.

Additionally, the team has successfully rescued 44 wild animal and bird species caught in snares or captured by poachers. Our most notable success was exemplified by the rescue of a gaur in March 2023. Through seamless coordination between the scout teams operating in

the field and myself at the Siem Pang Headquarters, we effectively conducted the rescue operation, ensuring the safe retrieval and subsequent release of this endangered bovid back into its natural habitat.

In conclusion, the scout team's strong dedication and effectiveness in safeguarding the Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary has been truly admirable. Through their unstoppable efforts in removing snares, confiscating illegal equipment, and rescuing wildlife, they have exemplified the critical role that local communities can provide towards conserving the environment. These achievements underscore the importance of collective action in protecting vulnerable species within the Sanctuary. Personally, I feel both inspired by their commitment, and proud to contribute to the noble cause of protecting our natural heritage for generations to come.

Lon Neat
Deputy Leader of SIRU



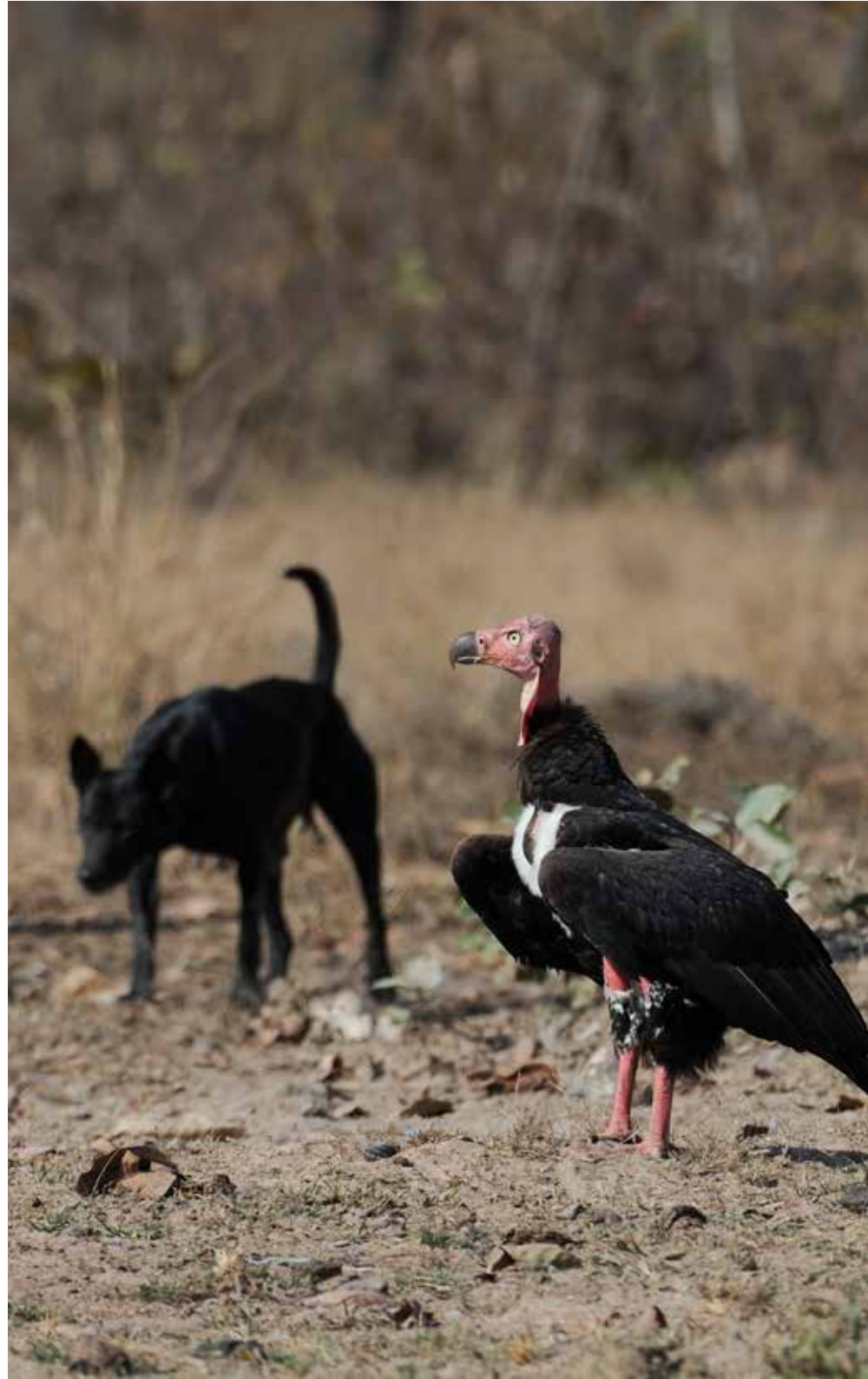


Members of the scout team. We plan to double in size of the team over the coming year.

Who killed Bambi? Understanding the impact of domestic dogs on wildlife at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary

Cambodia has one of the highest dog's per capita ratio, with one dog for every three people, amounting to five million dogs. Many of these freely wander into the Sanctuary, either of their own volition, or when accompanying people. Direct predation on wildlife is the most obvious detrimental effect of dogs in the Sanctuary, but they can also have other negative impacts, including competition, harassment, hybridisation, disease transmission and fear-mediated behavioural changes that might cause some birds to abandon their nests. The possibility of Eld's deer fawns being predated by dogs is clearly a concern.

A greater understanding domestic dog behaviour in the Sanctuary is essential if we are to develop effective management strategies to cope with the problem.





Headquarters Unit

2023 achievements

- A launch event to for Siem Pang Conservation was held in March
- US\$ one million was secured in new grants
- A REDD+ feasibility study was completed for the Sanctuary
- One new high net-worth supporter was secured
- 95 staff are now employed across six units
- In 2023 total expenditure was US\$ 1,350,000
- 2024 budget secured
- Office relocation to shared premises together with Siem Pang Conservation and The Siem Pang Experience
- A new company, The Siem Pang Experience was established to lead on resort development and management

A launch event for Siem Pang Conservation was held in March. This was attended by over 55 people including HE Kim Nong, Director General of the General Department of Protected Areas and Mr. Meng Hieng, President of Siem Pang Conservation. US\$ one million was secured in new grants from the UK Government Darwin Initiative and from the USAID Morodok Baitang. Rising Phoenix will receive US\$ 720,000 under a new three-year British Government Darwin Initiative project entitled *Increasing climate resilience for communities and wildlife in Siem Pang, Cambodia*, under which we will build village irrigation tanks and further restore trapeangs to mitigate climate change, and a further US\$ 200,000 from the USAID Morodok Baitang project to expand our IBIS Rice work and prepare for our REDD+ project.

A major milestone reached in 2023 was the completion of a REDD+ feasibility study for Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. This was commissioned by USAID Morodok Baitang and undertaken by GreenCollar. The report represents the first step towards the realization of REDD+ funding for Siem Pang. The next step is the drafting of the project development document. Upon realization, REDD+ funding will provide a reliable and long-term source of financial support for our work.

In July, 16 Rising Phoenix supporters and friends joined a ten-day cruise to the Galapagos Islands (at their own expense!). This was the first time we had brought together supporters outside Siem Pang. In addition to

our Chairman, Dominic and his wife Han, we were joined by Peter and Thuy Ryder with sons Max and Luke, Andrew Huntley and Pham Linh-Dan, the Secretary of Rising Phoenix Conservation Inc. John Baker and his wife Roxie, together with Hoa and Jonathan. In July, Susanna Kim Bracke the new Chair of Rising Phoenix Conservation Inc. together with sons Charlie and Henry visited Siem Pang for the first time. Susanna is one of our longest and most loyal supporters.

To advance our vision for Siem Pang, we have registered a new company - The Siem Pang Experience. Meng Hieng is CEO, and Dominic Scriven and Jonathan C. Eames are directors. Its aim is to advance and manage future tourism development at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.

During 2023 we were delighted to host His Excellency M. Jacques Pellet, Ambassador of France and his delegation, Mr Jack Tordoff, Managing Director for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, together with Sorn Pheakdey from IUCN, and a delegation from Conservation Vietnam, including Chairman Le Trinh Nguyen, Chief Executive Officer Ha Thah Long and Chief Operating Officer Doan Mai.



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WELCOME TO SIEM PANG TENTED CAMP

Our Targets for 2024

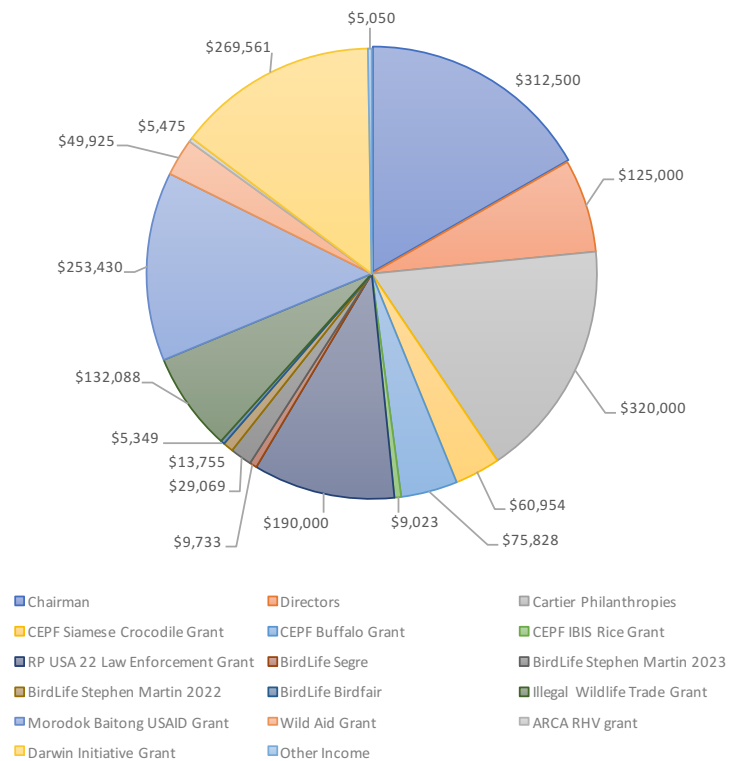
- REDD+ project document completed
- 2025 budget secured
- Appointment of a Head of Finance and Administration
- 1 new high net worth donor secured
- 1 new corporate donor secured
- 1 film commissioned



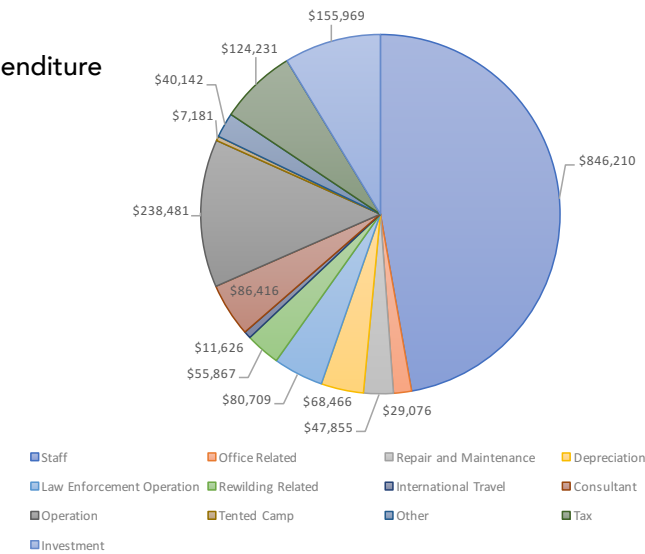
Financial Summary 2023

Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd. is a registered company in Cambodia.

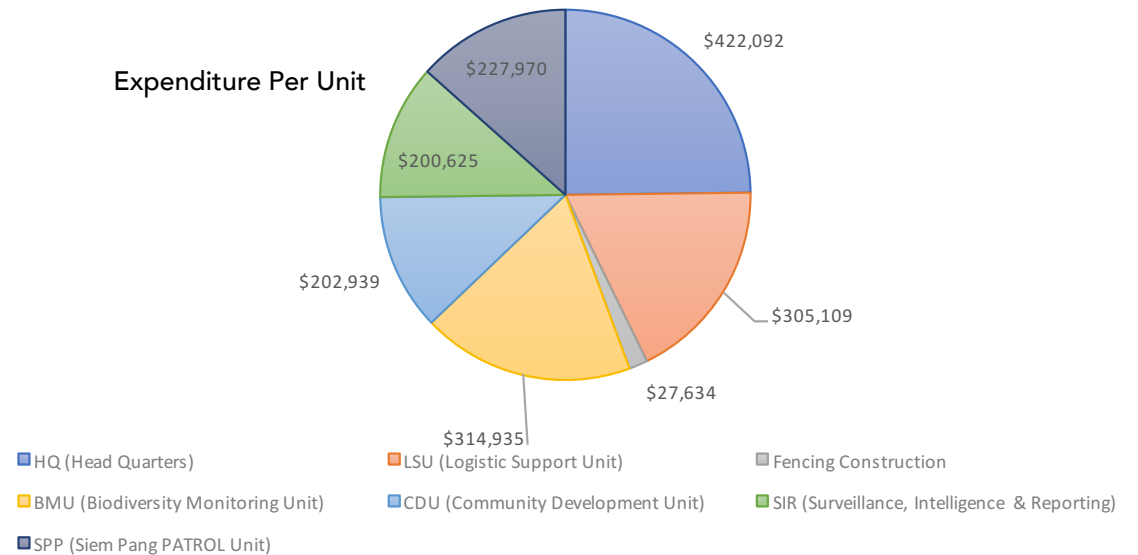
Income



Expenditure

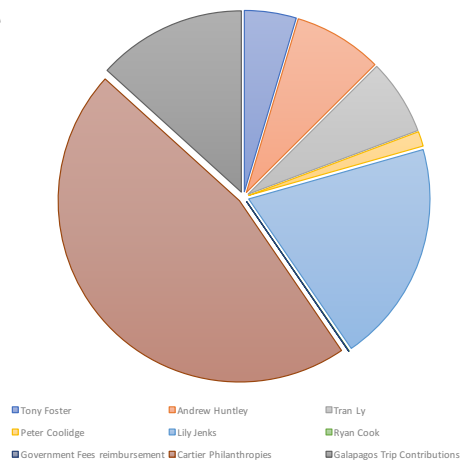


Expenditure Per Unit

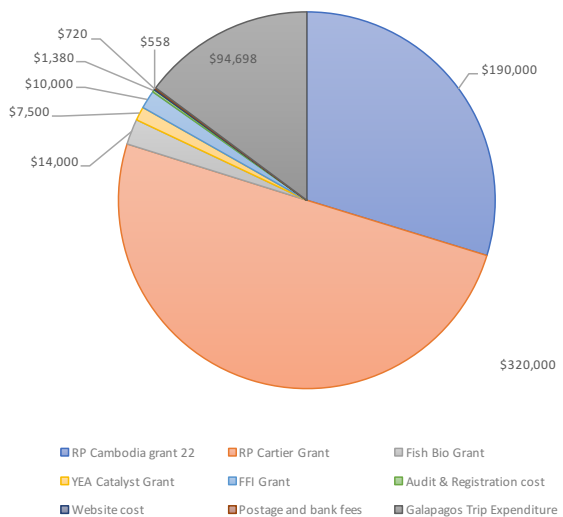


Rising Phoenix Conservation Inc. is a 501(3)(c) nonprofit entity registered in California, USA.

Income



Expenditure



Institutional Partners

Organisations with whom we worked, or helped support our mission in 2023



Angkor Center for the Conservation of Biodiversity

is a non-governmental organisation managing a conservation and endangered wildlife rescue and breeding centre near Siem Reap. It works towards the conservation of wildlife and biodiversity in Cambodia with a specialisation in chelonians and large waterbirds. Rising Phoenix collaborates with ACCB closely on rescue and release of wildlife, especially large waterbirds, and in 2023 we jointly initiated a project to restore the elongated tortoise.



Animal Research Conservation in Action Foundation

The Animal Research Conservation in Action Foundation was born in 2012 as a natural expansion of the biodiversity protection work of Parco Natura Viva in Italy. The ARCA Foundation supports activities in the field of protection of endangered species and enhancement of nature, from single species to entire ecosystems, in harmony with local communities. Our new project in 2023 is working to understand better the movements of the red-headed vulture.



Angkor Wildlife and Aquarium

Located 26 km east of Siem Reap along National Road 6, the new Angkor Wildlife and Aquarium opened in November 2022. At its centre is 500 m³ aquarium featuring Mekong River freshwater species as well as a 600 m³ saltwater aquarium with reef fish from the Indian Ocean. This is the first aquarium in the Kingdom that houses freshwater species endemic to Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam. There are also 10 ha of outdoor animal exhibits with Cambodian species including tigers, smooth-coated otters, sun bears, and more. The project emphasizes education as well as providing an entertainment venue catering to international tourists visiting Angkor Wat and the Siem Reap area. The company is co-owned by Meng Hieng, President of Siem Pang Conservation. AWA provides quarantine facilities for Siamese crocodiles before they are transferred to Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.



Cartier Philanthropies

Cartier for Nature was founded in Geneva in 2020 to strengthen Cartier's commitments to protect the environment. Its approach is grounded in scientific data and driven by the effective impact of its actions. It has a clear mission to preserve biodiversity and healthy ecosystems. Cartier for Nature reinforces the Maison's long-time engagement towards social and environmental initiatives and partners with non-profit organisations to accelerate nature conservation efforts. Cartier for Nature advocates for the principle of nature-based solutions, actions that help sustainably protect, manage, and restore ecosystems for the benefits of human well-being and biodiversity.



BirdLife International

BirdLife International began working at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary in 2005 and was responsible for identifying the site and having it nominated as a protected area. In 2019, BirdLife transferred its Siem Pang staff, assets and projects to Rising Phoenix. BirdLife continues to support Rising Phoenix, but no longer implements a programme in Cambodia.



Fauna & Flora

is an international conservation charity and non-governmental organisation dedicated to protecting the planet's threatened wildlife and habitats. Founded in 1903, it is the world's oldest international conservation organisation. The logo of the society is the Arabian oryx, after the very successful Operation Oryx, a flagship Arabian oryx captive breeding project undertaken by the society. In 2021 Rising Phoenix worked with FFI on Siamese crocodile survey and the development of a feasibility study for its reintroduction.



FISHBIO

is a fisheries and environmental consulting company dedicated to advancing the research, monitoring, and conservation of fishes around the world and addressing challenges in natural resource management. Projects throughout the Lower Mekong Basin span freshwater fisheries monitoring, including the work at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, community-based fisheries management and conservation, capacity building and communication.



Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

is a joint biodiversity conservation initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, European Union, Global Environment Facility, Government of Japan, and World Bank. CEPF works to protect ecosystems and the species within them by awarding grants to local and international civil society organisations working in biodiversity hotspots around the world. Grant recipients include non-profit organisations, indigenous peoples groups and small businesses, among others. Since its inception, CEPF has funded conservation projects in 25 biodiversity hotspots across 98 countries and territories. The fund has committed a total of US\$244 million to more than 2,300 civil society organisations. At Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary CEPF funds livelihoods and species monitoring programmes including the initiative to reintroduce the Siamese crocodile.



Sansom Mlup Prey

is a Cambodian non-governmental organisation that focuses on developing sustainable, organic, and wildlife-friendly agricultural systems in rural communities in Cambodia. They envision a Cambodia where rural communities earn decent, living incomes while actively preserving their biocultural heritage, protecting the integrity and composition of surrounding ecosystems, and sustainably managing natural resource use. The IBIS Rice scheme involves an innovative partnership between SMP and our market-facing partner, the IBIS Rice Conservation Company.



Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund

The UK government is committed to tackling the illegal wildlife trade. The Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund provides financial support to practical projects around the world which are: reducing demand for IWT products, ensuring effective legal frameworks and deterrents, strengthening law enforcement and developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT. The illegal wildlife trade is a criminal industry worth an estimated £17 billion each year and threatening both wildlife and people. To date, the IWT Challenge Fund has supported 136 projects in over 60 countries to a value of over £43 million. Our collaborative project is entitled Reduced illegal wildlife trade and strengthened rural communities. Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary is a trans-frontier protected area contiguous with Xe Pian National Park in Laos with a shared 120 km porous border, across which wildlife, timber, drugs, and people are trafficked unregulated. These activities weaken social cohesion, undermine governance structures and contribute to poverty. The project aims to reduce poverty and illegal wildlife poaching and trade through a scalable programme in sustainable livelihoods, increased gender-neutral career opportunities and strengthened law enforcement.



Wildlife Alliance

are a team of 220 experts with a mission to keep global temperature increase below 2°C by the year 2030. Wildlife Alliance increases vegetation cover by planting new forests and assist in the management of protected areas on land and sea and protects the world's endangered wildlife species. Their current intervention is in the forests of the tropical belt because of their vital importance in regulating global climate. In 2022, we worked with Wildlife Alliance to produce 20 large signboards to advertise the wildlife crime hotline.



Navigator Communications

is a Cambodian company fronted by British documentary filmmaker and long-time Cambodia resident Nick Wood. Nick has a long career in the film and media. In his formative years he worked for David Bailey and Ridley Scott, and has been a regular contributor to the BBC. Nick specialises in documentary features and recently covered the unsuccessful appeal filed by former head of state for the Khmer Rouge, Khieu Samphan. Nick's covered vulture conservation activities in Siem Pang, which was screened on BBC News. In 2022 Nick produced a series of shorts for Rising Phoenix covering various aspects of our work including the Siamese crocodile re-introduction. In 2023 Nick produced a new vulture film.



IBIS Rice Conservation Co. Ltd

The mission of IBIS Rice is to grow great-tasting rice that protects endangered species, preserves vulnerable forests and supports wildlife-friendly farmers to save Earth's most precious resources. They envision a world where people, wildlife and nature can coexist. Certified organic, IBIS Rice is grown by hand in Cambodia. Ibis Rice farmers plant just one crop per year, allowing it to mature slowly into the finest quality, fragrant, long-grain jasmine rice—a truly Cambodian variety known locally as *phkar romduol*. Ibis Rice are dedicated to empowering sustainable farmers that are passionate about safeguarding the environment. That's why IBIS Rice partners work exclusively with forest farmers who are committed to preserving the environment through a shared commitment of zero deforestation, zero poaching and zero chemicals.



Ministry of Environment

The main goal of Ministry of Environment is to protect the environment and conserve natural resources in such a way as to ensure sustainable development, environmental quality and human health through the integration of an environmental strategic plan and vision that contributes to socio-economic development and reduces poverty. In 1993, the General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDANCP), Ministry of Environment, was established. The GDANCP is a major contributor to the country's economy and sustainable development, including poverty reduction through the conservation and sustainable use of its biological, natural and cultural resources and other ecosystem services. It is responsible for the management, conservation and development of protected areas in line with policy of the Royal Government of Cambodia to ensure the conservation of natural resources, biodiversity and sustainable harvest of natural resources inside protected areas. We work closely with Mr Kim Nong, the head of the ministry's General Department for Natural Conservation.



Global Birdfair

is a totally new enterprise arising from the ashes of the Birdfair which was discontinued in 2021. Global Birdfair is once again the brainchild of Tim Appleton, together with Penny Robinson, raising money to conserve nature worldwide. Rising Phoenix was the first conservation sponsor for this new event.



Endangered Wildlife Trust

Since its establishment in 1973, the Endangered Wildlife Trust has grown from the three founding individuals focused on three projects to over 100 staff members working on over 100 projects across southern and East Africa. Passionate staff members are dedicated to conserving threatened species and ecosystems in southern Africa for the benefit of all people. In 2023 vulture specialist Andre Botha returned to SPWS to support vulture tagging.



USAID – Morodok Baitang

Tetra Tech Inc. a leading provider of high-end consulting and engineering services, has been awarded a five year, US\$24 million contract by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote biodiversity conservation in Cambodia. Through the USAID Morodok Baitang (or “Green Heritage” in Khmer) activity, Tetra Tech is working with natural resource-dependent communities, the private sector, civil society, and other development partners to mitigate climate change, enhance biodiversity, increase economic development, and strengthen natural resource governance in a geography that includes Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. In addition, Tetra Tech's climate change and economic growth experts are leveraging private sector partnerships with communities to support conservation, promote climate-sensitive development, and enhance economic opportunities for communities whose livelihoods depend on forests. We will work with USAID Morodok Baitang on a range of activities including trapeang restoration, supporting our Scouts, expanding the IBIS Rice scheme to 23 villages in the district and initiating REDD+ activities.



Darwin Initiative

is a UK Government funding programme that aims to assist countries with rich biodiversity but poor financial resources to meet their objectives under the Convention on Biological Diversity; the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. The Darwin Initiative currently funds the IBIS Rice programme in ten villages surrounding Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. The current Darwin project, via BirdLife ceased in March 2023 and a new project will take its place. This will be our first contract with the Darwin Initiative. Entitled Increasing climate resilience for communities and wildlife in Siem-Pang, Cambodia the project recognizes that rural communities and globally threatened wildlife are both at risk from extreme climatic events. The project will build community irrigation ponds and restore natural wetlands to increase climate resilience, enhanced livelihoods for communities, and reduce hunting and disturbance pressures for globally threatened wildlife, including the Endangered Eld's deer and two Critically Endangered ibis species at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.



The Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund

is an endowment that promotes species conservation worldwide headed by Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi. The fund was established in October 2008 and became active in January 2009. It had an initial endowment of €25 million. MbZ currently support research on giant ibis at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.

Governance

Sound governance, disciplined internal controls and professional financial management are at the core of Rising Phoenix. Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd was incorporated as a company in Cambodia in 2015. It is managed as a social enterprise and generates no profit or dividend for shareholders. The governing board comprises the Chairman, Dominic T. Scriven OBE and two directors, Dinh Thi Hoa and Jonathan C. Eames OBE. The shareholders are Dominic and Jonathan. The board is the decision making entity for Rising Phoenix and is responsible for the strategy and the business plan, determining capital investments, operating budgets, standard operating procedures and appointing the chief executive officer.

Rising Phoenix Conservation Inc. was registered in California and with the Federal Department of the Treasury as a tax exempt organization with 501 (3) (c) status in 2019. Rising Phoenix Conservation Inc. provides grants to Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd and to organisations working towards our mission. The Secretary is John Baker, Chair Susanna Kim-Bracke and board member Ly Tran.

Siem Pang Conservation is a Cambodian non-government organisation registered with the Ministry of Interior in September 2020. It has four founding members comprising Meng Hieng the President, Jonathan C. Eames (Vice President), Mak Sopheap and Koem Pok who work for Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd.. Siem Pang Conservation was established to hold the management agreement with the Ministry of Environment for Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Siem Pang Experience Co. Ltd was incorporated as a company in Cambodia in 2023. Its mission is to develop and manage a resort in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. The governing board comprises the Chairman, Dominic Scriven OBE and two directors, Meng Hieng and Jonathan C. Eames OBE. The shareholders are Meng and Jonathan. The board is the decision making entity and is responsible for the strategy and the business plan, determining capital investments, operating budgets, standard operating procedures and appointing the chief executive officer

Our Organizational Structure

Registered addresses:

Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd., Siem Pang Conservation
and The SiemPang Experience.
#111, Preah Norodom Blvd (41),
Sangkat Chaktomuk, Khan Daun Penh,
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Rising Phoenix Conservation Inc.
5 Wolfback Ridge Road, Sausalito
California 94965, USA





Join Us & Help Make a Difference

Rising Phoenix has made Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary the top performing protected area in Cambodia. When you donate to Rising Phoenix, you are not only protecting the iconic landscape and wildlife of a globally irreplaceable site, you are also creating a safer district where jobs are created, sustainable livelihoods forged making families more secure and communities more stable. A place where a conservation-led economy can begin to grow.

The benefits of supporting Rising Phoenix are many. Our vision is clear. We are 100% accountable for every single dollar we receive. Rising Phoenix operates as a social enterprise which means we make no profit. There is no head office taking an overhead. All our funding is spent in Cambodia. The funding we receive delivers immediate and direct impacts within and around Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. Your support is important to us and without it we cannot sustain what we are creating.



If you wish to support our work or
find out more us, please contact:

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