



ANNUAL
REPORT 2022



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Prepared by Jonathan C. Eames OBE

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Letter from the Chairman - Dominic T. Scriven OBE

Dear Colleagues, and Supporters of Rising Phoenix, Advancing age means the year-end comes with greater frequency, but this year I am delighted to top the Rising Phoenix 2022 Annual Report. The cause of habitat restoration faces eye-popping challenge everywhere, so it is with enormous pleasure that we see Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary emerging right at the forefront of South East Asian protected areas. The journey on which we are all embarked now involves a range of entities, with Rising Phoenix leading the strategy for, and delivery of, all enforcement, conservation, and community activities, as reported most encouragingly by Jonathan below. Siem Pang Conservation, the Cambodian NGO led by Meng, assumes the critical role in stewardship of Siem Pang, through its formal alignment with the Cambodian Government, in a 30-year conservation agreement. This was a truly major strategic achievement of 2022. Further, as Meng notes, we envisage a third entity, Siem Pang Experience, to demonstrate that properly structured conservation habitat programmes can be of economic benefit to all stakeholders. This was a year of ground-breaking success, though progress, of course, is always fragile, and the path ahead is long. I am humbled by the enthusiasm, hard work, and loyalty of all engaged in this venture. Allow me to extend deep appreciation to Jonathan and Meng, to every one of our people on the ground, and to all of you for joining the journey.

“This was a year of
ground-breaking
success”





“For Rising Phoenix,
2022 was very much
the year of the
crocodile”

Message from the CEO - Jonathan C. Eames OBE

Siamese crocodiles are back at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary!

Whilst 2022 may have been the year of the tiger, for Rising Phoenix it was very much the year of the crocodile. After more than a year of preparation, we released 19 Siamese crocodiles into a wetland in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. This was the first step and part of a longer term initiative to return this species to the sanctuary's aquatic ecosystems. In Cambodia's wetlands and rivers, Siamese crocodiles are apex predators in the same way that tigers are on land. Returning an apex predator to its natural environment can restore ecological equilibrium and harmony. As part of this project we restored a large wetland – Boeung Khampa, removing over a thousand truckloads of soil to create a wetland suitable for the 2023 planned crocodile release. Rising Phoenix are established pioneers in wetland restoration within the dry forest ecosystem and we have now restored over 50 wetlands within the wildlife sanctuary. The Boeung Khampa initiative was the largest wetland site we have re-established to date. I visited the site throughout the work and I am delighted with the result.





The Siamese crocodile release is the first species reintroduction project we have attempted. We plan for it to be the first of many. During 2022 we secured further funding from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, to continue this project until 2025, by which point we will have released 80 crocodiles to serve as a founder population.

Starting in 2023 we will embark on a reintroduction project for the Endangered elongated tortoise whose numbers have been reduced by hunting in the sanctuary.



“Returning an apex predator to its natural environment can restore ecological equilibrium and harmony”



An aerial photograph showing a large, irregularly shaped pond with muddy, brownish water. The pond is surrounded by dense green trees and vegetation. A dirt road or path runs along the left side of the pond. In the upper right, there's a small clearing with some equipment. In the lower left, a group of people are standing near the edge of the pond. The overall scene depicts a natural area undergoing restoration or management.

“We have now
restored over 50
wetlands within the
wildlife sanctuary”

In 2022, major milestones were achieved by the Community Development Unit making Siem Pang district the largest producer of IBIS Rice in Cambodia. Over the year we expanded the project to 11 villages in the district, and in December, 510 households sold 670 tonnes of paddy rice for a total US\$308,257 - netting each household US\$604 - doubling what was earned in 2021. Working together with new partners USAID Morodok Baitang project we will initiate the project in a further eight villages over the coming year.

The Siem Pang PATROL project faced and overcame many challenges in 2022. The objectives of this multi-agency force are to reduce crime in the Siem Pang District, with a focus on wildlife poaching and timber trafficking, while also enabling law enforcement officers to crack down on drug smuggling and the uncontrolled movement of people across the porous Laos border. Readers may recall that PATROL was initiated because the Department of Environment can only provide eight enforcement rangers, a situation that is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future.

During 2022, Siem Pang PATROL, together with the Surveillance, Intelligence and Reporting Unit, maintained a sustained foot patrol effort both day and night in the sanctuary. This enabled a number of illegal activities to be identified, including illegal logging.





It also intercepted and engaged a gang of 20 armed and aggressive Lao poachers in the core zone. From tactical intelligence provided by the Army, three logging trucks operated by a nearby concession were intercepted and detained by soldiers and Rising Phoenix staff. Other notable events included a campaign to clamp down on illegal firearms in the district.

In 2023, further changes to the law enforcement agencies involved in PATROL and operational refinements will be made. Importantly, we will seek four convictions for offenses committed in the wildlife sanctuary.

During 2022 we trained 20 Army and 15 border police to boost the capacity of PATROL. In December we recruited and trained 23 additional scouts. Emphasis was placed on recruiting females and people from the Lao and Kavet ethnic minorities. These new scouts have been assigned to snare removal duties and proved their worth in January 2023 by removing over 500 snares.



One of the functions of the Surveillance, Intelligence and Reporting Unit is to compile the annual forest cover change report. They did this again in 2022 and the results alarmingly but predictably show a continued loss of forest along the Sekong River. This deforestation is as a result of the Army occupying a significant area of the wildlife sanctuary and their road building and settlement activities. It has reached the point now that there is an extreme threat of the riverine forest corridor being lost entirely. Working to prevent this will be a major thrust of our efforts in 2023.

In 2022, for the first year on record, we secured over two million US dollars in funding from institutional donors - setting a new record. Major new donors included Cartier for Nature, part of Cartier Philanthropies, who will provide US\$ 1 million over the next three years. The Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, a UK Government competitive grants scheme aimed at eradicating the illegal trade in wildlife, will provide US\$400,00 over three years. The USAID Morodok Baitang project will provide more than US\$666,000 over two years, and we are making plans with them for the development of a REDD+ project in 2023.

Our 2023 secured annual budget stands at US\$1.6 million, which is an 18% increase on 2022. As with 2022, our fundraising success with institutional donors means that this sector of support for our work continues to grow. In 2022 we set a high bar indeed, and with your continued support in the coming year, I know we can strive for even greater success.

Joralla Earnes





Letter from the President of Siem Pang Conservation Meng Hieng

In December, Siem Pang Conservation signed a 30-year management agreement with the Ministry of Environment for Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. This agreement had been a long-time in the making and I was committed to securing it before the end of 2022. I worked closely with Mr Kim Nong, head of protected areas at the Ministry of Environment and finally the agreement received approval from the Minister of Environment, His Excellency Say Samal. We now have a long-term mandate upon which to move forward with our continued conservation programme, via Rising Phoenix, whilst providing the authority to move ahead with our resort development plans.

In December, Hoa, Dominic, Jonathan and I met in Siem Reap to agree on our strategy. We will establish a new company to be called the Siem Pang Experience which will be responsible for eco-tourism development at Siem Pang, the profits from which will be used to meet the re-current management costs of our conservation programme. In time, we foresee up to two resorts comprising a tented camp in the dry forest and later, a traditional resort along the Sekong River. At the time of writing in March 2023, we are scouting for locations in the dry forest. These resorts will be served by our own air taxi service from Phnom Penh and Siem Reap. Guests arriving on regional flights from Bangkok, Hong Kong, Ho Chi Minh City and Singapore early on a Saturday morning, will be transferred to our aircraft in Phnom Penh or Siem Reap and within two hours be settled into the resort.

We plan to acquire a Cessna Caravan which will be capable of landing on an airstrip we will build in the forest. We have been in contact with a company in the region that has a suitable aircraft for purchase or lease. The aircraft we are considering has been modified for water landings and take-off so the Sekong River presents another option.

Building the infrastructure and acquiring the hardware I hope will be relatively straight forward. Perhaps a greater

challenge will be putting the human resources in place to serve the resort. This will require investment in the education of local communities so that they will be able to provide the drivers, cooks, guides, kitchen and domestic staff. Building this capacity will take time but I firmly believe that our project is the current best hope for diversifying a local economy with few options for job and wealth creation beyond subsistence rice farming. Our hope is that this investment will give Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary an economic value which will reduce competing land-use claims and pressures.

My challenge for 2023 will therefore be guiding the development of a qualified investment project for our tourism vision. By the end of the year this will hopefully be approved by the Cambodian Development Council providing a firm legal basis for the project. Ground-breaking will then not be far off.

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

I am delighted to report that in 2022 all our valued supporters maintained their generous support. We are honoured by your continued commitment to our work. In 2022 we received US\$220,000 in contributions and made three grants. The largest of these was to Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd for US\$190,000 to support law enforcement activities. We are proud of our commitment to effective community participation in supporting law enforcement as a critical element to long term conservation success. Our new and expanded scout team with nearly 50% female representation and others drawn from the ethnic Lao and Kavet communities, is already having an impact removing snares from the wildlife sanctuary. Your contributions are therefore vital for us to continue this programme. As a 501 (c) (3) we are committed to supporting our partners in working with us at Siem Pang. We cannot under the laws of the United States only support Rising Phoenix directly. Therefore in 2022 we provided a grant of US\$27,048 to Sansom Mlup Prey (SMP). Our Community Development Unit works closely with SMP in the delivery of the IBIS Rice project. Whilst we are responsible for compliance, SMP provides agricultural extension support and coordinates purchase of paddy rice.

In a slight departure from our more conventional support in 2022, we provided a grant of US\$13,000 to Global Birdfair. The British Birdfair has raised money for conservation projects since 1989 with nearly US\$ 6,000,000 raised. Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary was the beneficiary of the last Birdfair in 2019 via a grant from BirdLife International. However, to the consternation of many, the British Birdfair was discontinued after Covid. In early 2022, Hoa and Jonathan met with Tim Appleton, originator of British Birdfair and his partner Penny Robinson, who were planning to re-launch the event in 2022 - re-branding it as Global Birdfair. It was agreed to provide them with a grant to help them raise the working capital for this all-new event. The event, held at the Rutland Showground in July, raised US\$107,000 for the conservation and restoration of La Janda, wetlands in Andalucía, Spain. Rising Phoenix was the events' official conservation sponsor and we gave daily lectures at the three-day event on the work of Rising Phoenix.



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



A huge thank you to the people that have made this work possible

OUR SUPPORTERS IN 2022

Ryan Cook,
Dinh Thi Hoa, Tony Foster,
Andrew Huntley and Pham Linh-Dan,
Tina Ju and Simon Meng,
Susanna Kim-Bracke, Meng Hieng,
Peter and Thuy Ryder,
Peter Coolidge, Amanda, Valerie
and Dominic Scriven,
and Ly Tran



2022 by Numbers

Biodiversity conservation

19 Siamese crocodiles released
 44 white-shouldered ibis nests found and monitored
 16 giant ibis nests found and monitored
 15 vulture nests found and monitored
 61 white-shouldered ibis fledged
 18 giant ibis fledged
 13 vultures fledged
 51 vulture restaurants held
 46 Eld's deer recorded during the annual survey
 65 water buffalo purchased and established in two herds
 First record of southern serow

Enforcement

20 Army soldiers trained
 15 Border Police trained
 23 new scouts trained and deployed
 20 Lao poachers intercepted and engaged
 177 patrols conducted
 596 patrol nights conducted
 11,596 km covered by patrols
 3 logging trucks confiscated
 7 hand-tractors confiscated
 9 chainsaws confiscated
 111 snares removed
 25 cases of land encroachment prevented
 8 bushmeat confiscations
 PATROL agreement extended to 2025

Community development

Siem Pang district became the number one producer of IBIS Rice in Cambodia
 697 households across 11 villages are now in the IBIS Rice scheme
 510 households sold 670 tonnes of paddy to IBIS Rice
 2,550 rural people had improved food security
 US\$ 308,257 was the total household income from sales of paddy to IBIS Rice
 US\$ 604 was the average household income from sales of paddy to IBIS Rice
 3,129 village cattle and buffalo were vaccinated
 20 households joined the fish farming project at Kampourk village

Logistics

1,000 truckloads of soil removed to restore Boeung Khampa
 5 *trapeangs* restored (3 manually, 2 mechanically)
 54 villagers were employed to excavate 3 *trapeangs*
 20 wildlife crime reporting signboards posted
 1 ranger post built at Veal Trau

Management

30 year agreement signed with Ministry of Environment
 Two million USD secured in funding from institutional donors
 First corporate supporter secured
 104 staff now employed across 6 units
 US\$ 1,306,050 total expenditure
 US\$ 93,041 paid in taxes
 US\$ 578,814 paid in salaries and staff costs

BIODIVERSITY MONITORING UNIT

2022 Achievements

- 19 Siamese crocodiles released
- 44 white-shouldered ibis nests found and monitored
- 16 giant ibis nests found and monitored
- 15 vulture nests found and monitored
- 61 white-shouldered ibis fledged - the largest number ever
- 18 giant ibis fledged - the largest number ever
- 51 vulture restaurants held
- 13 vultures fledged - the largest number ever
- 46 Eld's deer counted during the annual survey - largest count ever
- Domestic water buffalo herds expanded to 65 animals
- Southern serow camera trapped for the first time
- Dhole camera trapped for only the second time
- Banteng camera trapped for the third time



Return of the Siamese crocodile

Cambodia, along with Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, support the last populations of the Critically Endangered Siamese crocodile *Crocodylus siamensis*. As a result of overfishing, hunting and habitat destruction the Siamese crocodile has disappeared from most of its former range and is now found at only a few scattered locations. In Cambodia this includes the wetlands of the Cardamom Mountains and Srepok Wildlife Sanctuary.

From local reports, including interviews conducted at Kampourk village in 2019, we knew the Siamese crocodile still occurred at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary at remote forest wetlands. Surveys undertaken in 2020 and 2021 revealed that it remained in very low numbers and our conclusion was that the species was unlikely to recover without the release of captive bred individuals.

As part of our rewilding programme we selected Siamese crocodile as the first species to be returned to Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary because of the existence of a government approved species action plan, the relative ease of securing crocodiles within Cambodia from farms, and due to successful conservation projects for this species already occurring elsewhere in Cambodia. The release of Siamese crocodiles will restore the population and ecological balance in the sanctuary's wetlands and serve as a point of interest for future tourists.

From 2018 we undertook continuous consultation with Cambodian Government agencies on plans for a release programme. Permission for the project was granted by Ministry of Environment in 2022, and following strict protocols the first release of 19 animals occurred in the same year. Further releases are planned until 2025 when the target of 80 crocodiles will have been met. At that point, the project will be reviewed.

Siamese crocodile is an important species for Cambodia, with major cultural, economic and ecological values. For example communities in the Cardamom Mountains believe crocodiles bring good fortune and must never be harmed. Siamese crocodiles were kept in moats around the temples at Angkor, and they appear in many of the bas-reliefs.

Siamese crocodiles are shy animals and in the wild are not aggressive towards people. There is no documented case of Siamese crocodiles attacking people. Villagers in the Cardamom Mountains and Laos still routinely fish, swim and bathe with Siamese crocodiles without apparent danger, as a delegation from Stung Treng Provincial Authority recently observed whilst on a study tour to Laos.





In 2021, following investigation of suitable waterways within Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, a habitat survey and reintroduction feasibility study was developed. In 2022 we purchased 43 crocodiles and undertook DNA testing at a laboratory in Phnom Penh to confirm their provenance as 100% pure Siamese crocodile (crocodile farms often hybridize Siamese crocodiles with other species to obtain a larger animal yielding a bigger and more colourful skin). The crocodiles were then held in quarantine for several months at Angkor Wildlife and Aquarium outside Siem Reap. At the end of the quarantine period the crocodiles were healthy and were judged fit for release.

On 31 March 15 Siamese crocodiles were transported to a specially constructed soft release enclosure at Boeung Nava in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary and released. On the 15 May 2022, an additional four Siamese crocodiles fitted with Argos satellite tags, were released at the same location. In total, 19 Siamese crocodiles were released in 2022. As the water levels in Boeung Nava rose following the monsoon rains, some crocodiles left the soft release enclosure and reached the O'Khampa River, aiding their further dispersal throughout the wildlife sanctuary.

In March 2022, work began to restore a second release site at Boeung Khampa. A new ranger post and soft release enclosure are also under construction at Boeung Khampa, where we plan to release a further twenty crocodiles in 2023.

Giant and white-shouldered ibis – the birds that shun man

The ibis family, Threskiornithidae, represents an ancient lineage of bird evolution. The sacred ibis was revered by ancient Egyptians and mummified by the thousands alongside their pharaohs. According to Turkish legend, the northern bald ibis is said to have been one of the birds released by Noah from the ark. The 35 species extant today, fall into two categories: those that thrive in world's human dominated landscapes, such as the Australian white ibis, known to some as the "bin chicken" and those that do not and who struggle to survive in the 21st century. In this latter category are the giant and white-shouldered ibis. Both species are currently following a classic extinction model, showing a reduction in both range size, and fragmentation and decline of remaining population; both species are listed by IUCN as Critically Endangered - meaning they face a high risk of global extinction in the near future, and both species are making their final stand in Cambodia, with Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary as their last stronghold.

The global population of the giant ibis is estimated to be a mere 194 mature individuals. Based on calling birds, the population of giant ibis occurring at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary was estimated at 50 birds in 2016 and revised to 53 mature birds, or 26 pairs, in 2020. Assuming these

numbers refer to mature individuals only, then the sanctuary supports 27% of the global breeding population. The 2022 nest data indicates a minimum of 16 pairs, or 32 adults, assuming that they are monogamous and that we do not locate all nests. Adding together the number of adults and fledged young in 2022 gives a population of 50 birds. We believe the giant ibis population at Siem Pang is probably stable, but we have no data on territory size, ranging, or chick survival, and these subjects are now a research priority for 2023.

BirdLife International estimate the global population of white-shouldered ibis at 670 individuals. The number of white-shouldered ibis recorded at all Cambodian roost counts in 2022 was 792 birds, so we know the current published estimate is below the actual total. Based on our 2022 roost counts, 377 white-shouldered ibis were recorded in Siem Pang District, representing 48% of the global population. Roost data suggests the Siem Pang population previously experienced a decline, but now may be stable.

White-shouldered ibis

During 2022 in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, we found 44 white-shouldered ibis nests. These nests fledged 61 young, making it the most successful year on record, and surpassing 2021 - which was our previous best year. A total of eight nests failed during the 2022 breeding season, meaning overall nesting success was 82%. Breeding success continues to improve with an increase of 15% of young fledged compared to 2021, 49% compared to 2020, and 27% compared to 2019 (Table 1).

The number of white-shouldered ibis nests found annually has increased continually since the 2016 baseline of 24 nests. Nest failure is sometimes associated with human disturbance. For example, in previous years, villagers have commercially collected orchids or tarantula spiders during the early breeding season. It is at this time when white-shouldered ibis have begun egg-laying and are particularly sensitive to disturbance. Human activity in the breeding territories may result in nests being abandoned.



Year	Nests found	Successful nests	Nest success rate %	Young fledged	Change in fledged young %
2016	(Baseline)	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	44	36	82	61	+15%

Table 1: White-shouldered ibis breeding success at SPWS 2016-2022

White-shouldered ibis roost counts

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

Four counts were conducted during the 2022 dry season and a maximum of 377 white-shouldered ibis were

recorded. Though the number of birds observed is still below the 2013-2015 period, the population shows signs of stabilizing (Fig. 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 find and monitor lie outside the sanctuary borders. We conclude that there remains a substantial population in the wider landscape that roost mostly at a single site in Toul Bosphiev. We are seeking legal protection for this site and aim to initiate measures for its protection in 2023.

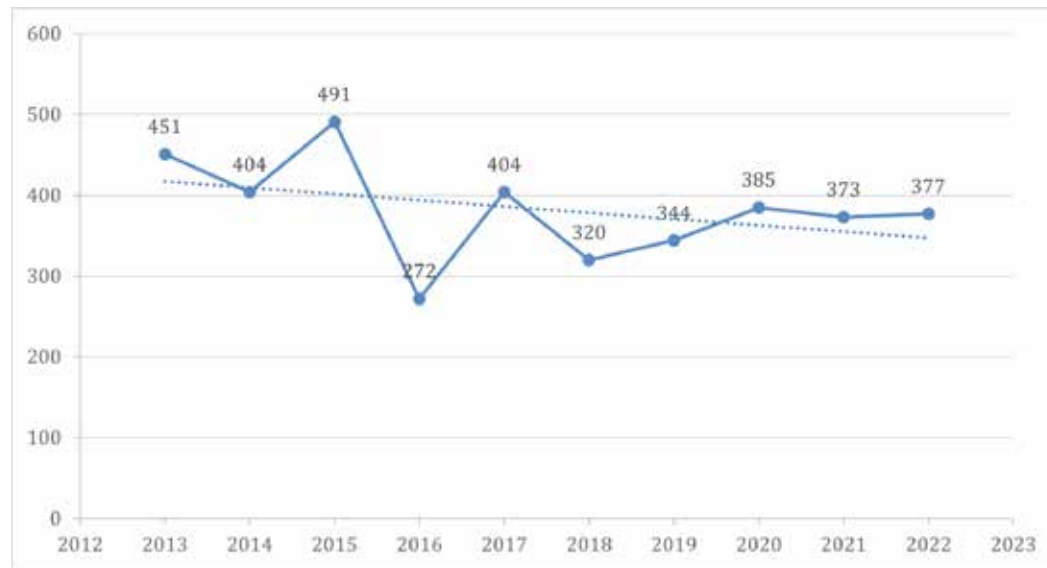


Figure 1: White-shouldered ibis roost counts in Siem Pang district 2013-2022



Giant ibis

2022 was also another record-breaking year for giant ibis at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, with 18 young fledging from 16 successful nests. Although 115 chicks have fledged since 2013, we have no information on survival rates and what proportion eventually joins the breeding population. We know that as a forest-living species that shuns man, they are not able to disperse beyond the wildlife sanctuary into the wider landscape. Giant ibis are not a bird that frequents rice fields. In April 2023, we plan to affix satellite trackers on three giant ibis in an effort to understand more about their survival rates and movements.



Breeding (May-October)	Nests found	Successful nests	Total adults	No. chicks fledged	Total individuals
2013	2	1	4	1	5
2014	4	3	8	4	12
2015	11	6	22	6	28
2016	9	9	18	16	34
2017	15	13	30	19	49
2018	16	12	32	16	48
2019	11	7	22	11	33
2020	10	7	20	10	30
2021	17	11	34	14	48
2022	16	11	32	18	50
TOTAL	111	80	222	115	337

Table 2: Giant ibis nest success in SPWS 2013-2022

Vulture nesting success

2022 was the best year on record for vulture nesting success at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. In total 15 nests were found and 13 young fledged (Fig. 2). These comprised nine slender-billed vulture nests, two red-headed vulture nests, and four white-rumped vulture nests. One slender-billed and one red-headed vulture nest failed. Sadly, shortly before fledging, a red-headed vulture chick fell from its nest and died. When populations are small, stochastic events can have significant impacts. Vulture nest monitoring was completed in June with 13 nests having successfully fledged 13 young (8 slender-billed, 1 red-headed, and 4 white-rumped vultures).

In 2022, we conducted a total of 51 vulture restaurants, with 27 buffalo and 24 cows provided. The average vulture attendance at a restaurant was 79 birds. The maximum vulture count at any one restaurant was 109 birds. Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary is the only site in Cambodia with three breeding species of vulture, and represents the last hope for the conservation of these birds in Cambodia.

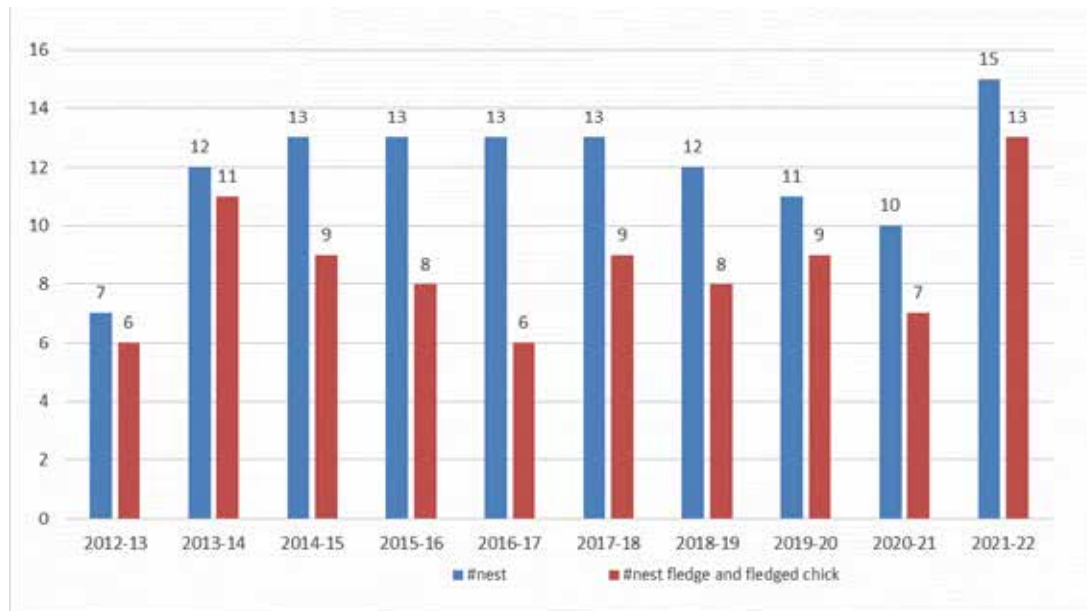


Figure 2: SPWS vulture nest data 2013-2022



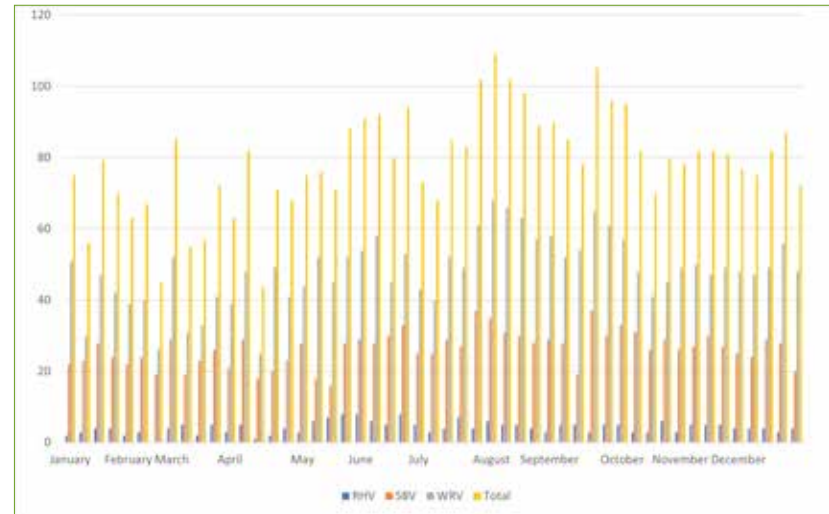


Figure 3: Attendance at the SPWS vulture restaurant in 2022

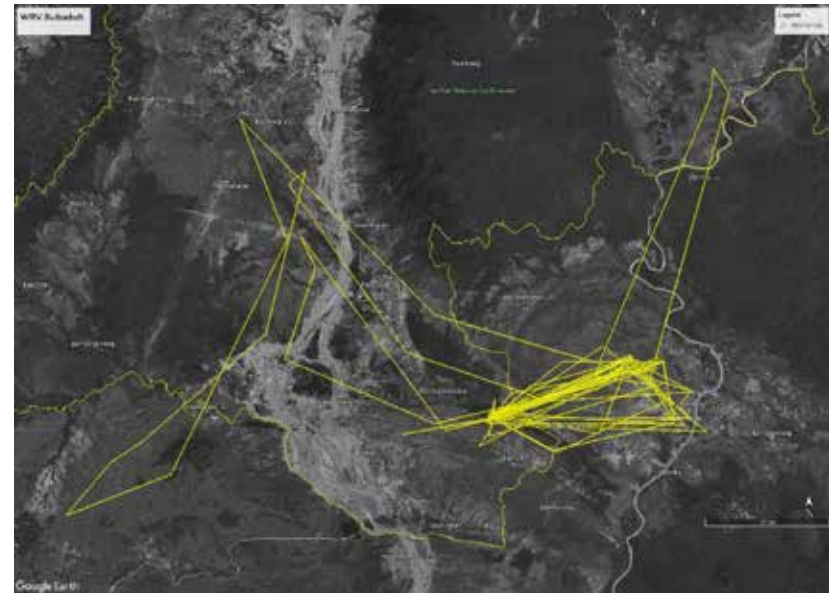


Figure 4: White-rumped vulture movements in November 2022

Figure 3 shows the weekly attendance of vultures at the Siem Pang vulture restaurant. Why do the numbers of vultures attending fluctuate? There are two reasons: although we provide food weekly, vultures also find carcasses in the wider landscape and may forgo attending our restaurant if feeding elsewhere. From January to May vultures are nesting and one adult is always present at the nest. From May onwards we see an increase in the numbers of vultures attending because both members of the pair plus their recently fledged young are visiting.

Where do vultures go?

In March 2020 we caught two white-rumped vultures, an adult and a sub-adult. These birds were fitted with GSM transmitters from which we receive signals at regular intervals giving the precise location of the birds.

We are able to plot not only their location, but also altitude and distance travelled hourly. Figure 4 shows the movements of a tagged sub-adult white-rumped vulture in November 2022, which travelled a total of 1,606 km during the month. Its movements were centred on Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, where it commuted between the breeding colony in neighbouring Laos, and the vulture restaurant. It additionally made excursions into Preah Vihear Province in Cambodia and into Attapu Province in Laos.



Camera Trapping Programme

Over the past ten years our camera trapping programme has monitored a series of mineral licks in the north of the sanctuary. In the last year, the cameras made a number of important captures. Two new mammals records for the sanctuary were made: hog badger and southern serow. A record of banteng is the first record since 2020.

Pictured is a Malay sunbear, the world's smallest bear species.



Asian golden cat *Catopuma temminckii*



Dhole *Cuon alpinus*



Hog badger *Arctonyx collaris*



Silvered langur *Trachypithecus germaini*



Gaur *Bos gaurus*



Gaur *Bos gaurus*



Southern serow *Capricornis sumatraensis*



Banteng *Bos javanicus*



Leopard cat *Prionailurus bengalensis*

“Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary,
with three breeding species
of vulture, represents the last
hope for the conservation of
these birds in Cambodia”



Biodiversity Monitoring Unit



Targets for 2023

30 Siamese crocodiles released

100 elongated tortoises released

60 water buffalo purchased

Six vultures and three giant ibis satellite tagged

52 vulture restaurants held

Acoustic tracking for Siamese crocodile initiated

Long-term monitoring protocol for Eld's deer established

Six journal papers submitted for publication

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UNIT

2022 Achievements

Best year on record for IBIS Rice sales

Siem Pang district becomes the largest producer of IBIS Rice in Cambodia

697 households now in the IBIS Rice scheme

510 households sold 670 tonnes of paddy to IBIS Rice

2,550 rural people had improved food security

Total household income from paddy sales was US\$ 308,257

Individual household income from paddy sales was US\$ 604, almost double 2021

3,129 cattle and buffalo vaccinated against foot and mouth disease and haemorrhagic septicaemia

20 households joined the fish farming project at Kampourk village

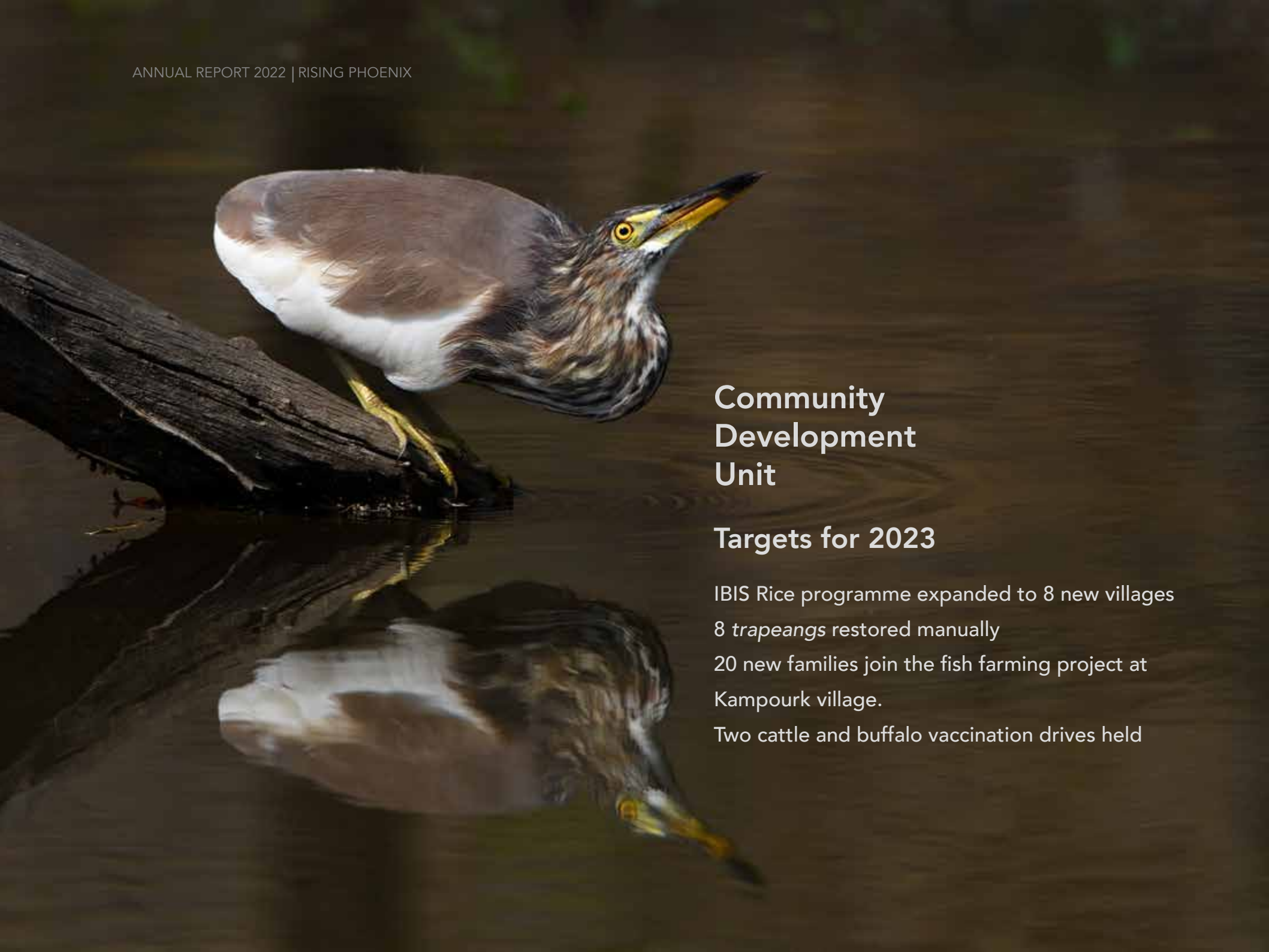
Siem Pang district becomes the largest producer of IBIS Rice in Cambodia

In 2022 Siem Pang district became the biggest producer of IBIS Rice in Cambodia, finally eclipsing production in Preah Vihear Province where the project first started. This was due in part to farmers in Preah Vihear switching out of organic rice production and into intensive rice production using pesticides and chemical fertilizers. In 2022, we teamed-up with the USAID Morodok Baitang project and now have plans to expand the IBIS Rice programme to all 26 villages in the district.

Since the start of the IBIS Rice programme in 2017 working with 43 households in only one village, we have steadily increased the number of participating villages and in 2022 we worked with 697 households representing 3,485 rural people in 11 villages across the district. Households are eligible to cultivate and sell their paddy to IBIS Rice only if they have signed a conservation agreement with the project giving an undertaking to halt logging, hunting wildlife, encroachment, or using chemicals or poisons in the wildlife sanctuary. During the agricultural year each household must undergo an audit from ECOCERT in order to receive United States Department of Agriculture organic certification. In 2022, participating households sold their organic paddy rice at an 86% premium price to the project and received significant household income.

At the end of December 2022, 510 households out of 697 households in the scheme sold 670 tonnes of paddy for a total US\$308,257, providing each family with an average income of \$604. Were these villagers not involved in the IBIS Rice scheme, the family cash income would be considerably lower, and in many cases, zero. Alternative legal sources of cash income are few, aside from working as a day labourer on nearby banana plantations or running a local shop. The project has also mapped 484 parcels of land of which 446 have been registered with the local authority providing soft land title.





Community Development Unit

Targets for 2023

IBIS Rice programme expanded to 8 new villages

8 *trapeangs* restored manually

20 new families join the fish farming project at
Kampourk village.

Two cattle and buffalo vaccination drives held

LOGISTICS SUPPORT UNIT

2022 Achievements

Pre-release enclosure for Siamese crocodile built at Boeung Nava

Restoration of Boeung Khampa completed for 2023 Siamese crocodile release

5 *trapeangs* restored (3 manually, 2 mechanically)

54 villagers were employed to excavate 3 *trapeangs*

20 wildlife crime reporting signboards posted

1 ranger post built at Veal Trau

Sustainable-use Zone at Kampourk and along the southern boundary to the Sekong River demarcated

Solar power system at Siem Pang camp upgraded



Building a better sanctuary

The Logistics Support Unit made a major contribution to the Siamese crocodile release programme in 2022 by building a pre-release enclosure and ranger post at Boeung Nava. Critically, the unit also undertook a major restoration at Boeung Khampa for the 2023 crocodile release, removing upwards of a 1,000 truckloads of spoil.

Pre-release enclosures enable newly released Siamese crocodiles to acclimatize and grow accustomed to their new wetland home. The enclosure was surrounded by a low fence. This restrained the crocodiles from venturing further afield until the increasing water levels following the start of the rains enabled them to swim over the top and populate the entire wetland. This is what eventually happened, with some crocodiles reaching the O'Khampa River, further aiding their dispersal into the sanctuary.

Boeung Khampa was identified in 2021 as a prospective site for crocodile release. The central part of the wetland was suitable for crocodile breeding but much of the wetland had undergone ecological succession, resulting in drying-out and large beds of sedge and the shrub *Sesbania javanica*.

With a plan in-hand, Koem Pok engaged contractors to remove spoil from the northern and southern parts of the wetland, thereby creating two large, deep pools. The pools were juxtaposed to make accessing potential nesting areas in the centre of the wetland more difficult for people and to provide crocodiles with deep water refugia.

To check threats to the south-west of the wildlife sanctuary, the team used timber confiscated from loggers to build a new ranger post. Unlike a ranger station, a ranger post is not permanently manned, but helps increase the reach of the enforcement rangers on patrol.

We also collaborated with Wildlife Alliance who funded 20 signboards advertising the wildlife crime hotline, which were posted around the wildlife sanctuary. This hotline is a long established and successful resource, and Wildlife Alliance has a rapid response team capable of being deployed at short notice to arrest law-breakers.

Logistics Support Unit

Targets for 2023

Siamese crocodile soft release enclosure
at Boeung Khampa constructed

Elongated tortoise soft release enclosure constructed

Five *trapeangs* restored mechanically

Ten irrigation water tanks built at Kampourk Village

Floating checkpoint on Sekong River constructed



SURVEILLANCE INTELLIGENCE & REPORTING UNIT

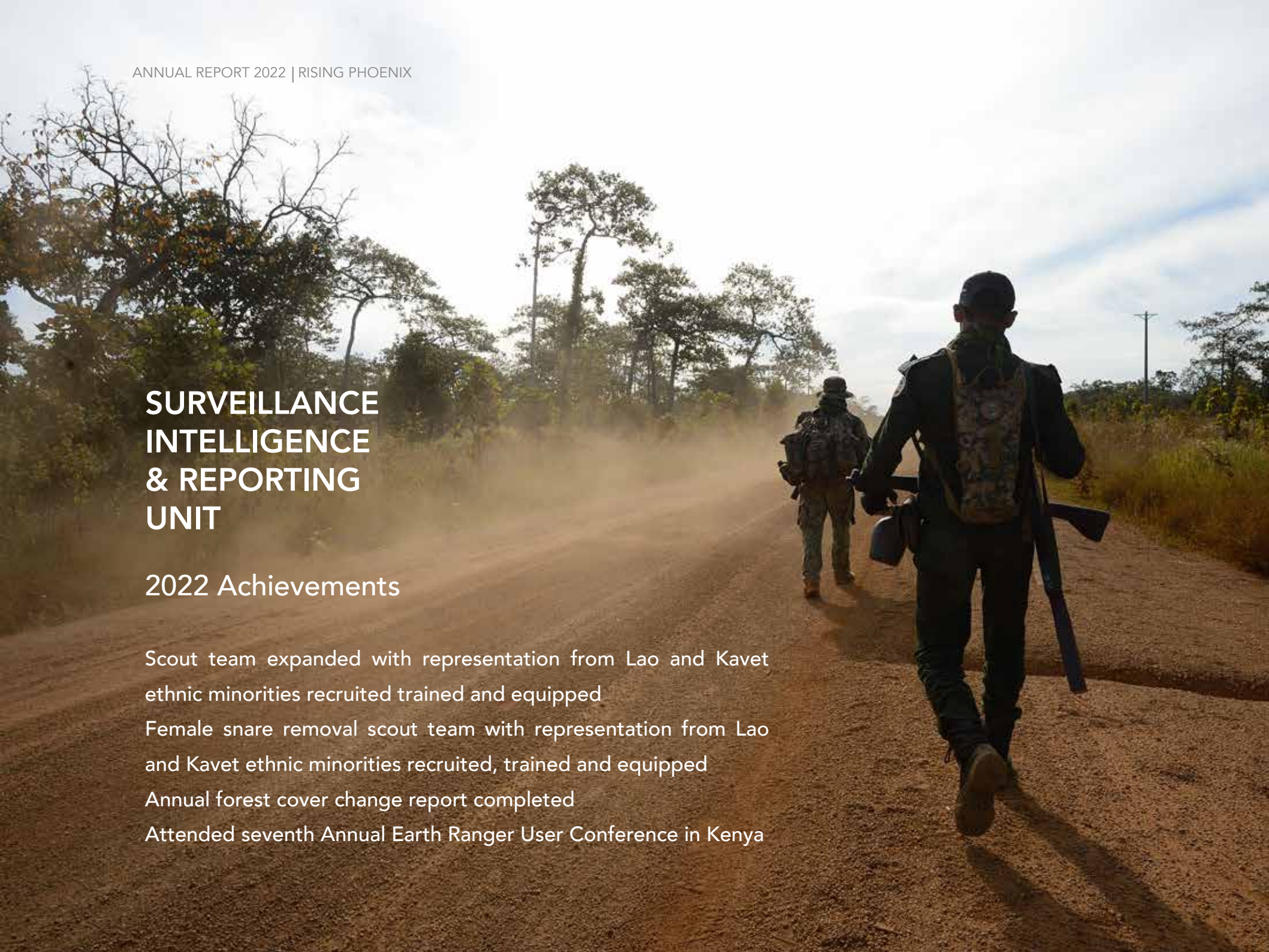
2022 Achievements

Scout team expanded with representation from Lao and Kavet ethnic minorities recruited trained and equipped

Female snare removal scout team with representation from Lao and Kavet ethnic minorities recruited, trained and equipped

Annual forest cover change report completed

Attended seventh Annual Earth Ranger User Conference in Kenya



Forest cover change within Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary

One of the most important tasks of the unit is compiling the annual forest cover change within the wildlife sanctuary. This is done using remotely sensed data from satellites and from our drones. Data from this report tells us how well we are conserving the protected area and identifying hotspots for future intervention.

Most forest loss around Kampourk village has been along the road that connects the village to the border road (Fig. 6). The rate of forest loss along the road was reduced in 2022 as most available plots along the road had already been taken and deforested in 2020. Kampourk village remains an anomaly: although it is gazetted outside the wildlife sanctuary, it is a remote outlying village, principally Lao speaking, that exists largely outside mainstream Khmer society. In the past it has been a hotbed of illegal activity including logging and wildlife trade. Currently it is the centre of a snaring epidemic. This village would be better removed from the wildlife sanctuary and relocated closer to the main highway to the international border crossing. Villagers could keep their rice fields for an agreed period and would have closer access to schools and healthcare.

Without this action, the village is set to remain a problem for protected area management, and due to its remote

location, it will cost the province more per capita in infrastructure such as schools, primary healthcare and electricity provision, than villages elsewhere in the province.



Figure 5: Three hotspots of forest loss; along the Sekong River, the pan-handle in the south-east, and around Kampourk village.

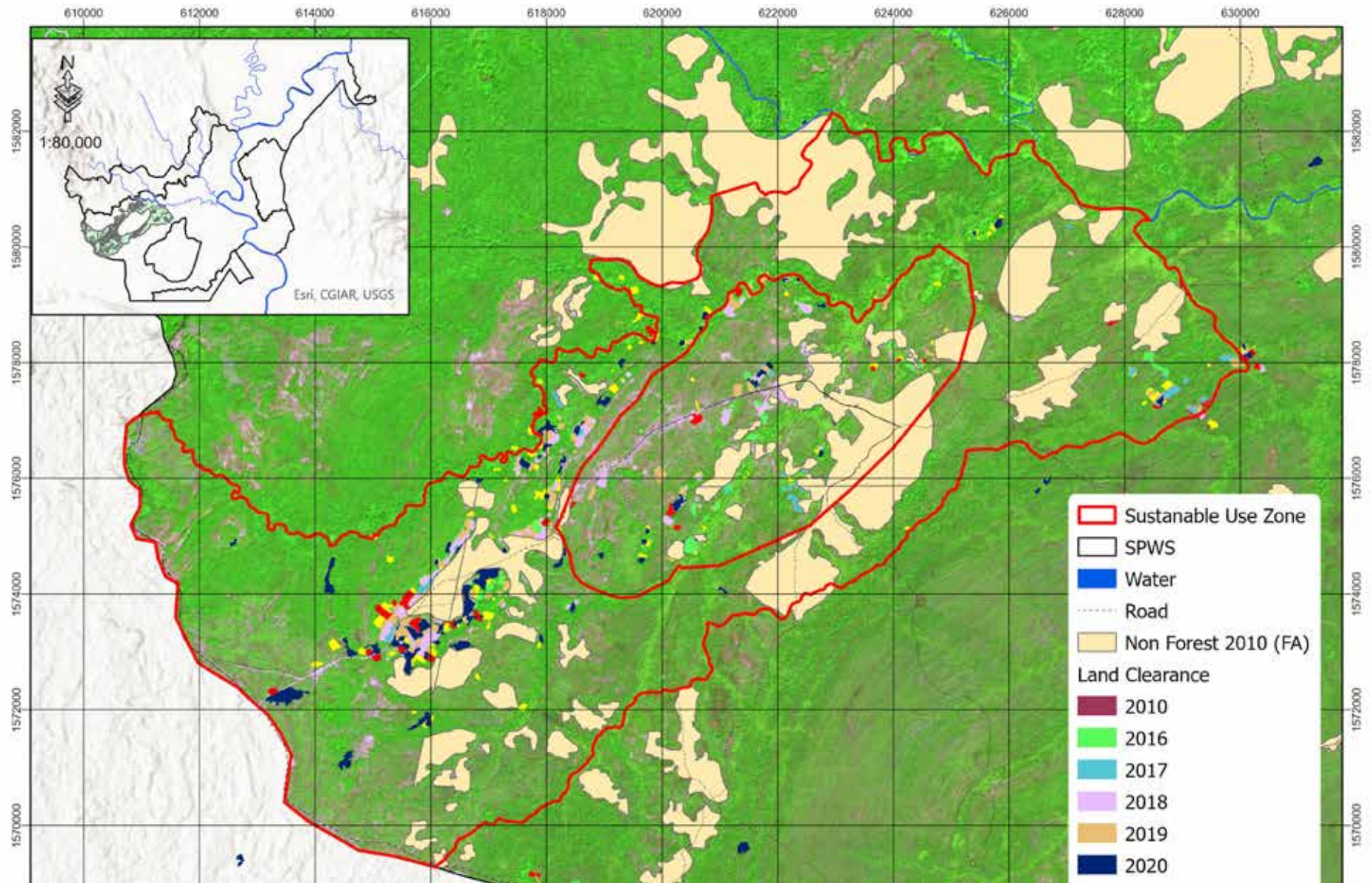


Figure 6: Forest cover change around Kampourk village

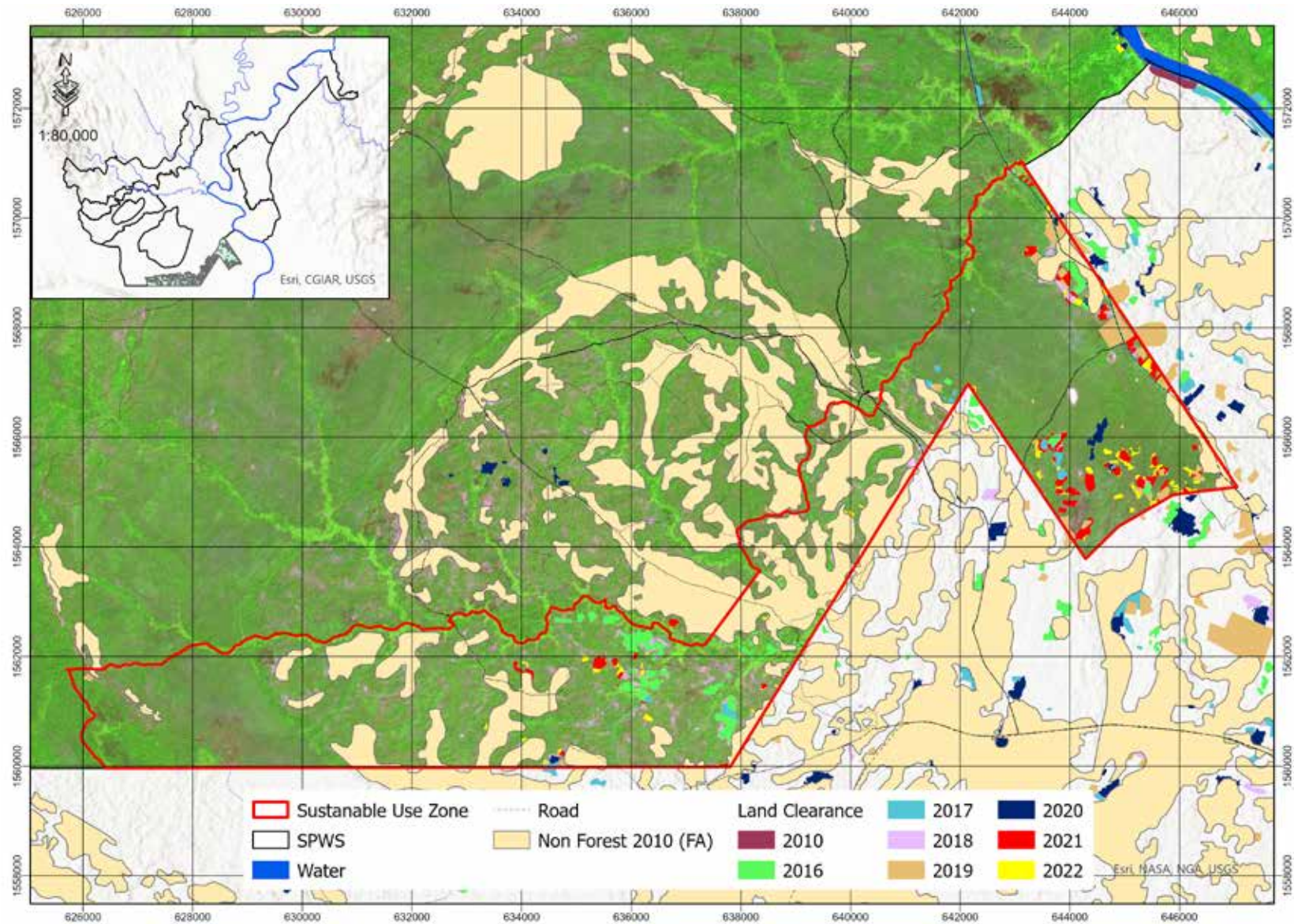


Figure 7: Forest loss along the southern boundary of Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary

Forest loss along the southern boundary is currently concentrated in the panhandle (Fig. 7). The panhandle was included within the wildlife sanctuary because it holds two large wetlands, *trapeangs* Boeung and Tchook at which both species of ibis regularly feed. Indeed, Trapeang Boeung was where numbers of white-shouldered ibis were first detected in 2003. However, the edge to area ratio of the panhandle poses a conservation challenge – it has a small area and a long boundary. Whilst these wetlands retain their biodiversity values, pressures upon them are increasing. When the southern boundary is fenced we must be prepared to give-up this area and install a checkpoint along the main road.

Riverine forest is one of the most threatened forest types in South East Asia. Cambodia supports the most extensive remaining areas of this habitat along the Sekong and Srepok rivers. It is also the rarest forest type in the sanctuary. Of a forest area totalling 117,380 ha in 2021, riverine forest covered only 11,145 ha. In the sanctuary, riverine forest is only found along the Sekong River and its larger tributaries. All riverine forest in the sanctuary is within the conservation zone, but this has not prevented its destruction. The riverine forest supports an important population of the globally Endangered green peafowl *Pavo muticus*, the abundance of which was estimated at 574 birds suggesting the site is a national stronghold for the species. It also supports a population of the Endangered Indochinese leaf-monkey *Trachypithecus germaini*.

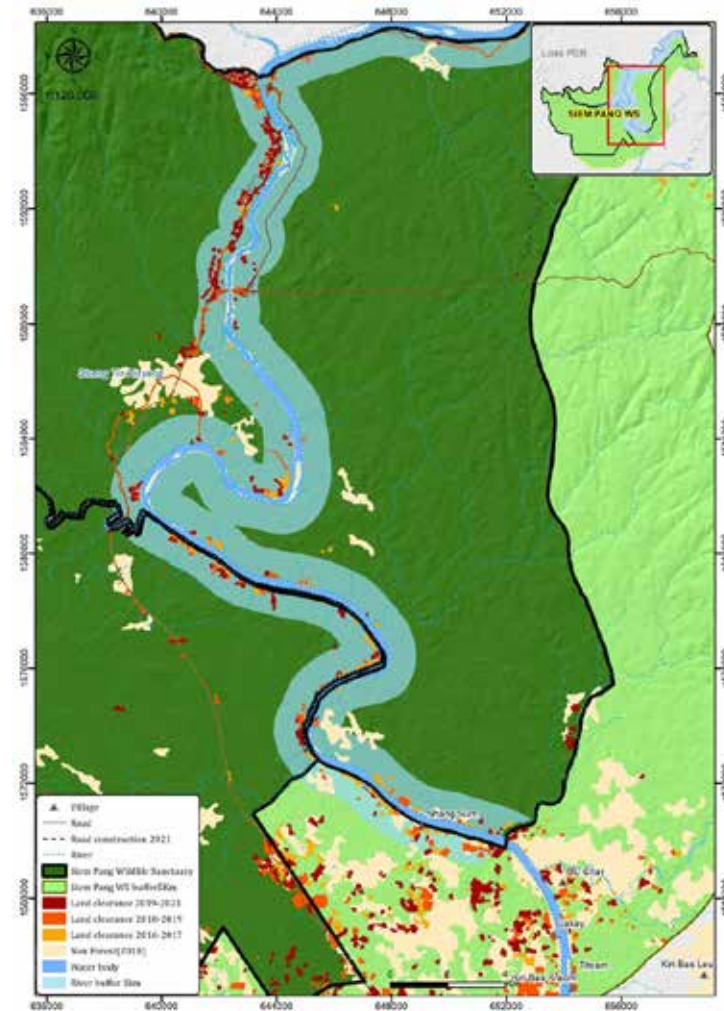


Figure 8: Forest loss along the Sekong River





**Seizure of illegal logging trucks – a personal tale
Intelligence Officer Sry Vuthy recalls an enforcement
operation to apprehend three logging trucks in the
wildlife sanctuary during March 2022.**

In February 2022 we started to receive reports of illegal logging in the south-west of the wildlife sanctuary. Patrol teams were deployed to conduct regular reconnaissance in the area for real time intelligence gathering. Together with close colleagues, we posed as fishermen and honey collectors so as not to arouse the suspicion of the loggers. We finally received clear and precise intelligence on 1 March 2022, so a team of five comprising two SIRU and three Army soldiers were despatched. We soon found the network of sandy tracks difficult to navigate and so split into two teams. At 1500 hours one team encountered a fully loaded logging truck accompanied by four men. We radioed for back-up and for headquarters to alert the other team. However, frustratingly the second team remained out of radio contact until 1700 hours. En route to the rendezvous with the second team we found many truck tyre tracks and then came upon a second truck loaded with logs and with three men present. One soldier was deployed to guard the truck, whilst we searched for additional trucks. Then at 1730 hours, we found a third loaded logging truck with four men.

I tried to calm the loggers down, I then jumped on the truck, took the keys and asked the loggers to stay where they were. A guard was then posted on the third truck. The two SIRU staff then rode back and forth on motorbikes to make sure the trucks did not attempt to escape. A hand tractor and trailer loaded with timber then arrived at the location of the second truck with three people and was arrested by the Army. The soldiers were threatened by a machete-wielding man but the soldiers stood their ground and disarmed him. Darkness fell and we decided to move the trucks to a secure location to await back-up. Some of the loggers tried to escape but our team searched for and apprehended some of them, but ultimately nine of the 14 logging suspects escaped. Three suspects with the hand tractor were sent to Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary HQ in the company of a soldier and two scouts. The remaining suspects were escorted to two border Army bases where we received full Army support at dawn the following morning.



Rising Phoenix staff work in support of law enforcement, in this case, with the Department of Environment and Army. Although we strive to be neighbourly with all those with whom we share the landscape, not all act in good faith. In 2018, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) allocated a 27,000 ha concession in the biodiversity corridor, adjacent to the sanctuary, to a private company. Together with our colleagues at Wildlife Alliance (WA) we argued strongly against this and WA even lent their helicopter for overflights to reveal the forest condition. In doing so MAFF contradicted a Ministry Environment sub-decree on maintaining biodiversity corridors. As so often happens, once the forest within the concession was depleted of valuable wood, the company sought logs from elsewhere. The logging trucks arrested in the above article were, it was reported, returning to the concession in question. We resolved the incident described above by meeting with the concession and having them sign a written commitment to not violate the Protected Areas laws of Cambodia, on pain of having their vehicles confiscated .

Targets for 2023

Earth Ranger software updated

Snare clearance along the O'Khampa River increases to 15 km²
4,000 snares removed

No Siamese crocodile mortality due to drowning in fishing nets
Database of hunters and traders compiled

PATROL

2022 achievements

- 20 Army soldiers trained
- 15 Border Police trained
- 20 Lao poachers intercepted and engaged
- 177 patrols conducted
- 596 patrol nights conducted
- 11,596 km covered by patrols
- 3 logging trucks confiscated
- 7 hand-tractors confiscated
- 9 chainsaws confiscated
- 25 cases of land encroachment documented
- 8 bushmeat confiscations
- PATROL agreement extended to 2025



Successful protected areas law enforcement remains our biggest challenge. Working with multiple law enforcement agencies with different jurisdictions poses new difficulties and opportunities. There were successful training exercises for the Army and Border Police in the first quarter, and a training session for 25 Scouts during December. For part of the year, efforts were focused on engaging a team of armed Lao poachers that were covertly crossing the international frontier. This group of 20 armed men engaged PATROL teams and shots were exchanged on more than one occasion. A successful operation in March resulted in three logging trucks having been apprehended in the south-west corner of the wildlife sanctuary. The timber was confiscated and used to build a ranger post to deter future logging in the area. This represented the first joint coordinated operation with the Army. We also undertook an operation with the police to clampdown on illegal firearm ownership.

Through engagement with the PATROL coordination committee, partners accepted that they have no mandate to issue logging permits within the protected area. This is illegal and reveals the difficulty that government officers have in knowing the limits of their authority.

Importantly, we were able to extend the Siem Pang PATROL agreement with the Siem Pang Provincial Authority to 2025. To strengthen our legal position in relation to supporting law enforcement officers, we obtained a security licence from the Ministry of Interior. This means our uniform and all scout equipment are now approved by the Ministry and that our scouts have the power to detain law-breakers until law enforcement officers arrive on the scene.



PATROL

Targets for 2023

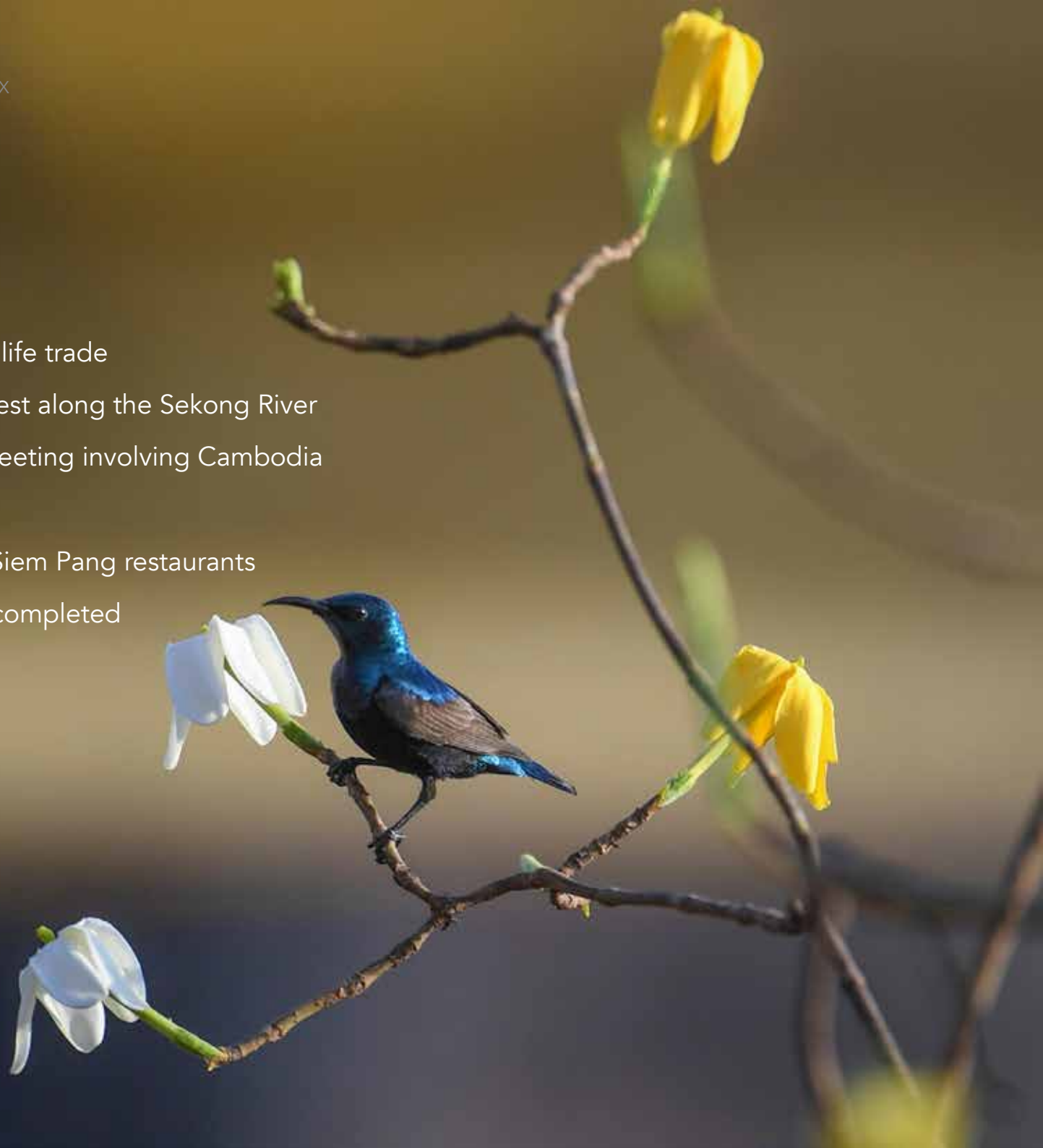
4 prosecutions for illegal wildlife trade

No further loss of riverine forest along the Sekong River

First annual Border Liaison meeting involving Cambodia
and Lao PDR

No further sale of wildlife in Siem Pang restaurants

Team leader training course completed



HEAD QUARTERS UNIT

2022 Achievements

Agreement secured with Cambodian Government
US\$ two million secured in funding from institutional donors
First corporate supporter secured
2023 budget secured
104 staff now employed across six units
Five short films produced
Sponsored Global Birdfair

The first step in new phase of collaboration

Earlier in this report, SPC President Meng Hieng reported on our successful conclusion of a 30-year agreement with Ministry of Environment to manage Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. This agreement, signed between our sister NGO, Siem Pang Conservation and the Ministry of Environment, concludes a long period of negotiation, led by Meng, which will allow Rising Phoenix to continue and expand our investment in conservation and permit our new company, Siem Pang Experience to develop tourist infrastructure. The agreement should be viewed as a first step in a new phase of collaboration with Ministry of Environment. In 2023 we will work on the development of a qualified investment project to that end.

Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Cambodia; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+), is to provide positive financial incentives to reduce Carbon emissions through avoided deforestation and forest degradation, and to compensate countries, like Cambodia, based on their performance. We believe the development of a REDD+ project for Siem Pang provides a good opportunity for future funding of our work. Although in 2022 we undertook discussions with partners about the development of a REDD+ project we were not able to proceed with project development.

However, in early 2023 we obtained a letter of authorization from the Ministry of Environment to proceed with REDD+ project development, and USAID Morodok Baitang project has now engaged the consultancy company, GreenCollar to proceed with a REDD+ feasibility study for Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. Thus by the second quarter of 2023 the feasibility study will be completed and we can then begin work, subject to the reports' recommendations, on a project development document. REDD+ is not a quick fix, rather it involves a protracted and complex process but will after up to three years, provide a long-term funding solution to aspects of our work.

2022 proved to be our best year for fund-raising. Not only did we secure our 2023 budget of US\$1,650,000 but fund-raising exceeded two million US dollars. We signed new agreements with the USAID Morodok Baitang project and are looking forward to working ever more closely with them in 2023 and beyond. We signed an agreement with our first ever corporate sponsor, Cartier Philanthropies who will give US\$ 1 million for a three-year programme. The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund has given foundational support since our creation, and whilst several of their projects drew to a natural close in 2022, they pledged new funding for the second phase of our Siamese crocodile project.

Several projects supported by BirdLife International also drew to a close during the year and their last major project funded by the UK Government's Darwin Initiative will close on 31 March. BirdLife will continue their support to Rising Phoenix in 2023 via support from one of their species champions, Steve Martin. Steve has been a committed and long-time supporter of our work at Siem Pang since 2014, and we thank him for his unwavering support. Happily, at the time of writing, we have been informed that we have been successful with our latest Darwin Initiative bid and they will receive some £566,000 over the next three years.

We commissioned documentary film-maker Nick Wood to make a series of films about our work in 2022. These have been produced in English and Khmer and will soon be available on YouTube. In 2023 we will continue working with Nick to make updates on our Siamese crocodile and vulture work.

As John Baker writes elsewhere in this report, in 2022 we provided seed-funding to Global Birdfair to help re-launch the event re-branded as Global Birdfair. Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary benefited from Birdfair support in 2019, receiving £155,000. This followed a visit from Tim Appleton and Penny Robinson to the site in 2018, and we thought it only just to return our support.



Targets for 2023

REDD+ feasibility study completed

REDD+ project development document completed
(depending on feasibility study recommendations)

Secure 2024 budget

Qualified investment project developed and approved

Two short films commissioned



INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Organisations with whom we worked, or who helped support our mission in 2022



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 will instigate 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 International

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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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 will cease 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.



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. We envision a world where people, wildlife and nature can coexist. Certified organic, IBIS Rice is grown by hand in Cambodia. Our 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*. We 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.



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 culture 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 will produce a follow-up and a new culture film.



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.



Wildlife Alliance

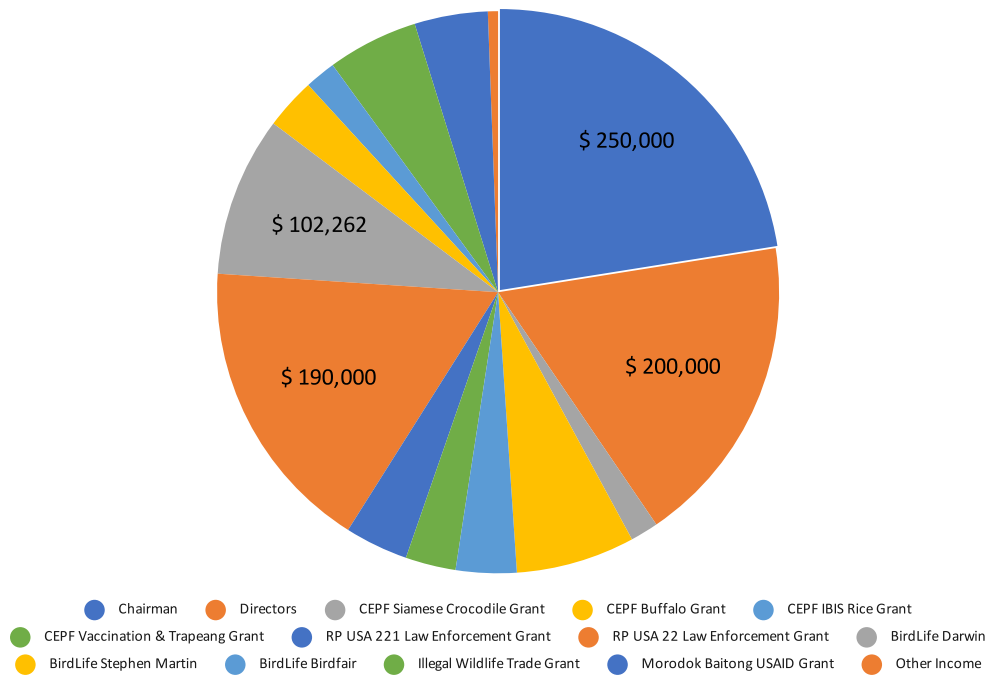
are a team of 220 experts with a mission to keep global temperature increase below 2°C by the year 2030. We increase vegetation cover by planting new forests and assist in the management of protected areas on land and sea. We protect the world's endangered wildlife species. Our current intervention is 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.



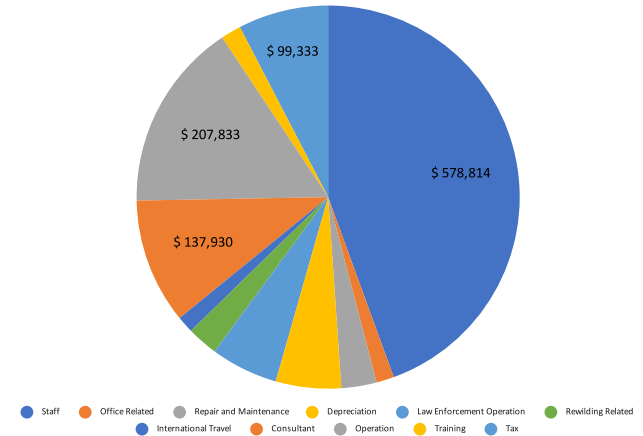
FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2022

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

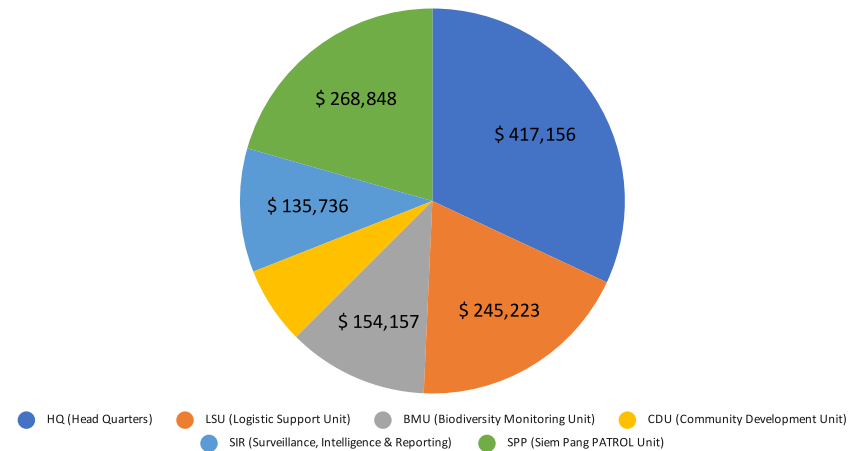
INCOME



EXPENDITURE

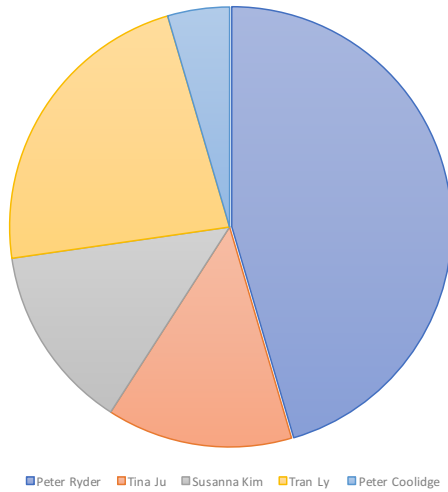


EXPENDITURE PER UNIT

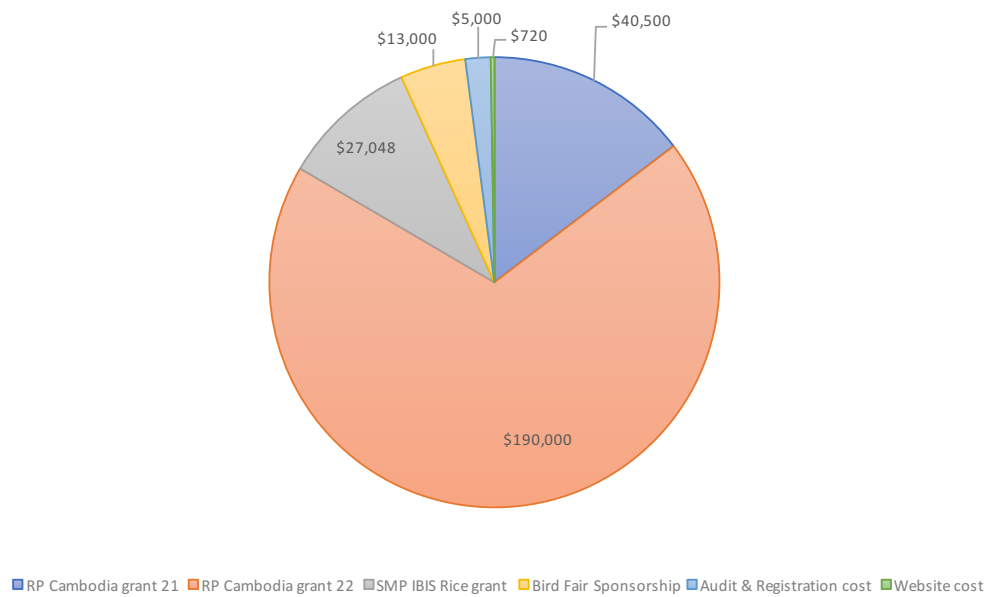


Rising Phoenix Conservation Inc.

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



“Our fundraising success with institutional donors means that our work continues to grow. In 2022 we set a high bar indeed, and with your continued support in the coming year, I know we can strive for even greater success”



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 and the other current board members are Susanna Kim-Bracke, Dinh Thi Hoa, Dominic T. Scriven and Jonathan C. Eames.

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.

Registered addresses:

Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd. # 32A, St 494, Phsar Deurm Tkov, Chamkarmon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

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

Siem Pang Conservation is #111, Preah Norodom Blvd (41), Sangkat Chaktomuk, Khan Daun Penh, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

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 are created making families more secure and communities more stable. A place where the conservation-led economy can begin to grow.

The benefits are many in supporting Rising Phoenix. 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.





Our visitors in 2022



If you wish to support our work and if you would like to find out more, please contact:

Jonathan C. Eames OBE
Chief Executive Officer
Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd
jonathan@risingphoenix.ltd