



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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Photographs by Jonathan C. Eames, Jeremy Holden and Rising Phoenix
Cover image: Little green bee-eaters in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared by
Jonathan C. Eames OBE



The Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary

Message from the Chairman

Dominic Scriven OBE

Dear supporters, friends, and colleagues of Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. I am delighted to report that 2024 saw a year of rapid clip, with noteworthy and mission-critical significance across the range of our activities.

Given that the core of our mission is restoration of habitat and wildlife, I am proud to report successful breeding among our population of re-introduced Siamese crocodiles. This was a Cambodian first, both for reintroduced crocs breeding in the wild, and in a restored habitat. This is a vigorous validation of our approach, our practice, and our execution.

I was able to find time to visit Siem Pang in December 2024 and witness the IBIS Rice harvest - which for the second year running, was the largest in Cambodia. More than a 1000 families from 19 villages sold over 2000 tonnes of paddy rice. This generated a total revenue of US\$933k, bringing us tantalizingly close to achieving the annual figure of \$1000 per household, and demonstrating our commitment to community engagement .

On a more sober theme, but one of no less importance, is the hard work conducted by our enforcement team.

They prepared more than 40 land encroachment and wildlife crime cases for the provincial courts. Two custodial sentences were delivered, again a first for the sanctuary: a five-year sentence for encroachment into the protected area; and a one-year sentence for firearms possession.

Apart from these banner moments, a very proactive start was made on construction of the Siem Pang Forest Lodge, with tented accommodation on par with global best-in-class. During my visit, we marked selected trees that the resort will be built around, retaining the natural atmosphere we wish to maintain. Alongside Earthshot Labs, we have advanced substantially with the REDD+ process. This is expected to result in carbon-related revenues by 2027.

Now another year is upon us, and with it not just the continuation of the 2024 work stream, but a series of new and vibrant challenges. Our monitoring team has bravely embarked upon yet another conservation first in Asia: this time to translocate up to 25 banteng from a nearby unprotected site. This sits alongside the less headline-grabbing, but no less significant, construction of a 42km boundary fence, a physical emphasis to the protected area status of the sanctuary. We plan to complete and open Siem Pang Forest Lodge in the fourth quarter of 2025; a launch that will itself be underwritten by a new air taxi service, alighting on the our own airstrip.

A photograph showing two men in a forest. The man on the left, wearing a black hat and a light-colored shirt, is smiling and holding a red ribbon. The man on the right, wearing a dark shirt with a logo, is also smiling and holding the ribbon. They are standing next to a large tree trunk. In the background, other people are visible in a wooded area.

“ We marked selected trees that the resort will be built around, maintaining a naturally wild atmosphere ”

Big ideas. Big plans. Big actions. But at all times, we must retain the notion of our responsibility and fallibility; and in this I'd like to acknowledge deep gratitude to our partner-visionary CEO's, Meng and Jonathan, without whom, the above achievements would remain mere figments of the imagination.

The mobilization of US\$2.1m over the 2024 financial year, and a projected US\$2.3m in 2025, we owe to you, our supporters and friends. For this demonstration of belief in our work, we remain eternally, deeply, and humbly grateful. It is our loyal supporters who provide fuel and light for the journey ahead, and inspire us with same determination to exceed the successes we engineered in 2024.

However, it pains me to report that the year ended on a note of sadness, as we marked the passing of our great friend Cosimo Jencks, a long standing and most enthusiastic supporter of our venture. Cosimo (pictured right) was instrumental in facilitating our partnership with Meng Hieng. Rest in Peace, Cosimo, you will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing you.

Dominic

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'D' followed by a series of vertical lines.

Message from the CEO

Jonathan C. Eames OBE

It was over two decades ago that I first came to Siem Pang. Driving up from Phnom Penh recently, I realised how much has changed since that first visit. Siem Pang was a very different place then. Wild, remote, and accessible only by boat up the Sekong River — five hours from the town of Stung Treng.

Inevitably, the wildlife has become impoverished since those early days, particularly the larger mammals. But birds have disappeared, too. The loss of the stately sarus crane from this landscape evokes a deep sense of sadness. The world's tallest bird, it is also, fatally, a ground nester. Trampling humans and dogs, whose numbers outstrip the density of any naturally occurring large predator, proved too much. It was witnessing these kinds of threats, and the knowledge that they would only get worse, that inspired our first conservation work in Siem Pang. This was focused on a suite of Critically Endangered birds that called this corner of Cambodia home. If they were lost here, then they would likely be lost to the kingdom itself.

Two decades later and all five of these birds are still flourishing in Siem Pang. Reflecting back on that first work has made me realise how far we have come since that initial programme.

Our current operation, with its 105 staff, now makes us the largest civil society employer in Siem Pang District. Where conservation issues have arisen in the sanctuary, we have addressed them with positivity and a commitment to continuity. Working with both our government partners and the local community, we have made allies, not enemies. And as the threats to the Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary have increased, our efforts have matched the pace, and our initiatives have diversified and evolved in ways that continue to surprise me.

This last year has been our most ambitious yet. While many of our previous projects are still running, we began planning a daring initiative to move a herd of beleaguered banteng from a fragment of unprotected forest into a secure area of the sanctuary. This will undoubtedly prove a very difficult task, but one we are ready to tackle, given the fact that, if left to fend for themselves, these Critically Endangered animals have little chance of survival in their current area. In April, the legendary CEO of Conservation Solutions, Kester Vickery, visited Cambodia from South Africa, thanks to funding from USAID Morodok Baitang project. Together with Rising Phoenix staff members, Eang Samnang and Dr Romain Legrand, Kester helped develop a strategy to safely move the banteng. This work requires careful preparation, and is scheduled to commence in the first quarter of 2025.



“ The loss of the
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of sadness ”

Meanwhile, at Boeung Khampa, a Critically Endangered female Siamese crocodile successfully hatched 14 young and transferred them to the wetland we restored in 2023. This event marks the first time in Cambodia that captive reared and released Siamese crocodiles have bred in the wild. It is also the first time that Siamese crocodiles have successfully bred in a restored wetland. This confirms that our pioneering approach with this species, and our wetland restorations, are suitable for the crocodiles, and on course for further successes.

For the second year, thanks to the leadership of Mak Sopheap and the Community Development Unit, Siem Pang District proved to be the largest producer of IBIS Rice in Cambodia. This gave a significant financial boost to the 1000 families that follow the scheme, and crucially, evidence suggests that 98% of these households followed their conservation contracts.

The Siem Pang PATROL Unit lead by Mark Bowman, Director of Law Enforcement, together with Say Ratanak submitted 40 land encroachment and wildlife crime cases to the provincial court. These resulted in two custodial sentences. One of these involved the illegal possession of a firearm. We suspect this same felon was responsible for shooting two of the banteng we plan to move.

Mang Tukla, Head of the Surveillance, Intelligence and Reporting Unit, led the preparation of our REDD+ project in collaboration with a new partner Earthshot Labs, from California. This project forms part of our strategy to achieve sustainable finance for our work.

Across other areas, our collaboration with the Angkor Centre for the Conservation of Biodiversity saw the completion of the first phase of the elongated tortoise reinforcement project. In 2024, the 90 surviving tortoises were liberated into the wildlife sanctuary, and are currently being monitored on their journeys via radio telemetry and satellite tracking.

During the course of the year, we secured new grants from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, the Darwin Initiative, USAID Morodok Baitang project, and IUCN together totalling US\$ 809,400. Following the closure of USAID, the Morodok Baitang project received a stop work order and the project was cancelled. Regrettably, this resulted in the loss of US\$ 337,515 and the end of a partnership that had dramatically expanded the production of IBIS Rice in Siem Pang District. I would like to express my thanks and admiration for the professionalism and camaraderie of Chiefs of Party Vaneska Litz and Sabine Joukes, and my disappointment that this successful project was terminated.

“ For the second year,
Siem Pang District
proved to be the
largest producer
of IBIS Rice
in Cambodia ”



This year saw the continuation of our longest running project funded by BirdLife International. This work is facilitated by funds from Steve Martin from England, who deserves particular thanks for his unwavering support over many years for our effort to conserve giant ibis and white-shouldered ibis.

In 2024, we were delighted to host Samdoup Allier and Julien Semilin from our highly valued strategic partner Cartier for Nature. His Excellency Patrick Murphy, Ambassador of the United States of America and Kathleen Murphy made a return visit to Siem Pang, and we welcomed Her Excellency Teo Lay Cheng, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Singapore to our tented camp.

Our annual expenditure for 2024 totalled **US\$ 2,123,218**. Our 2025 annual budget is projected to be **US\$ 2,328,165**.

Critical to our financial success was the generous support we received from our board and our international donors in France, Taiwan, UK, USA and Vietnam. During 2024, I was able to visit the USA and meet most of our supporters and personally thank Jeff Morgan for his generous aid.

James Lyon, one of our first two employees, who served as Operations Manager, re-located together with his family back to the UK and we thank him for his service over many years, wishing him well in his new role. Following James' departure, we appointed Phan Bunthi as the new head of finance and administration to lead our Headquarters Unit.

With our 2025 budget secured, our major targets are to build a 40 km boundary fence, successfully conduct the banteng translocation, complete the REDD+ project document, finish the back-of-house construction, and create the air strip that will enable the opening of the Siem Pang Forest Lodge later in 2025.

One promise I can guarantee, is that every dollar we spend in Siem Pang brings us incrementally closer to realizing our vision — a vision to create a sustainable and safe haven for the fragile biodiversity of this dynamic seasonal landscape.

Given our continued successes, I now consider the saddening losses we have seen over the years as not irreversible. Siamese crocodile have returned to the landscape, the decline of the vultures and ibises has stabilized, and through our community work, we are beginning to relieve the human pressure on the forest and wildlife. By this time next year, banteng may well be roaming the sanctuary.

VISITORS 2024 | RISING PHOENIX



Effort and commitment is what is required, and we can clearly demonstrate both of these qualities. I am proud to say that we *have* delivered, we *are* delivering, and we *will* deliver on our mission to safeguard and develop a sustainable future for the sanctuary.

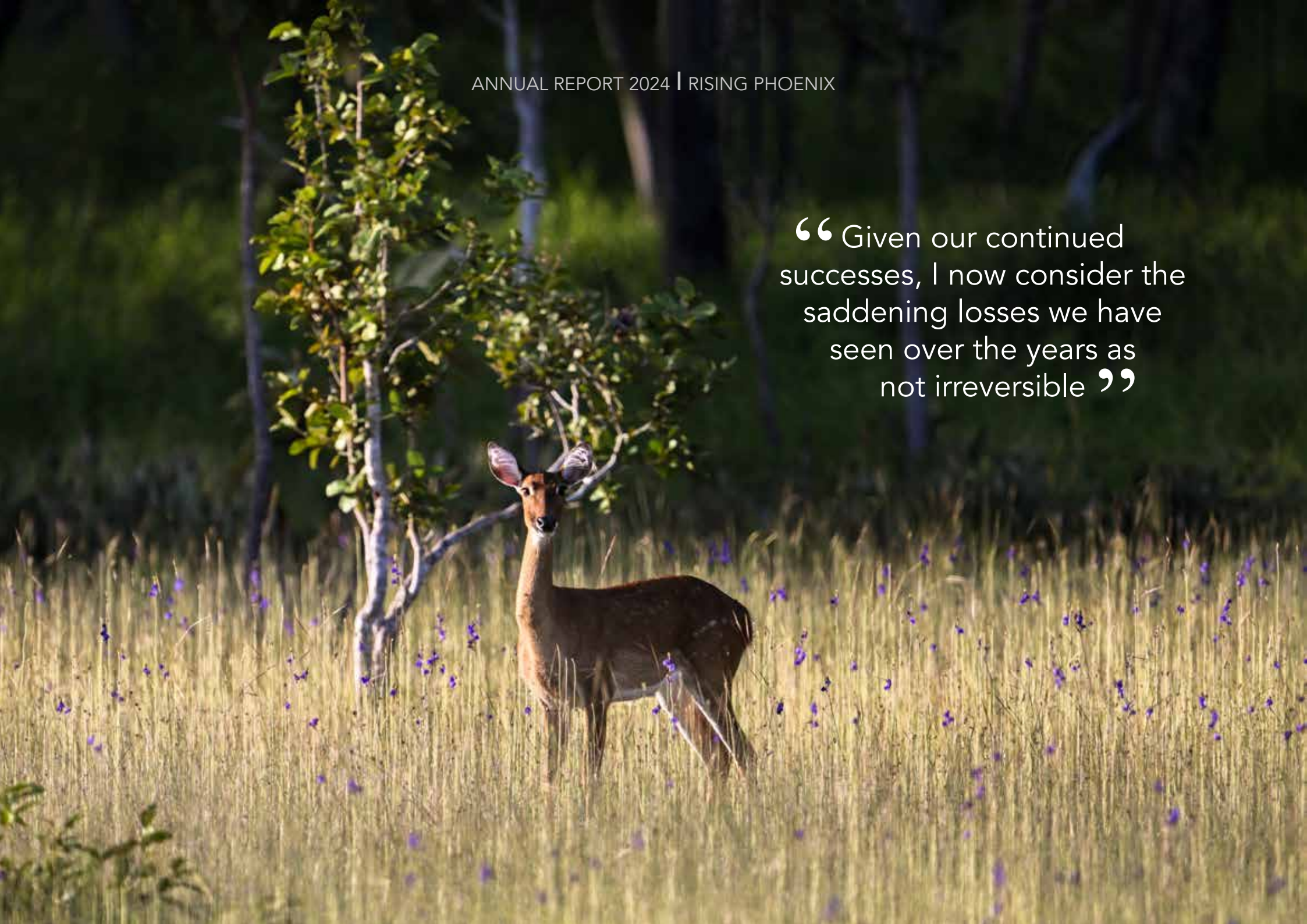
It leaves me only to reiterate Dominic's words above: we cannot do this without the generous help of our loyal and committed supporters, and for that I offer my sincerest thanks.

Jonathan Eames

Jonathan C. Eames OBE



“ Given our continued successes, I now consider the saddening losses we have seen over the years as not irreversible ”



**Message from the President of Siem Pang Conservation
and Executive Director of The Siem Pang Experience**

Meng Hieng

With governmental approvals for the Siem Pang Forest Lodge secured, the first part of 2024 was spent in planning and preparation. In second the half of the year, we began the construction of the new resort. In May, the board reached a final agreement on the number of tents, and the final budget was confirmed.

Aline and Quan from architects Asiatique Design completed the drawings for the resort, following a site visit accompanied by the board. We then welcomed Channa Huot, General Manager at Koki Engineering Co., Ltd and colleagues to Siem Pang, and have now signed a construction contract with them to build the resort. We agreed that the Logistics Support Unit from Rising Phoenix will build the back-of-house facilities and airstrip. I later appointed Australian Peter Burke as resort project manager.

In March, we met with the Secretary of State for Aviation, and in September, had exploratory meetings with Samra Seaplane, a newly established Cambodian company that offers a premium seaplane service to resorts.

Together with Captain Nguyen Ba Hai, we also visited Lao Skyway, formerly known as Lao Air, a private airline that offers charter services. As a result, we now have a clearer understanding of options available and the costs involved, and a preferred option has been identified.

In November, Rising Phoenix staff began work on the access road to the resort from Khet Svay village, and started excavation of the foundations for the back-of-house facilities — including the staff accommodation, laundry, and kitchens. In late November, the board members visited the construction site and made suggestions, adjustments to lay-out of some of the tents, and personally marked trees that should not be lost during construction.

The location for the large trapeang to be excavated around the resort was marked-out at the start of December. Koki Engineering Co. Ltd began work on the foundations for the lodge during early December, establishing a work camp for up to 80 men. Towards the end of December, the electricity poles were delivered, and placed. The first tents arrived and the tent bases were completed.

Throughout the year we have worked closely with a number of key government officials, and would particularly like to express our thanks to HE Eang Sophalleth, Minister of Environment; HE Kim Nong, Ministry of Environment; Sreng Cheaheng, Head of the Department of Environment in Stung Treng Province. Special thanks go to HE Stung Treng Provincial Governor Svay Sam Eang, who we had the pleasure of meeting and briefing about our work in October.

The coming year holds many ambitious targets, none greater than the completion of our resort. It will be the year when I look forward to welcoming you to Siem Pang Forest Lodge.



Meng Hieng



Message from the Treasurer of Rising Phoenix Conservation Inc.

John Baker

Protection of large landscapes, especially intact tropical forest supporting rich biodiversity and local communities, remains a paramount global priority. As Rising Phoenix continues to demonstrate exceptional impact on the ground for wildlife, their habitats and our participating communities, it is an honour for our small volunteer team at Rising Phoenix Conservation in the United States to assist this amazing effort. We help support aligned activities in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary implemented by Rising Phoenix and its partners thanks to tremendous generosity from our donors.



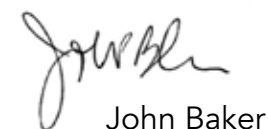
We are especially grateful for tremendous support from Cartier Philanthropy, Andrew Huntley, Peter Ryder, Ly Tran, Susanna and Victor Bracke, Lily Jencks Charitable Trust, Anthony Foster, Duke of Omnium Fund (Peter Coolidge), Tina Ju and Jeff Morgan.

Our work supporting the effective and innovative wildlife conservation in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary would not be possible without the impressive support of our donors.

Grants amounting to **\$550,711** from Rising Phoenix USA were provided to Rising Phoenix Co Ltd. in Cambodia and local partners to advance the critical wildlife conservation, ecosystem restoration, and strengthened community livelihoods needed at Siem Pang.

Rising Phoenix Conservation Inc. 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 local communities.

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



John Baker

Message from the CEO of IBIS Rice

Nicholas Spencer

IBIS Rice Conservation Co., Ltd (IRCC) is set on a vision to be Cambodia's leading global food brand whilst saving the country's precious forests and wildlife. To achieve this, IRCC aims to be working with 5,000 farmers in areas critical for conservation by 2030 whilst investing in a diverse product range, market access and brand building in the UK, Netherlands and Australia as well as local and regional markets. 2024 saw us make significant strides towards these aims.

With investment and backing from its shareholder (the Wildlife Conservation Society, WCS), IRCC is building growth and resilience into every stage of our value chain from farm to pack. Landscape partners are instrumental in driving innovation, scale and impact. The partnership with Rising Phoenix at Siem Pang is a vital and stand-out example of this.

Formal commune-level producer groups have now been created of IBIS Rice farmers and village representatives with a clear mandate to grow and support the farmer base whilst ensuring commitment to conservation principles. These groups have bank accounts and budgets from IRCC to finance their administrative and certification responsibilities. We see this as an important step to

devolve capacity and responsibility to farmers, as a result, deepening local commitment to conservation whilst creating a financially sustainable operating model.

IRCC has now developed a range of products to maximize consumer engagement including breakfast cereals, rice cakes and a new snacking range. In a unique innovation in the healthy organic snacking sector, we have developed a range that uses a red-bean grown by IBIS Rice farmers on their rice field before and after the rice crop. This bean returns nutrients to the soil that rice depletes and creates a secondary pay-day for farmers. The bean then delivers additional fibre and protein content to organic snacks for consumers, meeting a powerful market demand. This new regenerative and nutritious snacking line is keenly anticipated by our market partners.

To process these at scale a new factory has been secured and is currently being fitted out to the highest food safety standards. This will increase production by sixfold, allowing IRCC to supply large food retailers globally. The factory is expected to be fully operational by September 2025.

The UK market continues to grow with a small highly experienced UK team building retail listings and growing the brand whilst preparing for some big launches anticipated for early 2026. IRCC is also talking to the major supermarkets in the Netherlands and Australia.

This is indeed a highly ambitious strategy, with more investment needed throughout our deliberately and somewhat uniquely integrated, purpose-built food brand. We believe that our approach and level of ambition has never been more needed in today's world of declining development aid budgets, and our partnership with Rising Phoenix is critical to this growth trajectory. IBIS Rice is delivering incredible results that are grounded in a growing global consumer base, meaning a very exciting time to come for IBIS Rice, our farmers, Rising Phoenix and all partners involved.



Nicholas Spencer



Our Vision

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



Our Supporters in 2024

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

Biodiversity Monitoring Unit Achievements



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

Biodiversity Monitoring Unit

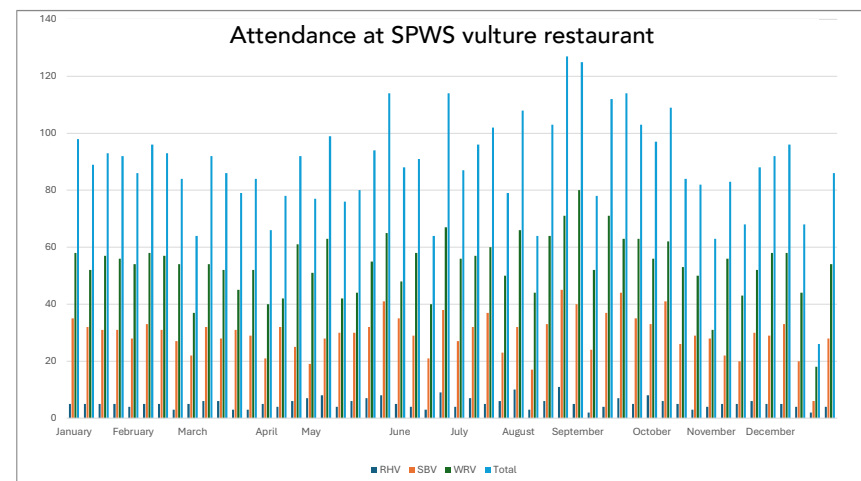
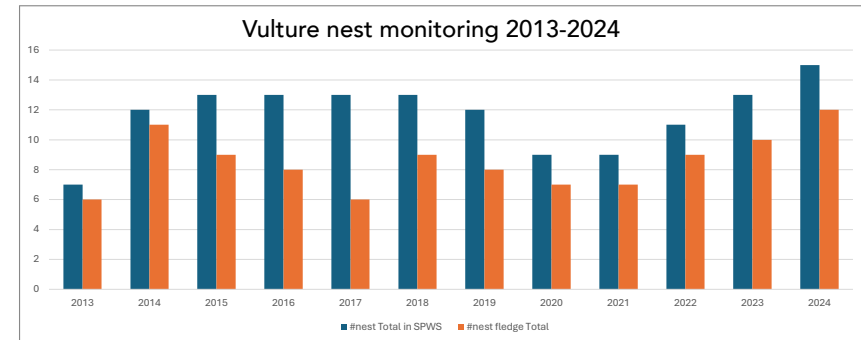
Vultures

Our commitment to vulture conservation continued throughout 2024 with 52 feeding events, when either a buffalo or cow is provided. The maximum number of 127 vultures were recorded on a 23rd August. This included 71 white-rumped, 45 slender-billed, and 11 red-headed.

A total of 15 nests were located in the sanctuary in 2024. Thirteen of these were slender-billed and two red-headed. This is a slight increase on the 13 nests found in 2023.

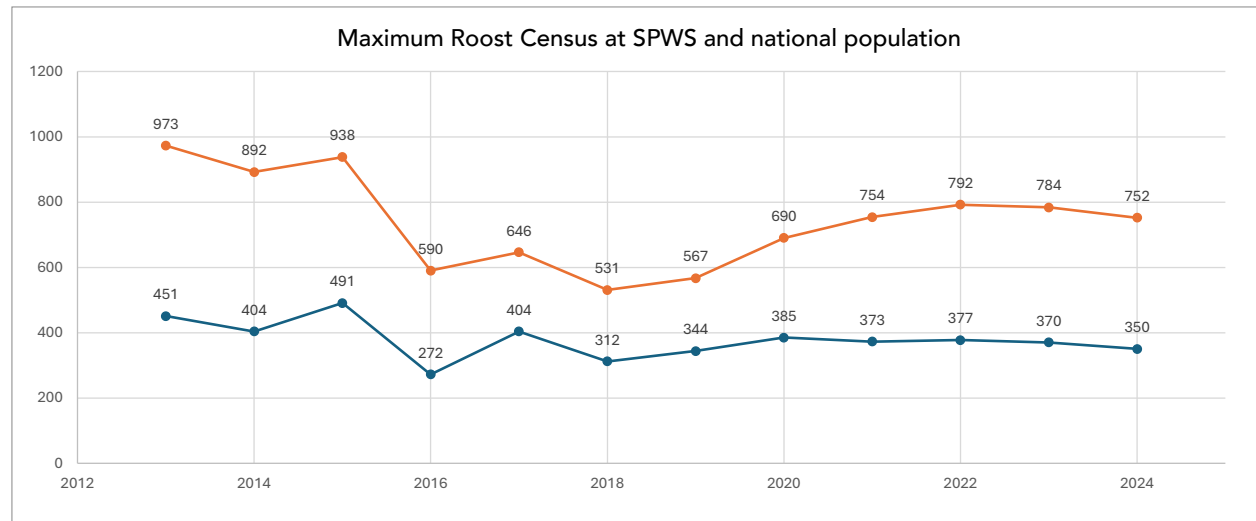
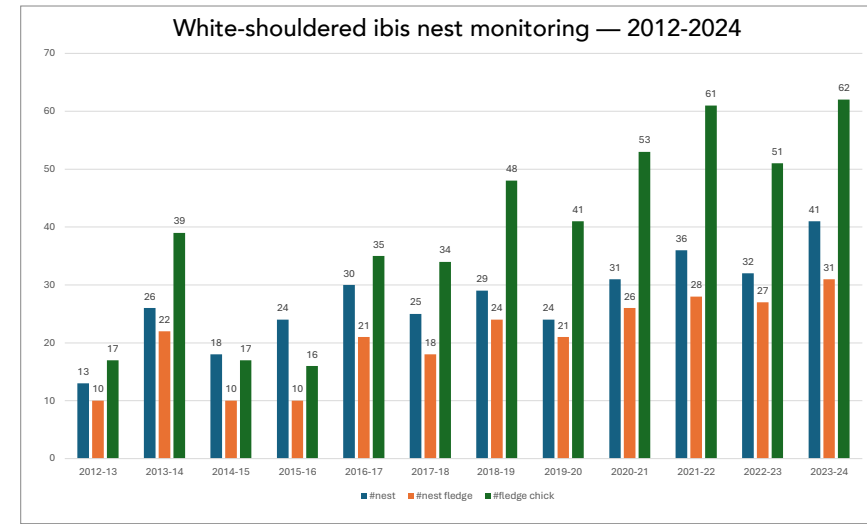
Monitoring of the nests showed three slender-billed nests failed, but 11 young slender-billed and two red-headed young fledged. We did not visit the white-rumped vulture colony in Laos this year. But a maximum of 16 juvenile white-rumped were counted at the vulture restaurant in April 2024. One of the artificial platforms we placed a few year ago was again used by a pair of slender-billed, who successfully fledged a chick for the third year in a row.

We tagged two vultures in August. These were fitted with GPS-GSM trackers: an adult slender-billed, weighing 6.25kg, and a juvenile red-headed vulture, weighing 3.5kg. Through the use of these trackers in 2024, we monitored the movements of 10 individual vultures.



White-shouldered ibis

By the end of the breeding season in April, we had located 41 white-shouldered ibis nests — the highest number since we began monitoring. This is a significant increase on the 32 nests found in 2024. Thirty-one of these nests successfully fledged a total of 62 young; while 10 nests failed. Nest success for this year was 75.6 %, with an average of two young fledged per successful nest.



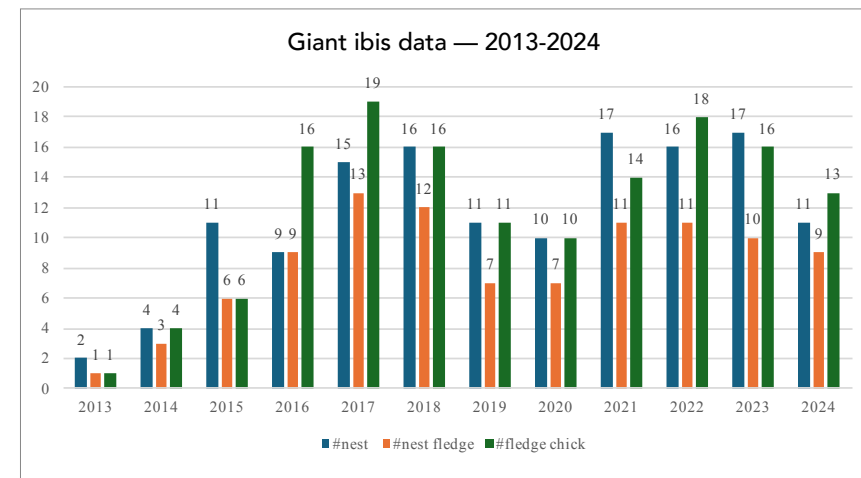
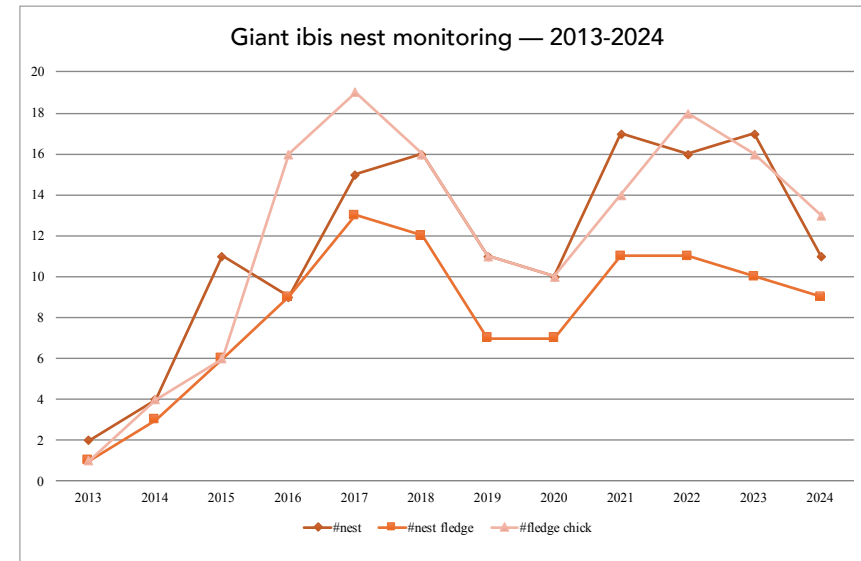
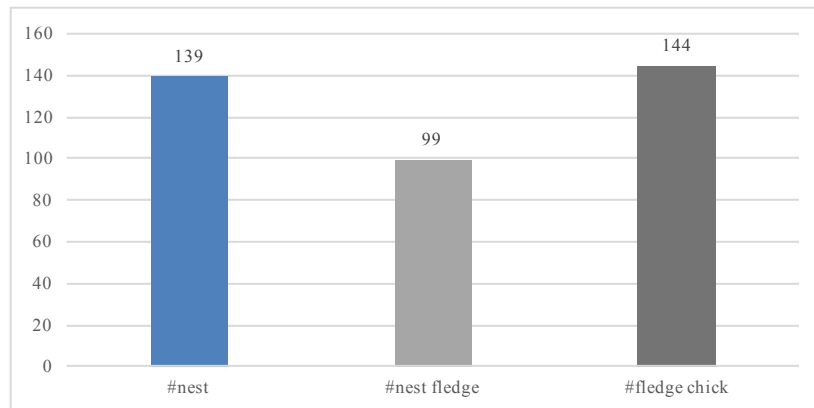


“ Giant ibis can be difficult to locate when nesting and are susceptible to disturbance when sitting on eggs ”

Giant ibis

The giant ibis breeding season was completed in October. A total of 11 nests were found and monitored in 2024. Nine of these successfully fledged 13 young, while two nests failed. In contrast to white-shouldered ibis success, this was a significant drop from the 17 nests located in 2023. This may be explained by the fact that our rangers spent 50% of their time monitoring the banteng herd, significantly limiting the amount of time they could devote to giant ibis nest monitoring.

The accompanying graphs help illustrate the vicissitudes of our giant ibis nest monitoring. These cryptic birds can be difficult to locate when nesting and are susceptible to disturbance when sitting on eggs.





River tern

Between January and May 2024, we undertook a monthly boat survey along a 15 km stretch of the Sekong River, from the mouth of the O'Kampha River to the island of Koh Tonsay. The surveys included two possible nesting sites for river terns. An additional 80km stretch of river, from Koh Tbeng to Koh Dathom, was surveyed in March. This work enabled us to identify as many as 12 adult river terns and 6 juveniles within the protected area, with an additional 16 adults on the southern part of the river. This gave a minimum number of 34 birds along the Sekong River.

The current Cambodian population of river tern is estimated at around 120 birds. This means that over a quarter of the population occurs along the Sekong River.

Additional important bird records made during the surveys included up to 18 river lapwing, around 50 small pairs of pratincole, with at least 10 young, and two Mekong wagtails.

Eld's deer

Between November 2023 and June 2024 we employed 54 camera traps to monitor our Eld's deer population. This work yielded around 350,000 images, which we reviewed using artificial intelligence and visual identification methods.

A second camera trap survey was started in November 2024, following the same protocol. Using a capture–recapture model, we expect to have sufficient data by the end of 2025 to finally estimate the sanctuary's Eld's deer population size.

During our yearly rapid car survey between 17-21 April 2024, a total of 23 individual Eld's deer were sighted, comprising 12 males, 7 females and 4 fawns.





Banteng

Much to our surprise, in February, we discovered a herd of 15 banteng residing in a former concession. This area of degraded forest lies 30km south of SPWS. We immediately mobilized the BMU team to conduct on-the-ground and drone monitoring. It soon became clear that this herd, living outside of a protected area, were at great risk. This assessment was confirmed, when in April, two of the herd were shot. Our law enforcement team was dispatched to the site and one poacher, who may have been involved in the shooting, was arrested. He is currently in prison after the imposition of a one-year sentence. No further incidents of poaching have since been reported.

With a view to moving the beleaguered herd into the safety of SPWS, we invited Kester Vickery from Conservation Solutions in South Africa to conduct a feasibility study for a potential banteng translocation. Kester visited the concession to assess the possibility of capturing and transporting the herd for release into an enclosure within the Sanctuary. Before Kester's departure, we drafted a preliminary budget for the potential operation. This led to the construction of 450 ha enclosure within the sanctuary, which was completed by January 2025. On-ground operations and capture attempts are expected to commence from February 2025.

Siamese crocodiles

One major event in 2024 was the successful breeding of our rewilded Siamese crocodiles. Although the crocodiles at Boeng Nava had previously built nests, none of these had produced young. However, at Boeng Khampa, our second crocodile site, five nests were constructed in the surrounding forest. One of these nests produced at least 14 hatchlings, marking the first recorded incidence of rewilded crocodiles breeding in Cambodia.

We released a further 10 Siamese crocodiles into a deep pool along the O'Kampha River on 14th March (3 males and 7 females), and another 10 in Boeng Nava on 13th August (4 males and 6 females).



Elongated tortoises

The 100 elongated tortoises we had kept in a 1ha pen for a 9-month acclimatization period were allowed to self-liberate in January when we opened the enclosure.

A subset of the tortoises was fitted with GPS and VHF radio trackers. These devices provide data on their movement, habitat preferences, and survival rates. Twenty-three of the 100 individuals died over the whole process—16 pre-release and 7 post-release. No further deaths have been recorded since March.

Fish surveys

Only one of the two bi-annual fish and habitat monitoring could not be completed this year, as it had to be coupled to our long-planned crocodile acoustic monitoring survey.

We followed the same method used for the previous two surveys conducted in June and October 2023. Three sites along the O'Kampha River were surveyed. We deployed six gill nets at each site that were left overnight. All fish caught were identified to the species-level thanks to training provided to our staff in 2023 by our partner FishBio.

In 2024, seven peer reviewed papers were published concerning research undertaken in the Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary:

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. (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.

Ladd R., Meek P., Eames J. C., Leung L.K.-P. (2024) Activity range and patterns of free-roaming village dogs in a rural Cambodian village. *Wildlife Research* 51, WR23024.

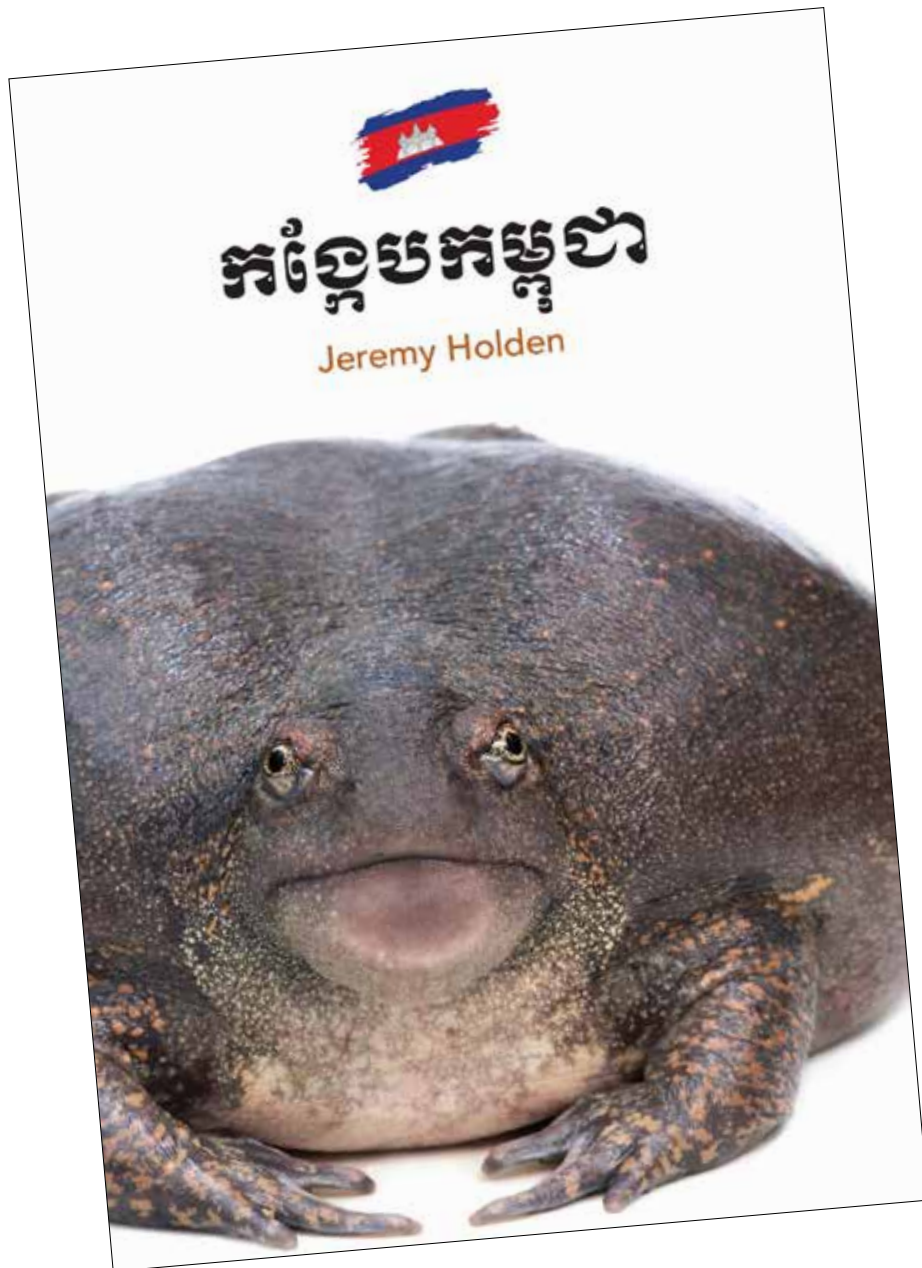
Legrand, R., Eang S., Botha, A. & Eames, J.C. (2024) A first description of a breeding colony of white-rumped vultures *Gyps bengalensis* on the Cambodia/Laos border. *Cambodian Journal of Natural History*, 2024, 12–16.

Legrand, R., Eang S., Griffioen, C., Parolin, C. & Eames, J.C. (2024) First description of the ranging behaviour of Asian woollynecks *Ciconia episcopus* using GPS tracking in Cambodia. *Cambodian Journal of Natural History*, 2024, 66–77.

Legrand, R., Ladd, R., Eang S., Meek, P. & Eames, J.C. (2024) Use of *trapeangs* by Eld's deer *Rucervus eldii siamensis* in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, Cambodia. *Cambodian Journal of Natural History*, 2024, 101–111.

Wheelhouse, J., Mak, S., Legrand, R., Eames, J.C., Proboste, P., Meek, P., Soares Magalhaes R.J. (2024) Seroprevalence of canine distemper virus antibodies in free-roaming dogs in Cambodia. *The Veterinary Journal*, 2025, 309.





Rising Phoenix also helped support publication of a Khmer language field guide to the amphibians of Cambodia, published in November 2024.

Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary is also an important site for some of Cambodia's most threatened amphibians, including the species featured on the cover - *Glyphoglossus molossus*, one of the few species in Cambodia listed as Vulnerable by IUCN. The image shows a gravid female found in Siem Pang during the brief period when these frogs emerge to breed following the first heavy rains. Throughout the rest of the year they stay hidden underground and their ecology remains poorly understood .





Our Targets for 2025

- 52 vulture restaurants held
- White-shouldered and giant ibis nests monitored
- Vulture nests monitored
- Two vultures tagged
- Eld's deer population estimate and monitoring
- Banteng translocation completed
- 20 Siamese crocodiles released
- Post-monitoring crocodile survey completed
- 130 water buffalo freely roaming in the sanctuary
- 3 journal papers submitted for publication



Community Development Unit Achievements

- IBIS Rice programme expanded to 19 villages
- Over 2,000 tonnes of paddy sold to IBIS Rice
- 300 land parcels in 19 villages mapped and registered
- 20 irrigation tanks built in 2 villages
- 5,000 cattle and buffalo vaccinated
- 8 trapeangs restored
- 90% compliance to conservation agreement
- 50 households join the cricket pilot project

Community Development Unit

Across the four provinces in which IBIS Rice operates, Siem Pang District remains its biggest producer.

When Rising Phoenix began the IBIS Rice programme in 2017, we began with 43 households in a single village. Since then, we have steadily increased the number of participating villages, and in 2024, have increased this to 19 villages and 1,234 households. This represents 5,125 local people. Each of these households is eligible to cultivate and sell their paddy to IBIS Rice only if they have signed a conservation agreement with the project. This pledges 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 2024, participating households sold their organic paddy rice to the project at an 70% premium price, thereby receiving a significant household income.

By December 2024, 1025 of the 1,234 households in the scheme sold 2,020 tonnes of paddy. This totalled **US\$933,738**, providing each family with an average income of \$910. Were these villagers not involved in the IBIS Rice scheme, the family cash income would be considerably

lower, and in many cases, zero. Aside from working as a day labourer on nearby banana plantations, or running a local shop, alternative legal sources of cash income are few. The project has additionally mapped 300 land parcels, which we registered at provincial level, providing soft land titles belonging to 222 households in 14 villages.



In 2024, over a thousand households sold 2,020 tonnes of organic paddy to IBIS Rice, generating a total income of **US\$ 933,738**

Our Targets for 2025

- Siem Pang maintains the premier IBIS Rice site
- IBIS rice expanded to at least 22 villages
- 2,200 tonnes of paddy sold to IBIS Rice
- 300 land parcels in 19 villages mapped
- 45 irrigation tanks built in 5 local villages
- 5,000 cattle and buffalo vaccinated
- 10 trapeangs restored by community
- 90% of IBIS Rice farmers compliant to conservation agreements
- 40 households retain cricket pilot project
- 4 quarterly village forum and stakeholder meetings



Logistics Support Unit Achievements

- Boeung Nava and 4 trapeangs restored
- 1 depot constructed
- Heavy machinery purchased
- 1 additional tent placed at the tented camp
- Construction of back-of-house underway
- 30 irrigation tanks dug at 3 villages

Logistics Support Unit

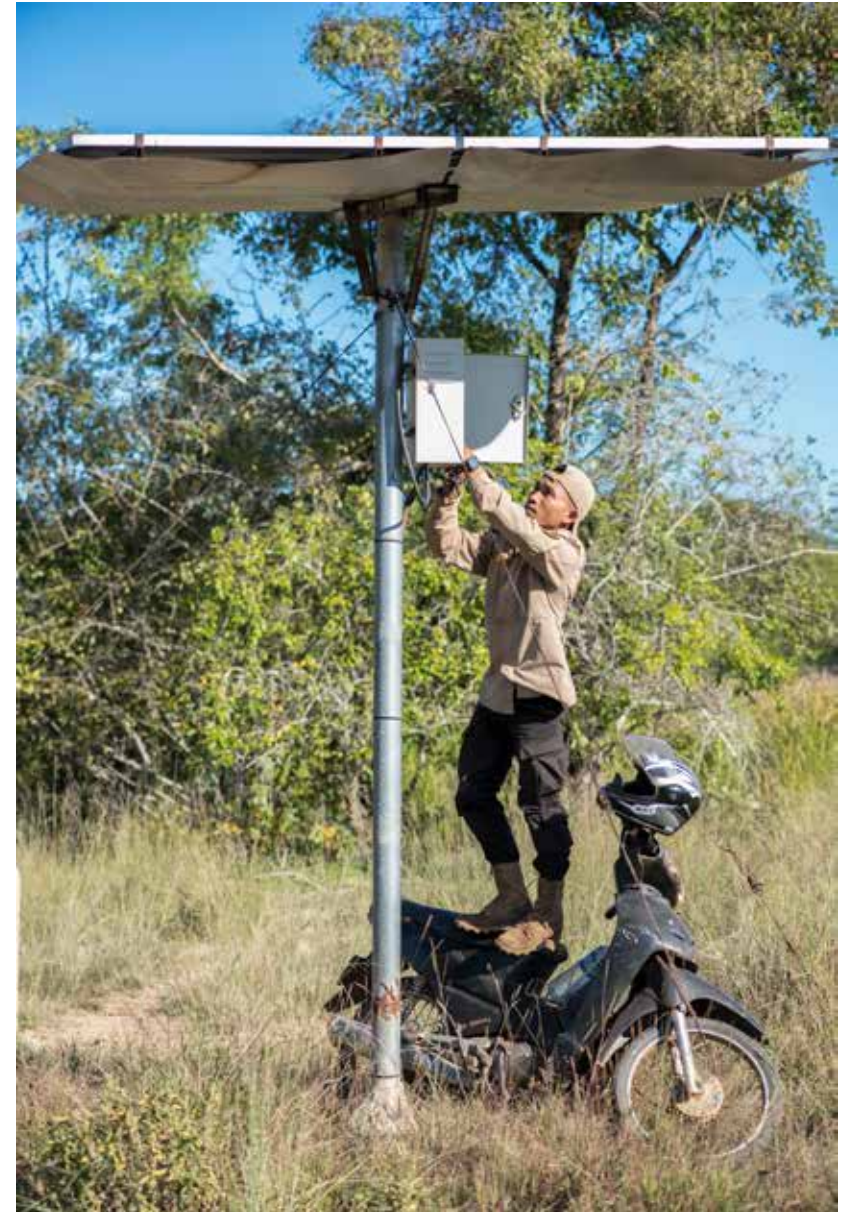
During 2024, the LSU has embarked on a series of landscape improvements within the sanctuary and its surrounding villages.

Boeung Nava is a shallow natural wetland located close to Khamphouk village in the West of Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. After a site visit and assessment by the Rising Phoenix management team we chose this natural feature as a perfect rewilding site for Siamese crocodile. To improve the site further, we excavated a deeper water body. Within 10 days, we mobilized heavy machinery to excavated 5400 cubic meters of soil - equivalent to 900 truckloads - from the open area of the site, thereby doubling the area available for crocodiles. Care was taken to both maintain the richly vegetated areas of the site, and ensure that a gentle slope was given to the excavations so that deer can safely use the waterhole for drinking. We used the same methods at four smaller waterholes within the sanctuary, helping to provide year-round water for wildlife in an attempt to limit their need to leave the safety of the protected area during the height of the dry season when water is scarce.



To prepare for construction of the boundary fence, the resort back-of-house and the airstrip we embarked on a major programme of vehicle purchase, purchasing one bulldozer, an excavator, two dump-trucks, a low-loader, a tractor and roller. We built a large new depot to house machinery and building materials, and built a welding station.

In response to improving climate change resilience and adaptation for our local communities, Rising Phoenix supported the creation of 30 irrigation ponds for farmers participating in the Ibis Rice scheme. The three villages: Pong Kriel, Keh Svay, and Keh Krom, provided with 10 irrigation ponds each. These 30 ponds now help maintain 319 hectares of paddy field for 102 households in the three villages. Following Khmer tradition, upon successful completion of the work, we held a small ceremony attended by the Siem Pang District Governor.



“ The resort back-of-house is
now under construction ”



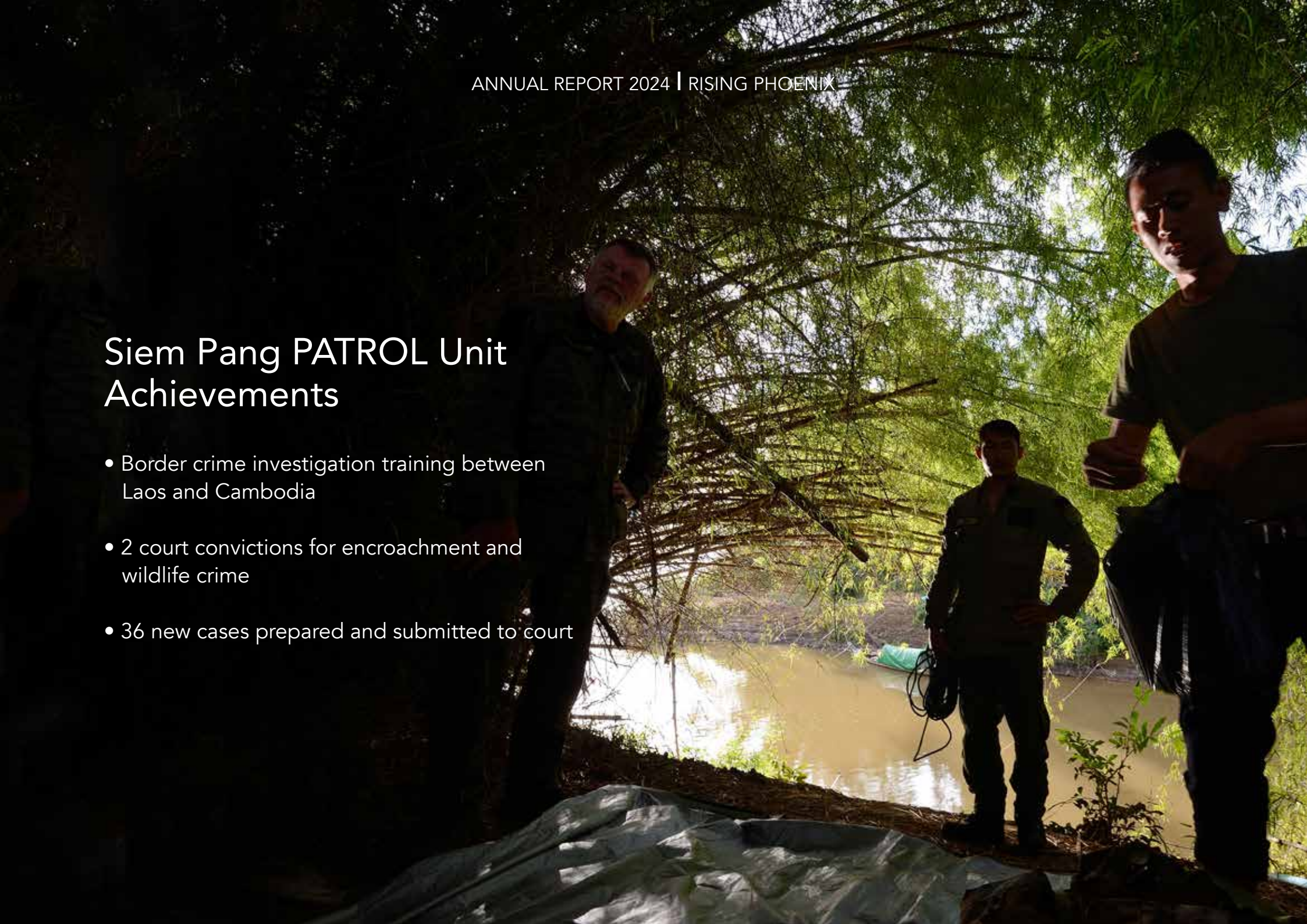
Our Targets for 2025

- 8 km banteng fence completed
- 5 trapeangs restored in SPWS
- Back-of-house for resort completed
- Resort wetland completed
- Airstrip built
- 42 km fence built along southern boundary of SPWS
- 45 irrigation tanks dug at four villages



Siem Pang PATROL Unit Achievements

- Border crime investigation training between Laos and Cambodia
- 2 court convictions for encroachment and wildlife crime
- 36 new cases prepared and submitted to court



Siem Pang PATROL Unit

Adaptive management and strategic adjustments enabled our first arrests and prosecutions for illegal wildlife trade in 2024. To address gaps in court case preparation, the project provided on-the-job training in investigation and court documentation, leading to 36 cases being submitted to court, primarily for land encroachment, but also wildlife smuggling, and poaching. Eight individuals are currently in prison awaiting trial, while two have been convicted with sentences of one and five years. One major illegal wildlife trade smuggling criminal gang dealing in bear parts are now in prison and inoperative.

The illicit trades of wildlife, weapons, and drugs are deeply interconnected along the porous border between Laos and Cambodia. Weapons smuggled from Laos are purchased by poachers to hunt wildlife, with many engaging in this illegal activity to fund their drug habits. These crimes exacerbate poverty and destabilize local communities. Tackling this issue requires a coordinated, multi-agency approach, as it spans jurisdictions and demands international cooperation.



A 10-day training programme was conducted for twenty Cambodian and Lao officials from various agencies, including Border Liaison, Environment, Agriculture and Quarantine, Royal Gendarmerie Khmer, Border Police, Anti-Narcotics, Anti-Weapon, and District and Provincial Police. While the training aimed to include four female officers, only two participated, highlighting the under-representation of women in border-related investigations.

The training was competency-based, with a minimum pass mark of 70%. All participants successfully completed both practical and written assessments. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 16 students rating the programme “very good” and four rating it “good.”

The training underscored the urgent need to establish a Border Region Investigation Taskforce to combat cross-border crime. For many participants, this was their first direct engagement with their counterparts across the border, and support for forming a taskforce was unanimous.

During 2024, there has been a significant rise in investigations, arrests and successful prosecutions. The importance of this development cannot be overstated, as it marks the first instance of successful legal action against individuals involved in the illegal wildlife trade in Siem Pang District and sends a strong message.

An armed poacher was successfully convicted, and four suspects of an illegal wildlife smuggling network, including one corrupt district police officer, are now in prison awaiting trial. In this specific case, it was determined that the bear parts intercepted in the shipping truck were headed to Chinese customers in Sihanoukville. It is likely that this smuggling ring were also providing bear parts to Vietnamese traders known to operate in the north-eastern provinces of Cambodia.

Meanwhile, a total of 28 cases concerning land encroachment were documented and sent to court for prosecution. The majority of these cases had no suspect identification. Over 100 cases of old land encroachment were documented for the Provincial Department of Environment, District and Provincial Administration to determine a relocation plan, with none of these latter cases involving ethnic minorities, only migrants into the area.



Our Targets for 2025

- Border crime workshop and study tour for senior officers from Laos and Cambodia
- Agreement signed between Rising Phoenix and Champasak Province, Laos on counter-border crime
- Mobile wildlife crime unit established with provincial Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, and the Royal Gendarmerie
- US\$1,000,000 secured for law enforcement activities
- 40 convictions for poaching and land encroachment

A person wearing a wide-brimmed hat, a light-colored long-sleeved shirt, and dark rubber boots is standing in a dense forest. They are holding a thin, light-colored rope or snare with both hands, looking down at it. The forest is filled with many thin, vertical tree trunks and a thick canopy of green leaves, with sunlight filtering through the branches.

Surveillance Intelligence and Reporting Unit Achievements

- 2,373 snares removed
- REDD+ project preparation underway
- Forest cover change report for 2023 and 2024

Surveillance Intelligence and Reporting Unit

Scout Operation

Combined scout patrols in 2024 covered an astonishing 20,546 kilometres. De-snaring operations conducted on foot and by boat patrol made 70 illegal fishing equipment seizures, and removed 2373 snares. This snare-count represented almost half the 4325 number that were removed in 2023 - when patrols covered considerably less ground. This possibly indicates that our patrols are having an impact on the willingness of hunters to use snares; an important achievement, considering the fact that anyone of these snares could capture a sun bear or fatally wound a banteng.

We also observed that hunters are using different materials for snares. For example, rope snares now more replace the traditional wire cable. Again, this might indicate that removal of snares by the patrol teams makes hunters reluctant to use more durable and expensive materials for fear of their loss.

As for snaring patterns, in 2024, people appeared to set fewer snares in random clusters compared to 2023, when we found large numbers of snares in clusters. We anticipate that this trend will continue, and 2025 will see a further decrease in snaring activity.

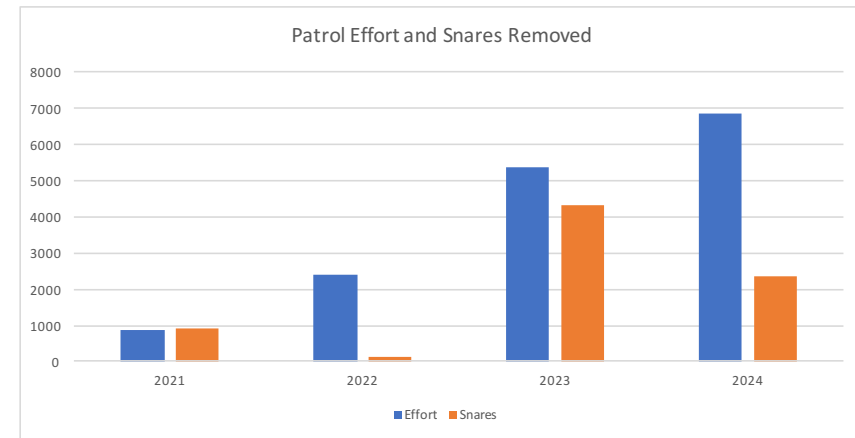


Table 1. Since 2021 foot patrol effort has increased without seeing a greater number of snares recovered.

These patrols do not come without challenges. While conducting their duties in the field, our scouts have encountered metal spikes placed along the patrol tracks, aimed at puncturing their motorbike tires; roads blocked, electrical wire traps set for wildlife that could also endanger scouts, and perhaps more disturbing, harassment from villagers who lost snares to scout patrols.

The highest foot patrol effort for de-snaring was in 2024 when it became increasingly hard to find snares. Our patrol plan was to increase patrol effort as to maximize the number of snares removed (Table 2).

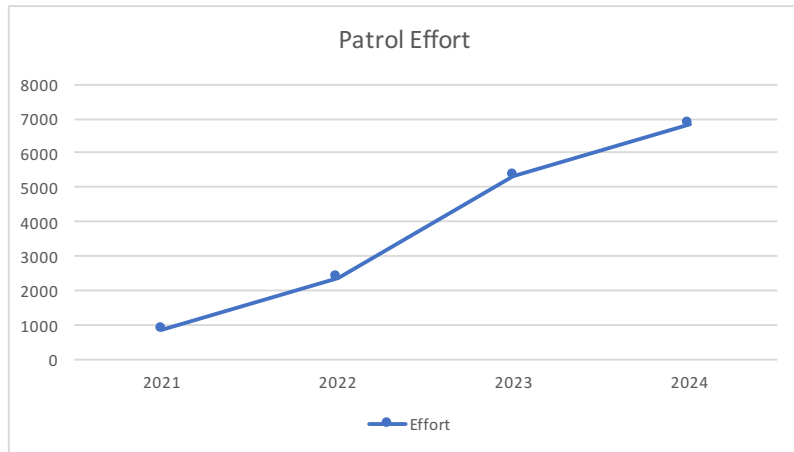


Table 2. Since 2021, foot patrol effort has increased each year.

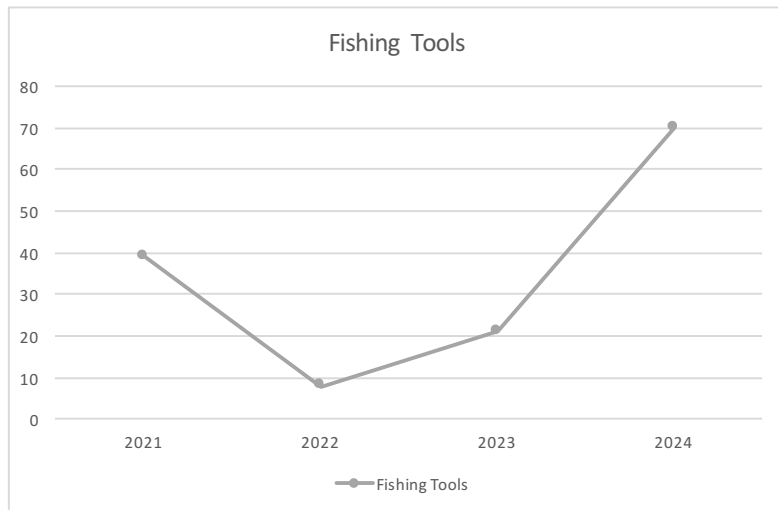
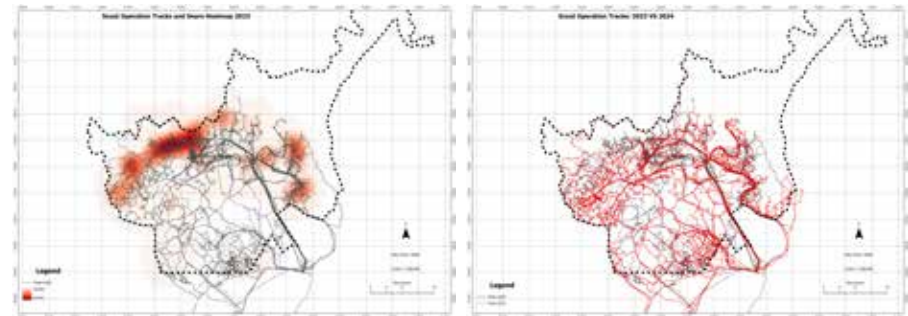
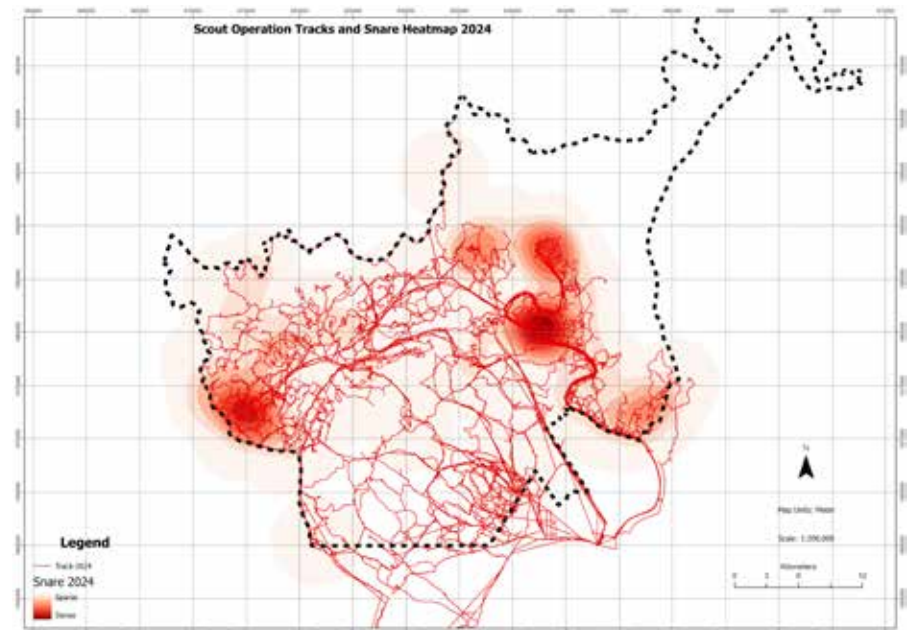


Table 3. Main waterway operations to clear illegal fishing equipment.



Heat maps showing snare locations in 2023 and 2024.



Heat maps showing Scout patrol tracks and snaring activity in 2024.



“ Our patrols are having an impact
on the willingness of hunters
to use snares ”

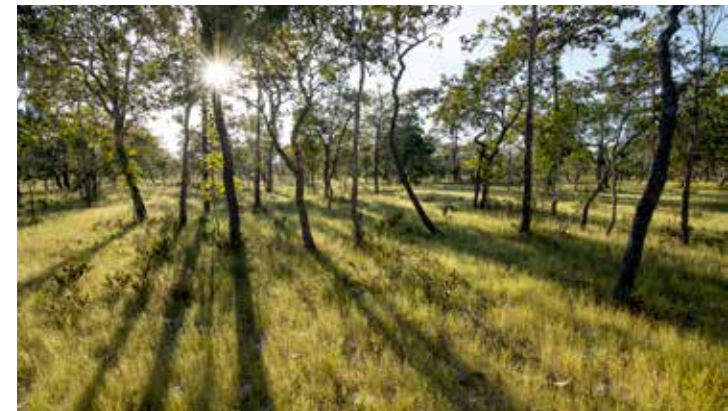
REDD +

During 2024, our REDD+ collaboration with Earthshots Lab. In August, a consultant sent by Earthshots, plus 14 staffs from SIRU and CDU, received training on Social and Biodiversity Impact Assessments (SBIA). In December, following the completion of training, nine SBIA workshops were successfully completed for 16 target villages. The initiative produced satisfying results, as several important points were raised by the community during the workshops. These points were noted and incorporated into the SBIA structure. As a result, SBIA has identified five important strategies for SPWS REDD+ project implementation, including project governance, law enforcement and protected area management, sustainable natural resources, agricultural improvement, and poverty reduction and job creation. Following the completion of SBIA, we conducted a study exchange visit to a REDD+ project in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary, hosted by Wildlife Conservation Society. Participants included a representative from PDoE, a representative from the District, 4 commune chiefs, 16 village chiefs, and 16 locals from the target villages. The exchange study visit promoted a greater understanding of REDD+ implementation among both local authorities and villagers.

Technology and Forest Cover Change

In 2024, SIRU worked with the Earth Ranger Asia team (ERA) on maintenance and integration of the Rising Phoenix Earth Ranger platform. From meetings and workshops with the ERA team and our tech partners, we achieved the following: bird trackers are now successfully integrated into Rising Phoenix's Earth Ranger platform; a SMART server for SPWS was established, and SMART connect and mobile have successfully been integrated and allow data visualization in real time. These integrations are important, and include Near-Real-Time Disturbance Alerts for All Vegetation, which we apply to monitor deforestation, tree loss alerts, and annual forest cover change.

One of SIRU's senior staff received a "Remote Sensing" training course to improve our capacity to conduct forest cover change assessments for SPWS. Following this, a forest cover change report was successfully produced for 2023-2024.





Our Targets for 2025

- Securing free, prior and informed consent from all target villages
- Completion of REDD+ project development document
- Removal of 2,500 snares and 40 fishing traps

Headquarters Unit Achievements

- 2025 budget secured
- Appointment of a Head of Finance and Administration
- 1 new corporate donor secured
- In 2024 total expenditure was **US\$ 2,123,218**
- US\$ 809,400 secured in new grants
- 105 employees
- Largest civil society employer in Siem Pang District



Headquarters Unit

During the course of the year, we secured new grants from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, the Darwin Initiative, USAID Morodok Baitang project, and IUCN together totalling **US\$ 809,400**. We have enjoyed a partnership with CEPF since our establishment but IUCN represents a new donor for us.

Our expenditure in 2024 at **US\$ 2,123,218** was as forecast. Our largest underspend was as a result of not making any substantial progress with the boundary fence as a result of the Logistics Support Unit being diverted to work on back-of-house construction. Fence construction will become a priority once back-of-house and the airstrip are completed.

By November 2024, Rising Phoenix had successfully secured its full 2025 annual budget, including a significant funding commitment from the USAID-funded Morodok Baitang project.

However, in March 2025, USAID unexpectedly terminated the USAID Morodok Baitang project due to a broader U.S. government decision. This incurred a **US\$ 237,619** loss in anticipated funding, which significantly reduced Rising Phoenix's 2025 and 2026 budgets and created a deficit of **US\$ 45,447** for 2025. Although the termination was beyond

the organization's control, the leadership team responded swiftly with proactive financial management to cushion the impact and maintain programme continuity.

Although we did not recruit any new individual donors in 2024, I am delighted that all our existing supporters remained loyal and continued to fund our work. The funding our supporters provides helps to reduce reliance on institutional donors, who have agendas that go beyond conservation and place restrictions on funding certain work areas. It also means that because of a broader funding base, we have reduced exposure should a donor terminate a project unexpectedly, as happened in early 2025.

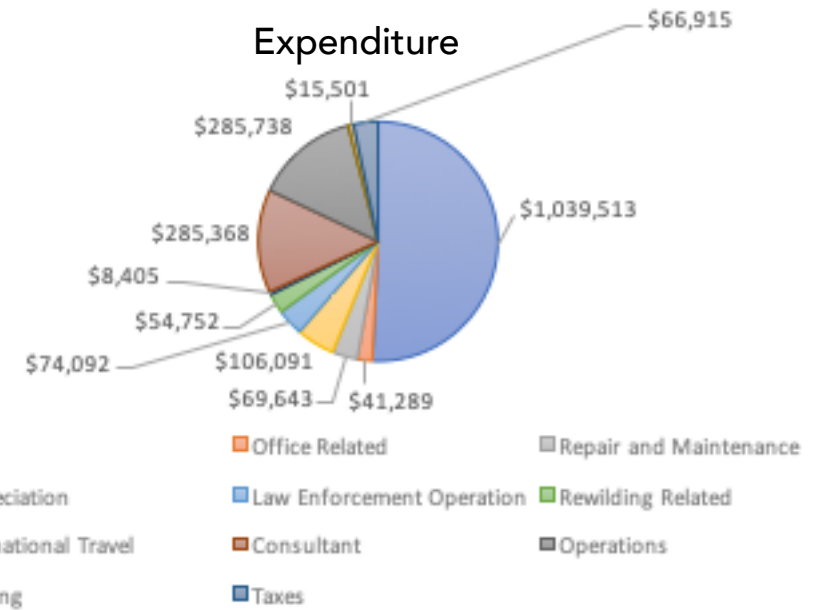
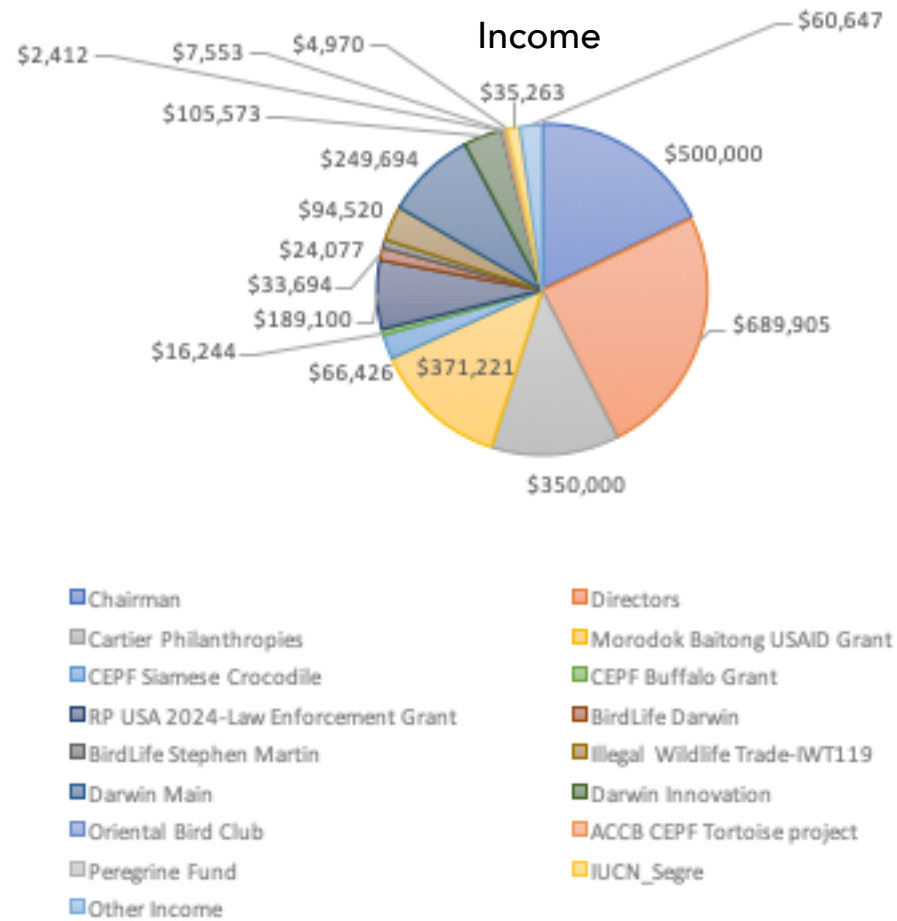




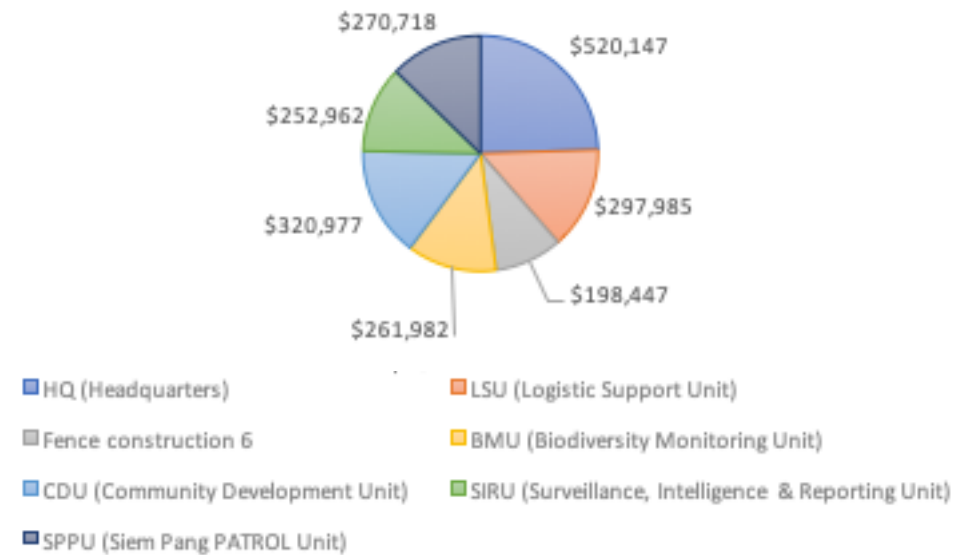
Given the massive global reduction in USAID support for conservation, this is likely to have major impacts on many conservation organizations and programmes. The United States Government is not likely to return to the conservation donor scene for the foreseeable future. It is also not realistic to expect other bilateral or multilateral donors to step-up their support for conservation. Some may even follow the example set by the United States. This provides a challenge and an opportunity for civil society, the corporate sector, and individual philanthropists to play a greater role.

Fund-raising for 2026 will present new challenges. Many of the donors we expect to approach are likely to only invite proposals in quarter four, and are unlikely to provide funding until mid-2026. The reliance we place on our board and individual supporters will be even more crucial to our continued success. The completion of our REDD+ project document, verification in 2026, and eventual on-stream debut in 2027, will offset dependence on corporate donor support.

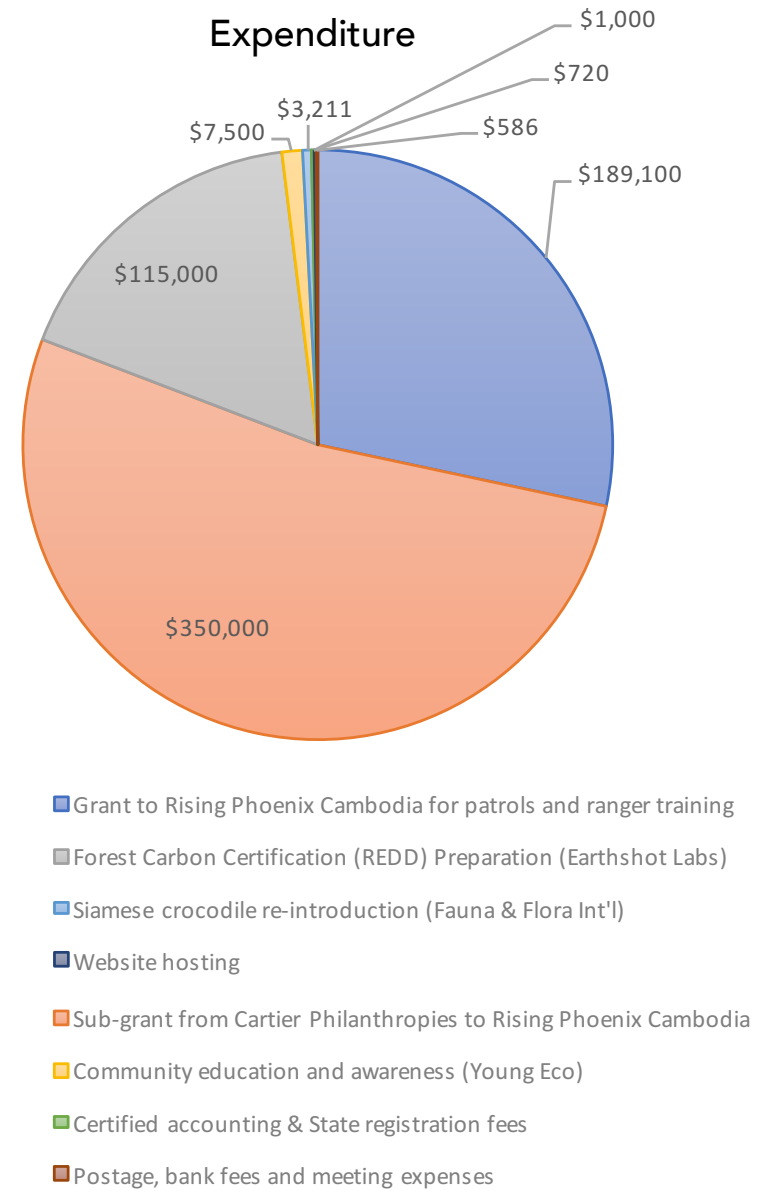
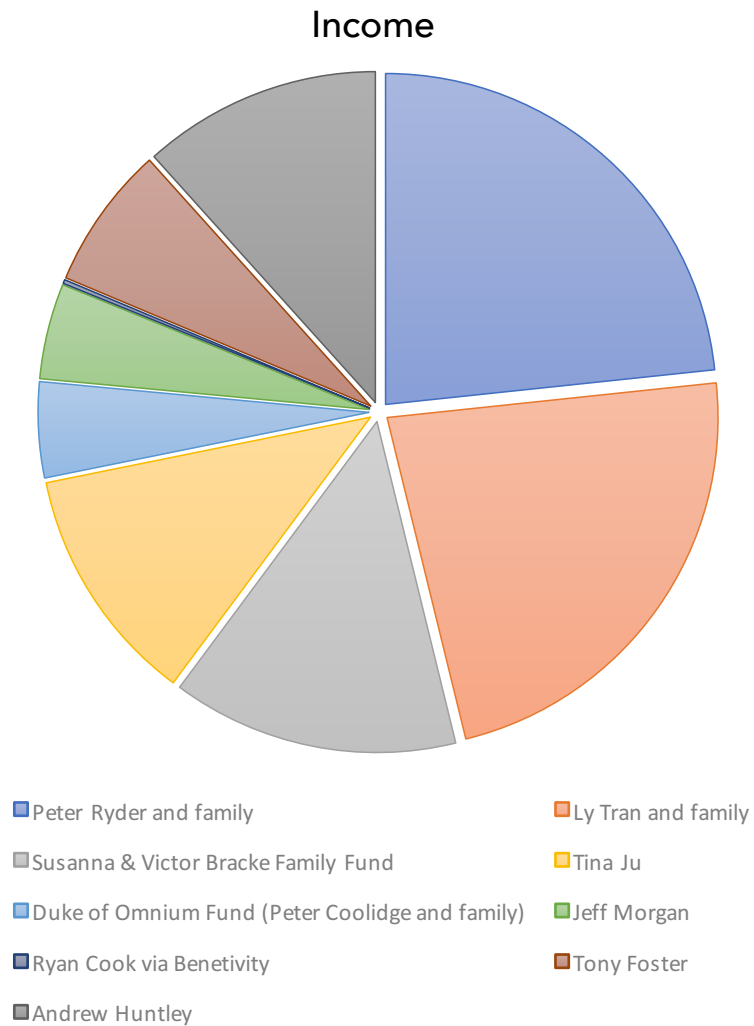
Financial Summary 2024 Rising Phoenix



Expenditure per Unit



Financial Summary 2024 Rising Phoenix Conservation Inc.



Our Targets for 2025

- 2026 annual budget secured
- 1 new private donor secured
- 1 new corporate donor secured
- 1 film commissioned
- A comprehensive 5-year strategic budget
- Upgrade registration status with the Cambodian Government from medium-sized to large-sized enterprise
- Migrate the accounting system (QuickBooks) from offline to online
- Upgrade the Rising Phoenix website
- Review and update key management manuals
 - Financial Management Manual
 - Procurement Management Manual
 - HR Management Manual



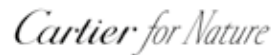
Institutional Partners

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 will instigate a project to restore the elongated tortoise.



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 SPWS 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.



IUCN

The International Union of the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organizations. By harnessing the experience, resources and reach of its more than 1,400 Member organizations and the input of some 17,000 experts, IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it.



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.



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.



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 SPWS, 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 SPWS CEPF funds livelihoods and species monitoring programmes including the initiative to reintroduce the Siamese crocodile.



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.



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 SPWS.



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.



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.



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



Angkor Wildlife and Aquarium

Located 26 km east of Siem Reap on National Road 6, the new Angkor Wildlife and Aquarium opened in 2022. At its centre is 500 m³ aquarium featuring Mekong River freshwater species as well as a 600m³ 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 SPWS.



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.



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.



Agri House

firmly believes that food can be a powerful driver of sustainable development and a means to support disadvantaged communities. Their mission is to create high-quality, nutritious cricket-based products that respect the environment while providing economic opportunities for the most vulnerable. By supporting local agriculture, together with social procurement strategies and promoting eco-friendly practices, Agri House is committed to transforming nutrition into a force for positive change. Agri House core values guide every step of work. They reflect a commitment to health, the environment, the community, and the local economy.



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 SPWS. 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 SPWS. 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.



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.

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 Treasurer is John Baker and the other current board members are Susanna Kim-Bracke and 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 Hour 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 Organisational Structure

Registered addresses:

Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd., Siem Pang Conservation and The Siem Pang 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 helping to create a safer district where jobs are generated, sustainable livelihoods are developed, and families and communities become more stable and secure. In effect, a place where the conservation-led economy can begin to grow.

The benefits of supporting Rising Phoenix are many. Our vision is clear, and we are 100% accountable for every dollar we receive. We operate as a social enterprise, which means we make no profit. There is no head office taking an overhead, and all our funding is spent in Cambodia. The funds we receive deliver 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 and if you would like to find out more, please contact:

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