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Life is a journey

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN | DOMINIC T. SCRIVEN OBE

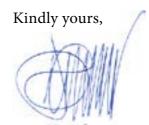
Dear Colleagues, Friends and Supporters,

One need not dwell on the trials and challenges of 2021, a year even more rigorous than 2020. Suffice to say, as we enter 2022, that while large parts of Asia are still Covid-rangebound, we can reflect on a year of gratifying progress at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.

Achievements are most significant, on the ground, in Stung Treng Province. Meaningful advances occurred in all three of our focal areas: enforcement, monitoring, and livelihoods. Each of these has its own set of dynamics, challenges, and targets, and are detailed elsewhere by CEO Jonathan. Noteworthy, also, is the hardening of efforts around Siem Pang Conservation, our NGO associate chaired by Meng, which has the critical role of spearheading our stakeholder relationship with the Cambodian Government. And last, but by no means least, is the outreach with other supporting stakeholders, both within the conservation community, and more broadly with actively engaged individuals around the world.

Life is a journey, however, our mission remains incomplete, and so we enter 2022 buoyed by recent progress, motivated by outstanding goals. Our foundations at Siem Pang are firm, robust and aligned, and will be further reinforced in the years ahead. The conservation 'model' we are pioneering now looks to be receiving widespread attention both within, and outside, Cambodia. We are sharpening pencils to finalise our business plan, and the vision of a sustainable conservation at Siem Pang no longer feels like a hallucination.

For this, and for all else in the journey of Rising Phoenix, I offer our deep gratitude and warmth: to our many supporters who may be reading this; to our doughty colleague Meng at SPC; and to Jonathan and all of his team at Rising Phoenix, who together are making a dream come true.







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An exceptional year on all fronts

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO | JONATHAN C. EAMES OBE

Welcome to the Year of the Tiger! It is with great pleasure that I share with you our 2021 annual report. By any measure 2021 really was an exceptional year on all fronts. At the time of writing in March 2022, we had grown to 78 staff and completed an organisational re-structuring. Following our mutually agreed plan, we absorbed the BirdLife projects, assets and staff as part of their strategic withdrawal from Cambodia. There were changes too with our government partner and Sreng Cheaheng was appointed Head of the Stung Treng Department of Environment. I would like to thank both Cheaheng and his boss Kim Nong, Director of the General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection at the Ministry of Environment for their support in 2021. Our new organisational structure is reflected in this report and I have attempted to showcase our staff and their achievements over the past twelve months.

The Biodiversity Monitoring Unit lead by Eang Samnang set many new records in 2021. Samnang's team found a record 17 giant ibis nests which is the largest number ever found in one year in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. Further evidence of giant ibis success was provided by our study published in the Cambodian Journal of Natural History which shows the giant ibis population holding steady at least 25 breeding pairs, unchanged from five years ago. These results indicate Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary is the most important site globally for giant ibis. The smaller, but equally rare white-shouldered ibis also had an exceptional year and 53 young fledged - another record.

PhD student Rachel Ladd from the University of Queensland completed her thesis at the end of the year. Her research has shown that Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary supports 70% of the national Eld's deer herd making it the single most important site for the *siamensis* subspecies.

The last year saw us make good progress with our Siamese crocodile project and we now have 43 ready for release in 2022 and 2023. This project represents an attempt to restore an apex predator which is a species that sits at the top of the food chain and whose beneficial impact cascades throughout the ecosystem bringing balance and harmony.

In 2021 we put in place an entirely new approach to law enforcement previously untried in Cambodia. Thanks to the work and dedication of Mark Bowman, Head of Law Enforcement and Lieutenant General Hourt Sophally, from the Ministry of Interior, the PATROL project was operationalised. PATROL is a United Nations mandated project to address cross-border crime tackling timber and wildlife, narcotics and human trafficking. Since the entire western boundary of Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary forms the international frontier with Laos we are the ideal site to pilot this approach. We secured agreements for its implementation with Ministry of Environment and Stung Treng Provincial Authority. This resulted in our office becoming the coordination centre for PATROL in Siem Pang. Later in the year Mark and his team conducted a training for 20 rangers. At the time of writing our enforcement ranger team stood at 34 men drawn from Department of Environment, Border Police and Army. Finally our multi agency Tiger Team is at last a reality!

Rising Phoenix believes that fencing protected area boundaries is an important way to secure their long term integrity. Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary sits on the forest frontier where land grabbing is a daily challenge. The most pressing threat to the integrity of Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary is from encroachment along its southern boundary. The first measure against encroachment is boundary demarcation and in 2021 the Logistics Support Unit lead by Koem Pok supported the Department of Environment demarcation of 33 km as a key step towards fencing.

The IBIS Rice project remained the major focus of the Community Development Unit under Mak Sopheap. In December 2021, 509 of the 700 plus families currently participating in the scheme sold 397 tonnes of premium quality organic jasmine rice to IBIS Rice Conservation Co. Ltd. Thus 509 households received a cash income totalling US\$ 170,976 in sales or US\$ 331 per household. This is a cash income these families would not otherwise enjoy and the benefits of the scheme do not only support household income and food security, but actively discourages encroachment, logging and hunting. Opportunities for further expansion are almost limitless but challenges remain including how to get more families to sell their crop into the scheme.

2021 saw our expenditure grow from US\$ 569,525 in 2020 to US\$ 867,876. Salary and consulting costs remained our largest area of expenditure. Income from institutional donors increased as a proportion of total income in 2021 and for the first time was greater than the contributions from the Chairman and board of directors. The 2021 expenditure from contributions from individual donors via Rising Phoenix Inc. totalled nearly US\$ 125,000 and supported our Siamese crocodile project and law enforcement.

Our 2022 budget is US\$ 1,120,000. Our most pressing key performance indicator for 2022

is our new agreement with the Ministry of Environment. However others include the further expansion of IBIS Rice to make us the largest producer in Cambodia. By the end of 2022 the newly expanded enforcement team under Siem Pang PATROL, including the Tiger team will be fully deployed. The first phase of the Siamese crocodile reintroduction will be complete with 15 crocodiles returned to the wild. So 2022 promises to be another exciting year ahead!

2021 was again marred by the global COVID-19 pandemic but the sound of distant jet engines in the night sky over the forest tells me international travel is normalising. I hope therefore to meet all our friends and supporters in the Year of the Tiger!





Tourism recovery and conservation

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF SIEM PANG CONSERVATION | MENG HIENG

Happily there are signs that tourists are returning to Cambodia. Hotel bookings in Phnom Penh are up and daily there are an increasing numbers of flights into Cambodia. So the signs are promising for Cambodia's travel and tourism industry which is a key component for the country's economic growth and essential for our future plans for developing a resort at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.

Cambodia is a small country with unique tourist attractions and I believe it is in catering to specialist markets that represents the future direction for its tourism industry. Cambodia must do more to attract higher spending tourists for it is this market that will make future tourist investments in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary successful. Mid and high-end tourists will not pay to visit a protected area if they see logging and encroachment or if their holiday is interrupted by the sound of chainsaws, or discarded litter or if wildlife is not visible. But they will come to view wildlife if it is.

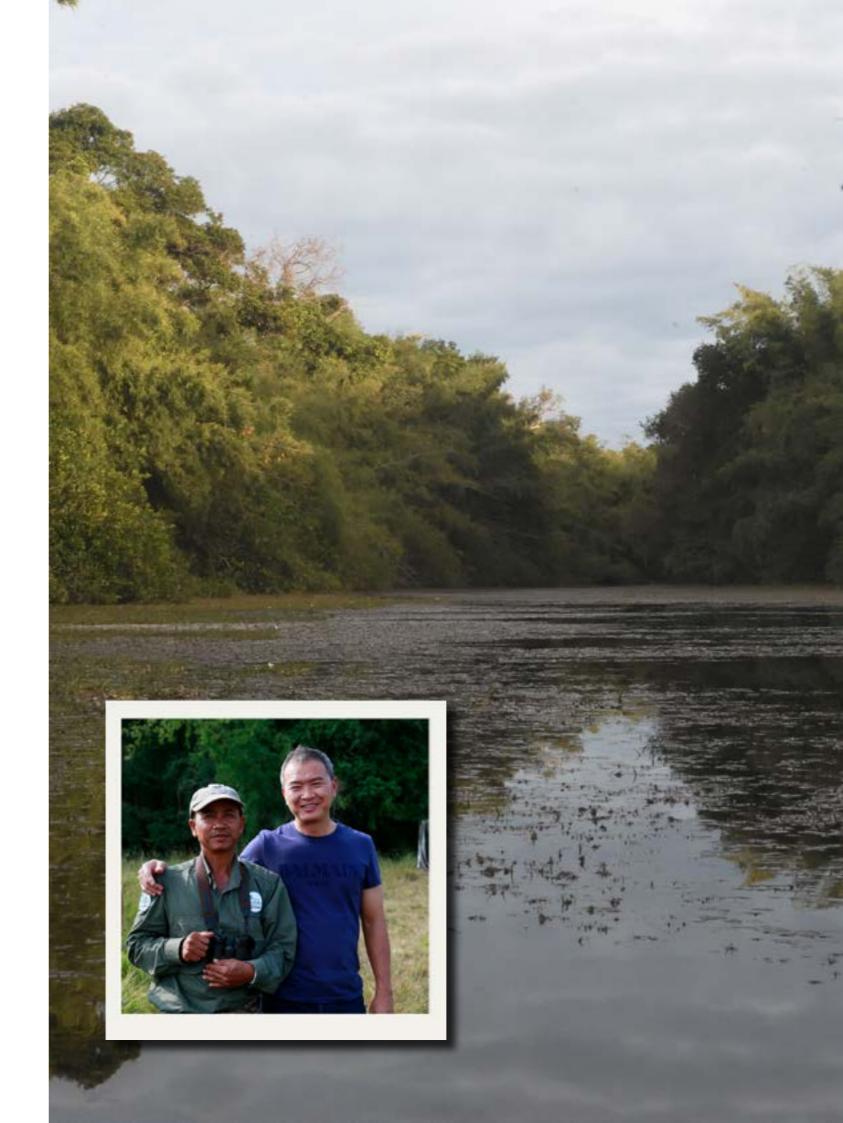
Recently I watched the remarkable film made in the early 1950s by a young American biologist Charles Wharton entitled The Wild Cattle of Cambodia. I was astonished! Back in the 1950s Cambodia had large populations of wild animals that rivalled parts of Africa, although they are sadly now much depleted. To have successful wildlife tourism we must invest in rewilding. Successful wildlife based tourism at Siem Pang will require the restoration of wildlife populations through better enforcement and reintroduction of those species that have gone extinct locally.

In 2021 we made progress towards achieving our first rewilding goal of strengthening the diminished Siamese crocodile population in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. Currently my new aquarium and zoo, Angkor Animal Kingdom outside Siem Reap is currently home to 45 Siamese crocodiles that have been DNA tested and quarantined and we hope will soon be transferred to a pre-release facility in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.

Beyond the Siamese crocodile we have plans for rewilding other species too. But such plans will be more costly and these are all reasons why we need a management agreement with government that will give us devolved management responsibility for Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. With such an agreement in place we can invest in both carefully planned mid and high-end tourism and species rewilding.

Our biggest challenge remains securing an agreement with government and this will be my focus in 2022. I believe the government is aware of the need to make protected areas contribute to economic development and it is now considering how it can make devolved management models work. Although we were the first to propose this approach they are now pondering how to put a legal framework in place to achieve this. So although we are well positioned, the decision making process is not within our control so the timing of an outcome is uncertain. However, it will have must fullest attention in 2022.





Support surpasses previous years

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY | JOHN BAKER

It was in 2019 that I completed the registration of Rising Phoenix Conservation Inc. as a tax exempt charitable organization in California and at Federal level. This provides US tax payers an opportunity to offset some of their income tax obligation by supporting our work.

It has been an honour to support the vital conservation efforts at Siem Pang through grants and donor engagement over the past year. Long-term success in promoting protection of the wildlife and their critical habitats as well as the sustainable development of the surrounding communities depends on a variety of partners in addition to Rising Phoenix.

We are so grateful for generous support from our donors in 2021 who donated US\$ 223,300 to Rising Phoenix Conservation Inc., the most we have ever received.

I would also like to extend my thanks to Peter Coolidge who stepped down from the board in 2021, and for his continued support.

This past year we were thrilled to support the new Siem Pang PATROL which utilises a sustainable and holistic capacity building approach, and improve cooperation amongst agencies working in the Siem Pang area through inter-agency coordination. This will strengthen and expand capacity to effectively patrol the Siem Pang border area and the wildlife sanctuary.

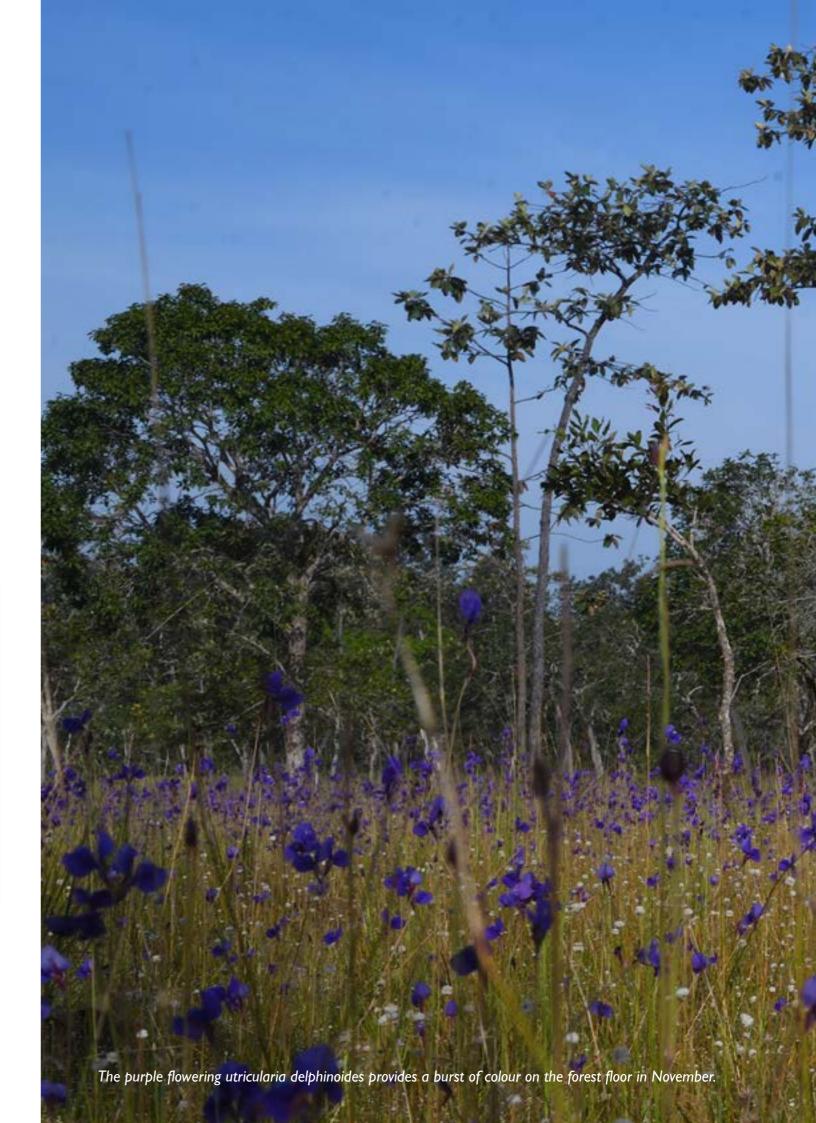
We were also excited to support the specialist team at Flora and Fauna International to undertake surveys and formulate a feasibility study for a pilot reintroduction of Siamese crocodile at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.

We have also supported local non-government organisation, Samsum Mlup Prey to enable them to continue working with the Community Development Unit on the IBIS Rice programme.

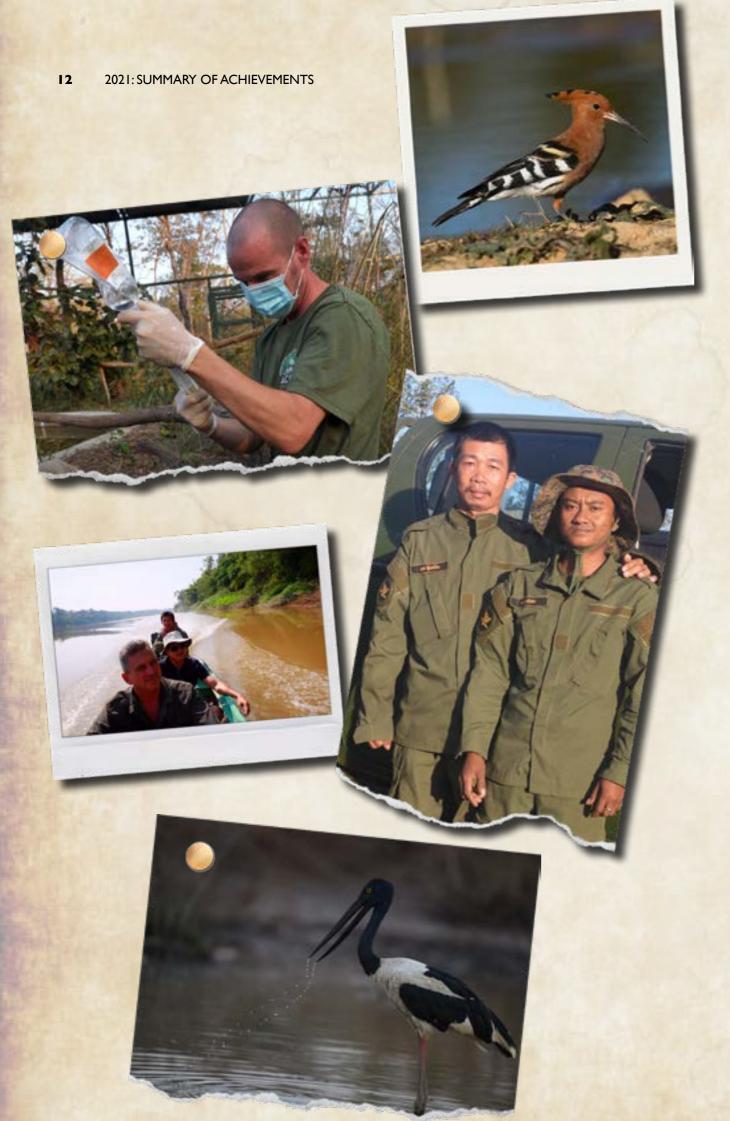
This combination of activities, among many others, are essential to building long-term success in protecting the globally significant wildlife and biodiversity of Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.

Jourse.









2021: Summary of achievements

BIODIVERSITY & CONSERVATION

272

Eld's deer population determined 70% of national total

53

white-shouldered ibis fledged largest number fledged in a year

43

Siamese crocodile ready for reintroduction

20 trapeangs restored

17

giant ibis nests found largest number found in a year population is stable

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

397

tonnes of JBJS Rice sold an increase in 40 tonnes

40%
local cattle & buffalo vaccinated

FUNDRAISING

886,000 US\$ secured operational PATROL

MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

signed

letter of agreements with Ministry of Environment and Stung Treng Provincial Government

absorbed

Birdhife projects, assets & staff



2021 diary

2021 DIARY

Rising Phoenix CEO Jonathan C. Eames take

January

February

March

September

July

August

April

With the dry season at its height, Mem Mai and I recorded a herd of 27 Eld's deer at Veel Kreel. On the night of the 12/13 April there were heavy rains and thousands of truncate-snouted burrowing frogs and Asian bullfrogs emerged from their underground homes. 20 *trapeangs* had been restored by the end of the month. The annual Eld' deer survey counted a minimum of 14 animals. We have a fire at the O'Khampa ranger station and the kitchen burns down.

May

White-shouldered ibis nest searching and monitoring was completed. In total 31 nests were found, and 26 nests fledged 53 chicks and five nests failed. Kosal and Samphorn found the first giant ibis nest of the year. Whilst on an elephant survey east of the Sekong River with PhD student Rachel Crouthers, a troop of 20 douc langurs were observed. They showed features of grey-shanked douc but could have been hybrids with red-shanked douc. On 26 May we hosted Kim Nong, Director of the General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDANCP) at the Ministry of Environment and Sreng Cheaheng the new Head of Stung Treng Department of Environment

June

Rice planting began in the second half of the month. The young Indian spotted eagle finally fledged from its nest in Veel Kreel. The first confirmed breeding record of this species for Cambodia. By the end of June, seven vulture nests had successfully fledged. Independent filmmaker Nick Wood and his cameraman Sitha visited Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary to make a short vulture feature, later broadcast on the BBC.

October

We found three new giant ibis, one Asian woolly-necked stork and one grey-headed fish eagle nest were found. This brings the total number of giant ibis nests to 17, which is the highest number recorded in a single year. A pair of slender-billed vultures begin to nest in the artificial nest at *Trapeang* Kontout.

November

By November the giant ibis breeding season was complete. Of the 17 nests found, 11 nests successfully fledged 14 young, six nests failed. The nest success rate was 65% with 1.27 chicks fledged per successful nest. The first white-shouldered ibis nest of the new season is found. Border patrol special operations training begins for 15 soldiers at Toul Kamnob. Across seven villages 2,667 cattle and buffalo (2,244 in 2020) were vaccinated against foot and mouth disease and haemorrhagic septicaemia.

December

Three new white-shouldered ibis and one redneaded vulture nests are found. Our new buffalo nerd of 18 animals is established at *Trapeang* Dai Cla. The border patrol special operations training course concludes. Farmers sold 397 tonnes of organic jasmine rise to IBIS Rice.

Our supporters in 2021



22 OUR MODEL

Incorporated in 2015, Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd. is a social enterprise created to support the conservation of the globally irreplaceable Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. We propose combining the traditional donor approach with a private sector business model to secure the long-term conservation of the site. If we are able to accomplish this, it will be a milestone for conservation in Southeast Asia, where the business-as-usual model of the non-profit sector supporting governments has had limited success and requires a new approach.

Biodiversity Monitoring Unit

SUCCESSES FOR 2021

- Largest number of giant ibis nests found
- Largest number of white-shouldered ibis fledged
- Ten artificial vulture nests placed in trees
- First ever nesting of slender-billed vulture in an artificial nest
- Buffalo herd established
- 52 vulture restaurants held
- 43 Siamese crocodiles ready for reintroduction
- First nesting of Indian spotted eagle in Cambodia
- Eld's deer population deteremined

BIODIVERSITY MONITORING

is important because it provides a basis for evaluating the integrity of ecosystems, their responses to disturbances, and the success of actions taken to conserve or recover biodiversity. It also enables us to identify threats and issues and to adjust and realign our interventions in livelihoods and enforcement to give better conservation outcomes. We undertake intense monitoring of five Critically Endangered species of bird and one Endangered mammal. We also annually monitor changes in forest cover using satellite data and use remotely placed cameras at mineral licks which attract mammals to drink the rich slurry. The use of the adjectives Critically Endangered and Endangered were adopted by IUCN The World Conservation Union, and are in global use to designate level of extinction risk. A species that is Critically Endangered is undergoing significant decline in the extent of its range and population and is only one category away from Extinction in the wild. You may be surprised to learn that the five species of bird we monitor are more threatened with extinction than familiar species we associate with endangerment including African elephant, blue whale, giant

panda, tiger, and polar bear. No other site on earth supports breeding populations of five Critically Endangered bird species.

WHITE-SHOULDERED IBIS

53 white-shouldered ibis fledged in 2021 — the largest number ever recorded.

In 2021 we found 31 white-shouldered ibis nests of which 26 nests fledged 53 chicks. This is both the highest number of nests found and young fledged in a single year. The number of successful white-shouldered ibis nests found at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary has now equalled or exceeded the 2016 baseline by more than 50% over the last five years. Whilst we can monitor nest success, monitoring the young once they fledge is far more difficult. Additional mortality is inevitable especially during the first days and weeks of independence.

50% of the world population of white-shouldered ibis is found within and around Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.

We also monitor white-shouldered ibis is at their roosts. During the rainy season months of July, August, September and October, white-shouldered ibis form large communal roosts. Our largest count was in August with 373 individuals counted in and around Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary which comprises 50% of the global population.



VULTURES

Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary is the only site in Cambodia with three breeding species of vulture.

We monitor vultures weekly at vulture restaurants and by monitoring their nests. Biodiversity Monitoring Unit team members are expert at aging and sexing vultures which enables us to monitor breeding success and survival. In 2021 we provided a total of 52 cow and buffalo carcasses. Feeding vultures is expensive with an adult buffalo costing up to US\$ 1,000. The weekly provision of food at the vulture restaurant keeps vultures in the vicinity and reduces the risk of them being poisoned en masse. Mass poisoning events led to the extinction of vultures from other sites in Cambodia and remain big problems in India and across Africa.

First nesting of slender-billed vulture in an artificial nest.

In 2021 we found and monitored seven slender-billed vulture and two red-headed vulture nests which was a slight decrease on 2020. The closure of the international frontier with Laos due to COVID-19 restrictions prevented us from monitoring the white-rumped vulture colony across the border. We placed ten additional artificial nests in suitable trees in the Wildlife Sanctuary, bringing the total number to 20. In November a pair of slender-billed vultures nested in an artificial nest, the first such attempt in an artificial nest in Asia!

See page 28 for giant ibis and page 32 for Eld's deer information.

BIODIVERSITY MONITORING UNIT

The Biodiversity Monitoring Unit comprises eight men amongst whom seven hail from villages around Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. The unit is led by graduate Eang Samnang who has married locally and now lives in Siem Pang with his wife and two children. Second in command is Chief Wildlife Technician Mem Mai whose great knowledge of wildlife and the local area have made him the guide of choice for visitors. Like the best conservationists, Mai was formerly a poacher and shot perhaps the last tiger in Siem Pang some thirty years ago. He is now nature's staunchest defender.

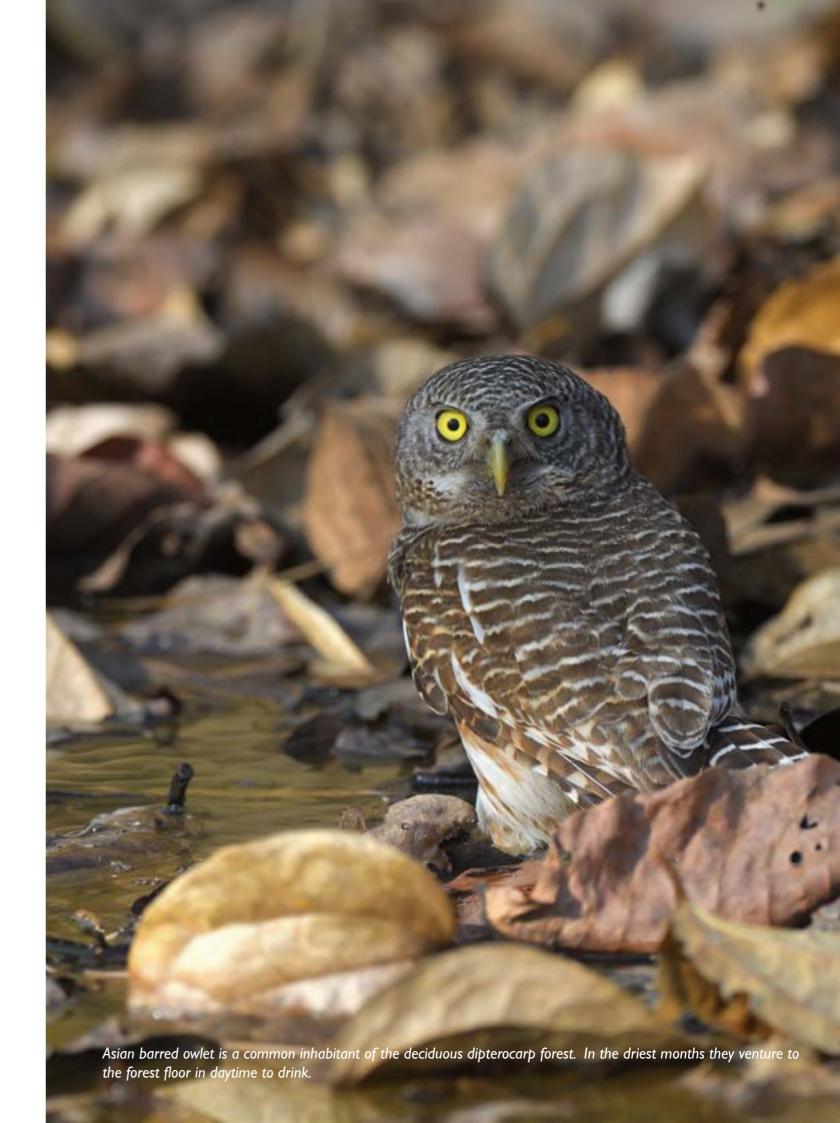
Head of BMU Chief Wildlife Technician Master Wildlife Technician Senior Wildlife Technician

Wildlife Technician

Eang Samnang Mem Mai Lourn Bunpeng Vann Kosal Mem Sophorn Ban Sothea Khorn Bora Sen Phon

TARGETS FOR 2022

- 2nd herd of 20 buffalo established
- Soft release of 15 Siamese crocodiles
- Satellite tag three giant ibis/three vultures
- Survey of white-rumped vulture colony in Laos
- Elongated tortoise re-enforcement project underway
- Soft release of a greater adjutant pair
- Banteng translocation feasibility study completed
- Five Journal papers submitted



GIANT IBIS

25% of the world population of giant ibis is found at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Critically Endangered giant ibis is now confined to Cambodia having become recently extinct in Thailand, Laos and Vietnam. The global population is estimated at under 200 individuals. Understanding the size and trends of remaining population of the species are crucial to its successful conservation management. Based on waterhole surveys we undertook in February–April 2020 and annual nest searches and monitoring in June–September of 2013–2020, our results indicate a

minimum of 53 mature giant ibises or 26 pairs occur in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, although the actual population could be larger as only 25% of suitable habitats at the site were sampled.

17 giant ibis nests were located in 2021 the largest number found to date.

A total of 95 nests were located over the eight breeding seasons in 2013–2021. The numbers of nests found each year increased and 74% of nests found between 2103-2020 proved successful. This led to 83 chicks fledging during the study period, giving a mean figure of 1.06 chicks fledged per

nest for all nests and 1.43 for successful nests alone. This is similar to a comparable estimate we made in 2014 and suggests giant ibis populations may be stable in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. While encouraging, the reasons for failures of giant ibis nests remain incompletely known. The post-fledging survival rate of juvenile giant ibises also remains unknown, as does the proportion of juveniles annually recruited into the local breeding population. Future studies that deploy tracking devices on juvenile birds could help to reduce these knowledge gaps.



Nesting giant ibis must shield their young from the elements including rain and high winds, and shade them from the sun.









ELD'S DEER

Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary supports 70% of the Cambodian Eld's deer population

The Eld's deer is more threatened with extinction than the giant panda. For the last three years we have hosted PhD student Rachel Ladd from the University of Queensland and on occasion her academic advisors including Dr. Luke Leung and Dr. Paul Meek. Happily Rachel has completed and submitted her thesis entitled

Deer, Dogs, Demographics and Detection: Conservation Management of Eld's Deer *Rucervus eldii* in Cambodia. Rachel used camera trapping techniques to determine population size and composition, and used GPS trackers on village dogs to determine their movements and possible impacts on Eld's deer. Rachel's research has determined the Eld's deer population within Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary to be 272 individuals which is 70% of the Cambodian total.

Photo opposite: Academic advisor Dr Paul Meek from the Vertebrate Pest Research Unit, New South Wales Department of Primary Industries is a leading authority on camera trapping techniques and developing control programmes for feral species including domestic dogs. Here Paul and Rachel experiment with camera trap placement.



Community Development Unit

SUCCESSES FOR 2021

- Best year ever for sales of IBIS Rice
- Siem Pang second largest producer of IBIS Rice
- 397 tonnes of IBIS Rice sold
- 509 households received income of US\$ 331 per household (total US\$ 170,976)
- IBIS Rice expanded to three new villages
- IBIS Rice grown in ten villages
- Two new Village Forums established and conservation agreements signed on behalf of 407 households in two new villages
- 682 families join the IBIS Rice scheme.
- 2,664 cattle and buffalo (41%) vaccinated

A challenge for conservation is how to engage local communities successfully in conservation. It is relatively easy to provide development assistance to local communities but it is hard to link this assistance to real conservation outcomes. It is also difficult to establish livelihood support that gives local communities real economic benefits. We work with local communities only to advance the conservation of Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. We seek to develop and implement livelihood interventions that will reduce encroachment, hunting and logging within the protected area.

Currently we do this by working with local non-government organisation Samsum Mlup Prey to whom we provide a significant grant so that we can work together to promote IBIS Rice. IBIS Rice is a Cambodian company that promotes the production of a fragrant jasmine rice certified organic by the United States Department of Agriculture. The IBIS Rice approach is successful because participating households receive significant annual income in return for their participation and good will. Participating households must sign a conservation agreement abstaining from encroachment, logging and hunting. The price households are paid for

their paddy is significantly greater than they would otherwise receive. The cash benefit has been shown to be equivalent to having a household member in full time employment or providing sufficient cash for the purchase of a hand tractor. Research by Oxford University and the Wildlife Conservation Society has shown that households in the scheme clear four times less forest than those who are not. Across the ten villages where we work, Rising Phoenix is responsible for compliance and failure to remain compliant results in the household being removed from the scheme.

2021 was the best year ever for sales of IBIS Rice. The number of participating households has steadily grown from 43 in 2017 to 682 in 2021. We expanded the number of participating villages to ten and increase of three on 2020. The tonnage of rice produced and sold has increased annually and in 2021 Siem Pang became the second largest producer of IBIS Rice.

In 2021, 397 tonnes of paddy were sold to IBIS Rice compared to 357 tonnes in 2020. A total of 509 households received a total income of US\$ 170,976 in sales to IBIS Rice or US\$ 331 per household. A key challenge is increasing the number of families that sell into the scheme. Many households are reluctant to sell until they have met their own annual consumption needs, which is two tonnes. Once this is met, they will sell the surplus. Households have the option of selling the high value paddy they produce for which they are paid a premium price, and then buy a cheaper rice to feed the family, but a range of issues including lack of thrift, fear of handling large amounts of cash, pride in the quality of their product and the desire to be self-sufficient all conspire to prevent them selling more.



In 2021, 2,664 cattle and buffalo or 41% of the district total were vaccinated compared to 2,244 or 32% in 2020. In Cambodia, cattle and buffalo are vulnerable to periodic outbreaks of epidemic diseases including foot and mouth and haemorrhagic septicaemia. The loss of livestock impacts household wealth. These diseases are also transmittable to wild cattle species including gaur and banteng for which Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary has important populations. To reduce this risk we vaccinate cattle and buffalo and ear-tag them to monitor their movements in the Wildlife Sanctuary. We can eliminate this risk further by fencing the boundary of the protected area and only admitting vaccinated livestock.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Originally from Takao Province, Unit Head Mak Sopheap has a master's in business administration and a degree in agriculture. He leads a small unit comprising only two other staff Sung Ren and Soeurng Laeuth.

Head of CDU Mak Sopheap IBIS Rice Section Leader Sung Ren

Community Assistance

Section Leader Soeurng Laeuth

TARGETS FOR 2022

- >500 tonnes of rice sold to IBIS Rice
- 60% of households are members in five villages
- 60% of all registered households sell 40% of their crop to IBIS Rice



Mang Tukla, Head of Surveillance, Intelligence and Reporting Unit

Surveillance, Intelligence & Reporting Unit

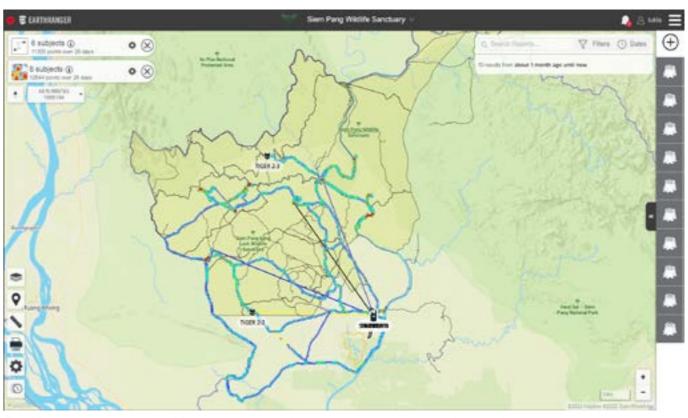
SUCCESSES FOR 2021

- EarthRanger operationised
- Compliance for all IBIS Rice households conducted
- Monthly reports on illegal activities produced to inform enforcement patrols

This unit is responsible for gathering data both remotely and from staff and informants and feeding this into our enforcement operation. Scouts in this unit frequently accompany enforcement ranger teams in the field to gather data and ensure mission tasks are fulfilled. This unit also manages a radio base station so that ranger team in the field have 24-hour communications.

EARTHRANGER OPERATIONALISED

This software permits us to monitor the movements of our enforcement team in real time. From our headquarters senior team members can see the location of our teams and re-deploy them to address an issue or send back-up if required. For example, enforcement teams on occasion meet bands of poachers. It may not be operationally desirable for a small team to engage a larger band of poachers where the goal may be arrest. Such an operation may require two units operating together in a pincer movement. Headquarters can direct the teams to positions in real time. Under this circumstance the nearest other unit can be redeployed quickly. In the event of an accident EarthRanger can mean rapid and accurate deployment of medical support for first aid or evacuation.



EarthRanger technology enables us to monitor the movements of our patrols in real time.



Sry Vuthy, Intelligence Officer

20

Lon Neat, Deputy Head of Surveillance, Intelligence and Reporting Unit

SURVEILLANCE, INTELLIGENCE & REPORTING UNIT

This eleven person unit is led by Mang Tukla and his deputy is Lon Neat our most senior female member of staff. This unit includes two other female members of staff.

Head of SIRU Mang Tukla
Deputy Head of SIRU Lon Neat
Intelligence Officer Sry Vuthy
Chroek Vannak

Compliance Section Leader Hai Bunleng Scout Radio Operator Mai May

Socheata Sot

Sub-team Leader Loem By Scout Field Nak Sysul

Nak Sysuk Seang Samorn

Radio Detachment Leader

Sourn Seyha

2022 TARGETS

- Coordination of first prosecution for illegal wildlife trade
- 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







ENFORCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

These results represent the combined actions together with Siem Pang PATROL

- 15 chainsaws confiscated
- 76 cases of encroachment prevented
- 24 hand tractors confiscated
- 952 traps and snares removed
- 13 hunting camps destroyed

Photo opposite: Regular training of enforcement rangers is essential to maintain their operational readiness. In this exercise four Rising Phoenix scouts pose as poachers guarded by a ranger whose performance is under evaluation. He carries a number on his sleeve which enables the trainers to identify him. Note too he carries a wooden rifle.



Head of Law Enformcent Mark Bowman directs enforcement rangers during a training drill.

Police Lieutenant General, Huort Sophally and Head of Enforcement, Mark Bowman

Siem Pang PATROLUnit

SUCCESSES FOR 2021

- PATROL operationised
- PATROL coordination centre established
- Army soldiers trained (15) and Border police (15) selected for Tiger Team
- Coordination committee established Chaired by Stung Treng Provincial Authority
- All law enforcement agencies represented

PATROL the Partnership Against Transnationalcrime through Regional Organized Law-enforcement began in 1993, under the guidance of United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) under which the six countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region (Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam) agreed to cooperate on counter narcotics efforts under a Memorandum of Understanding including through border control cooperation. In 2009, the scope of PATROL was expanded and its mandate increased to include, wildlife, timber, human trafficking and ozone depleting substances. In 2021 with the guidance and leadership of Police Lieutenant General Huort Sophally, and Head of Enforcement Mark Bowman we took the decision to operationalise PATROL as a measure to improve enforcement in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. Under Siem Pang PATROL we will establish two sections (Wild Boar and Tiger), plus a Special Operations Unit.

PATROL AGREEMENTS SIGNED

Two agreements key for the successful implementation of PATROL were signed with the Ministry of Environment and Stung Treng Provincial Authority.

COORDINATION COMMITTEE

ESTABLISHED | We established a government sanctioned forum for all law enforcement agencies within the district which chaired of the provincial authority.

PATROL COORDINATION CENTRE ESTABLISHED | PATROL is coordinated from the Rising Phoenix headquarters in Siem Pang.

BORDER PATROL SPECIAL OPERATIONS TRAINING

In 2021 we trained 20 recruits from the Army (15) and Border Police (5) to effectively, confidently and safely implement their main job function to conduct specialised patrolling, surveillance, investigations, raids and take-downs in both the forest and rural environment. This was an intense field-training course, with the average instructional day commencing at 05h00 and concluding at 20h00. The majority of lessons were conducted in field environments, regardless of season or weather, and practical hands-on application and scenarios during lessons were predominant. This course was mentally and physically demanding. Strict adherence to instructors orders was demanded for safety reasons and continuity of the training programme. The course produced patrol personnel trained with the minimum knowledge required to conduct all supervised tasks in specialised patrolling operations.

SIEM PANG PATROL UNIT

This is the largest unit in Rising Phoenix currently with 32 rangers. It is led by Mark Bowman, Head of Enforcement and consists of seven Department of Environment Rangers, 10 Border Police and 15 Army. Critical to its implementation and success is Police Lieutenant General Huort Sophally who provides vital support and liaison Director of International Cooperation Department of the Secretariat-General of the National Authority for Combating Drugs, NACD Project Coordinator of PATROL, eLearning and Container Control Programme of the UNODC.

SECTION 01 WILD BOARS

Department of Environment Ranger

Chan Rang Nuphit Nhummala
Mut Sokhkea Phoung Theng
Long Thavy Khon Ramo

Phann Somoun

Border Police Pol Capt. Vilay Phoungin

Pol Capt. Thao Sophanith Pol Capt. My Samphou

SECTION 02 TIGERS

District Military Division Army

S.Sgt Hourt Chan
S.Sgt Phak Panha
S.Sgt Vuth Pheatra
S.Sgt La Lyfong
S.Sgt Sokh Samphas
S.Sgt Torng Bunhat
S.Sgt Nou Sokhim
S.Sgt Sarom Ravath
S.Sgt Pann Rachhi
S.Sgt Heng Meng Leang

Border Police Pol W.O. Chea Chanthorn

Pol 2nd Lt. Dom Phon Pol W.O. Phong Bunsong

SPECIAL DUTIES TEAM VIPERS

District Military Division Army

S.Sgt Prak Sokmean S.Sgt Heav Luesai

Sgt Oun Saeuk

Border Police Pol 2nd Lt. Vann Chanthourn

Pol S.Sgt Suphon Udom

TARGETS FOR 2022

- 15 Border Police trained for the Tiger Team
- Snare clearance along O'Khampa River reaches 3km²
- 50% of Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary patrolled regularly
- First annual Border Liaison meeting involving Cambodia and Lao PDR held
- Team leader training course completed



Logistics Support Unit

SUCCESSES FOR 2021

- 33km of SPWS southern boundary demarcated
- 20 trapeangs restored
- 10 vulture nest plaforms deployed
- One community pond dug at Kampourk village
- Three solar pumps installed at three community ponds

This unit undertakes a variety of tasks from maintaining assets like our three ranger stations, headquarters and tented camp, to managing our stores, equipment and vehicles to planning and undertaking engineering work including bridge building, boundary demarcation and wetland restoration.

33KM BOUNDARY DEMARCATED

Rising Phoenix considers the demarcation of the Wildlife Sanctuary boundary a vital first step to its eventual fencing. The southern boundary through the deciduous dipterocarp forest marks the forest frontier and it is against this that people and business interests illegally encroach.

FOREST WETLANDS RESTORED

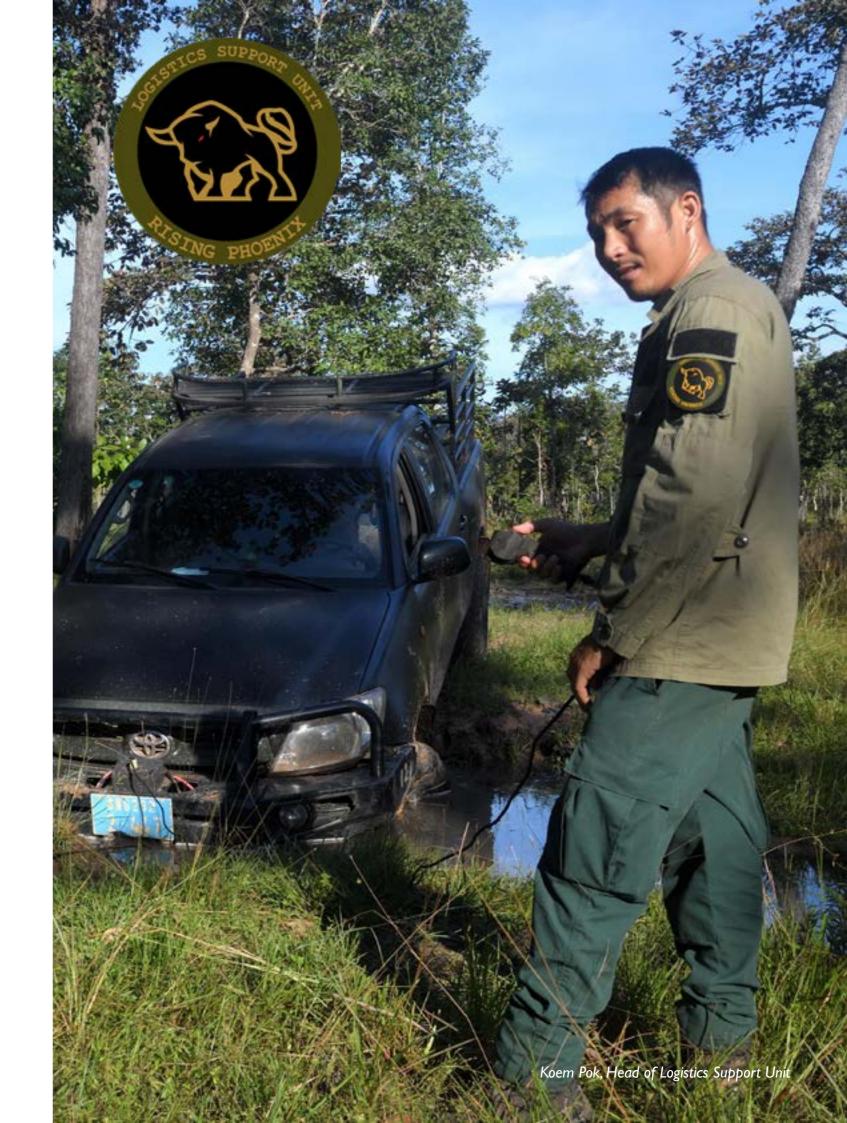
Intensive habitat management is routine in many protected areas in Europe and North America. This is especially the case in smaller protected areas where ecosystem functions are limited and where keystone species such as beavers, elephants and wolves that can alter landscapes may be missing. Aware that Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary has lost keystone species like the Wild Water Buffalo that maintain forest wetlands via grazing and wallowing, we have embarked on an ambitious programme of wetland management and have now restored close to 50 forest wetlands or *trapeangs* making Rising Phoenix the leader in wetland restoration in Southeast Asia. In the first half of 2021 we restored

20 forest wetlands in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. To do so we use a a combination of mechanical and manual means. For manual restoration we employ teams of men and women as day laborers recruited from local villages. This we hope buys local support, puts cash into the local economy at a season when work is scarce. Mechanical restoration is more expensive but faster and far greater volumes of soil and substrate can be moved. Care must be taken to ensure precious top soil and substrates containing burrowing fish and frogs are not destroyed.

VULTURE NEST PLATFORMS DEPLOYED | Although vulture monitoring falls to the Biodiversity Monitoring Unit, the manufacture and placement of the artificial nests is a responsibility of the Logistics Support Unit. In 2021 a further ten acritical nests were placed in trees within 2km of the vulture hide. Manufactured by local blacksmiths, great skill is required in climbing the thirty plus metres to the crown of the tree to place the nest. Once anchored in place the team builds a nest of sticks in the metal frame. In September documentary film producer Nick Wood produced a short film on this work, which was screened worldwide on BBC News.

BUFFALO HERD ESTABLISHED

Although strictly a rewilding activity the Logistics Support Unit provided vital assistance in the establishment of a feral buffalo herd. Domestic buffalo are descended from their wild ancestor and play a vital ecological function in maintaining forest wetlands. A herd of 18 buffalo were bought from villages east of the Sekong River and re-located to *Trapeang* Dai Kla in the Conservation Zone of the Wildlife Sanctuary. The *trapeang* was deepened to ensure water supply throughout the dry season and a stockade built to contain the animals until they settle and view the location as the centre of their home range.



LOGISTICS SUPPORT UNIT

With 17 staff this unit is one of the largest. It is led by Koem Pok who was one of the first two members of staff to be recruited by Rising Phoenix. With the exception of Pok and his deputy Tea Tet, who hails from Siem Reap, all team members are from local villages.

Head of LSU Koem Pok
Facility Section Manager Tea Tet
Facility Section Deputy Manager Mai Manh
Logistics/Stores Section Manager Iv Sivnen

Okampa

Assistant Cook Phy Thoy
Assistant Guard Kaath Senghong

Kampourk
Assistant Cook
Assistant Guard
Bunrith Chitra
Hang Vanny

Toul Kamnob

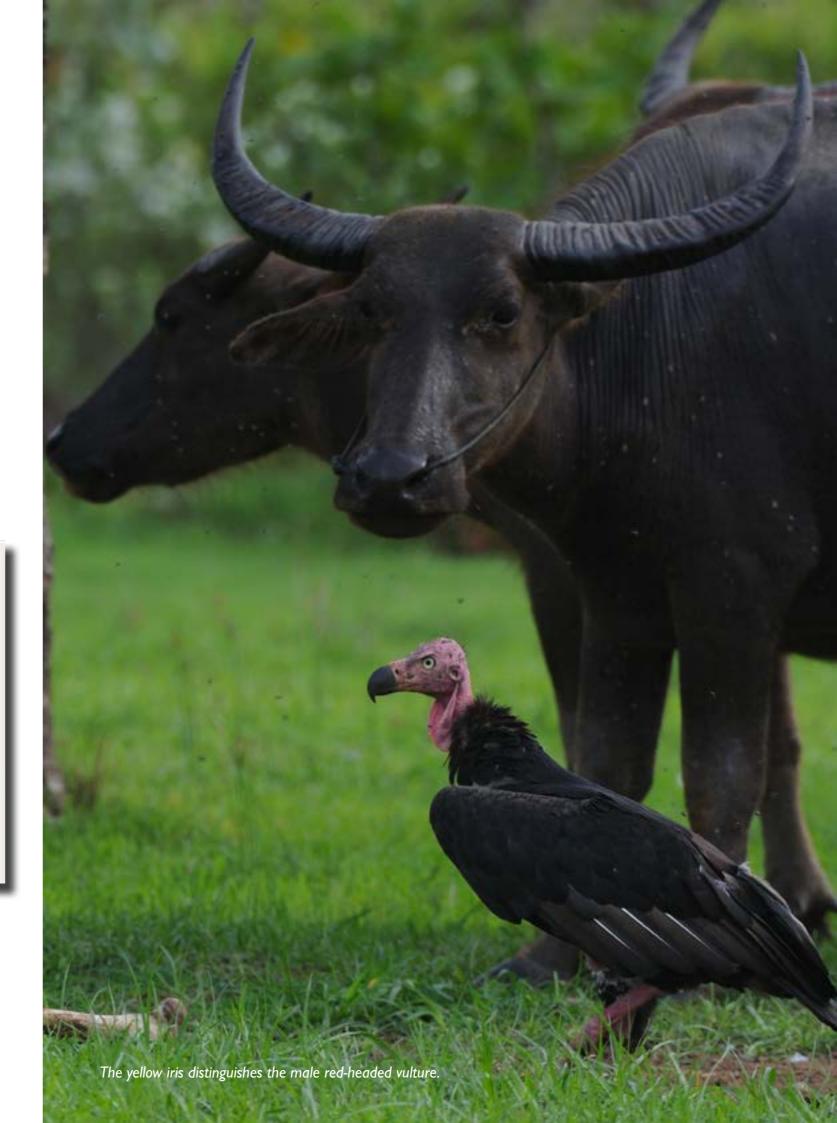
Specialist Guard Meou Bunna Cook and Tent Keeper Thach Channy Specialist Labourer Yorng Sim Kea Phaivan Sub-Team Leader Specialist Scout Sarin Ratou Specialist Boat Operator Loem Chhay SP Office Cook Phoeung Somalay SP Office Cleaner Suk Latha Keo Titchhaya Mechanic

TARGETS FOR 2022

- Pre-release facility for Siamese crocodile built at Beoung Nava
- Restoration of Beoung Khampa for 2023 Siamese crocodile release
- Five *trapeangs* restored
- Toul Bosphniev white-shouldered ibis roost fenced
- Complete demarcation of Sustainable-use Zone at Kampourk and to Sekong River
- Fence the southern boundary of SPWS and establish checkpoints (funding not yet secured)



Logistics/Stores Section Manager, Iv Sivnen





Headquarters Unit

SUCCESSES FOR 2021

- Letter of Agreements signed with MoE and Stung Treng Provincial Authority
- Absorption of BirdLife operations
- New grants of US\$ 886,000 secured
- Vulture work featured on BBC News

The Chief Executive Officer together with the board is responsible for the strategic direction of Rising Phoenix and ensuring that the organisation is solvent and complaint with national legislation. The duties of this unit include management, fundraising and external relations with government and civil society partners.

New organisational structure

Rising Phoenix was restructured into six units and a uniform policy introduced.

Absorption of BirdLife International

BirdLife International has operated a Cambodia country programme since the early 2000s but as a confederation of sovereign non-government organisations its policy has always been to phase out their country programmes and support their transformation into civil society partners. As part of this process in 2021 Rising Phoenix absorbed BirdLife's livelihoods and species monitoring programmes at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. This resulted in the transfer of nine staff and all project assets. BirdLife is now a donor to Rising Phoenix and no longer an implementing organisation.

Total Secured funding in 2021 US\$ 886,000

Grant agreements were signed with the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund for US\$ 235,000 and with Fondation Segre via BirdLife International for US\$ 100,000. New agreements worth US\$ 551,000 to cover the projects transferring to Rising Phoenix

were concluded with BirdLife International.

VIP guests at Siem Pang Safari Camp

During 2021 we were pleased to host Her Excellency Tina Redshaw Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Cambodia, His Excellency Say Samal, Minister of Environment, His Excellency Secretary of State for the Environment Sokun Ratikhun, Mr Kim Nong Director of the General Department for Administration and Nature Conservation and Protection.

Communications

Our website was regularly updated and in September a three minute feature on our vulture work, produced by Nick Wood was screened on BBC News.

MANAGEMENT UNIT

This unit comprises five staff two British and three Khmer. In addition to the Chief Executive Officer includes James Lyon, Operations Manager, Kem Dyla Finance and Administration Officer and two assistants Chan Tu and Sin Samath. Originally from Solihull in the English midlands, James holds a master's degree in conservation Science from Imperial College London and worked in conservation in Laos and Cambodia before joining Rising Phoenix.

TARGETS FOR 2022

- Secure agreement with Cambodian Government
- Develop a REDD+ project
- Secure 2023 budget
- Produce five short films
- Become conservation sponsor of Global Birdfair



In Memorian

LIEUTENANT AOM CHHAI

18 April 1975 - 30 August 2021

On 30 August 2021, Lieutenant Aom Chhai of the Royal Gendarmerie Khmer passed away due to complications arising from a stroke. Lieutenant Aom Chhai was assigned to work at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary in support of enforcement operations since 2015. He is survived by his wife and five children. Aom Chhai was from Battambang Province. He was liked and respected by his colleagues and was one of the longest serving Royal Gendarmerie Khmer on our staff.

Instituational Partners

The organisations listed below worked with us or helped us in our mission in 2021.

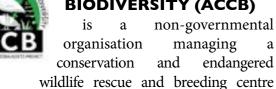
AFRICAN PARKS



is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) focused on conservation, established in 2000 and headquartered in Johannesburg, South Africa. The organisation manages national parks and protected

areas throughout Africa, in collaboration with governments and surrounding communities. African Parks manages 18 protected areas in 11 countries as of August 2020, and employs more than 1,100 rangers. In 2020 Rising Phoenix received good support from CEO Peter Fearnhead and colleagues as we refined our own vision for Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.

ANGKOR CENTER FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY (ACCB)



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.



BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL

is our closest institutional

INTERNATIONAL partner as Rising Phoenix

works within the framework of their memorandum

works within the framework of their memorandum of understanding with the Government of Cambodia. BirdLife International has been working at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary since 2005 and was responsible for identifying the site and having it nominated as a protected area.



CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND PARTNERSHIP FUND (CEPF)

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 nonprofit 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.

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 (CBD); the Convention

on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). The Darwin Initiative currently funds the IBIS Rice programme in ten villages surrounding Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.





FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL (FFI)

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.



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 will be the first conservation sponsor for this new event.



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 Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.





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 includes seven departments: Department of Administration, Planning, Accounting and Finance; Department of National Parks; Department of Wildlife sanctuary; Department of Climate Change; Department of Wetland and Coastal Zones; Department of International Convention and Biodiversity; and the Department of Research and Community Protected Area Development.

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. It is entitled to establish organisational structures necessary for management of protected areas nationwide in line with protected area laws. Under the Royal Government's decentralisation policy the Department of Environment Stung Treng

Province has management authority for Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.

SAMSUM 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.

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

is one of Australia's leading research and teaching



institutions. Currently the School of Agriculture and Food Sciences has a PhD student

researching Eld's deer at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary to determine their population size and trend, habitat preferences and the impact of predation by domestic dogs.

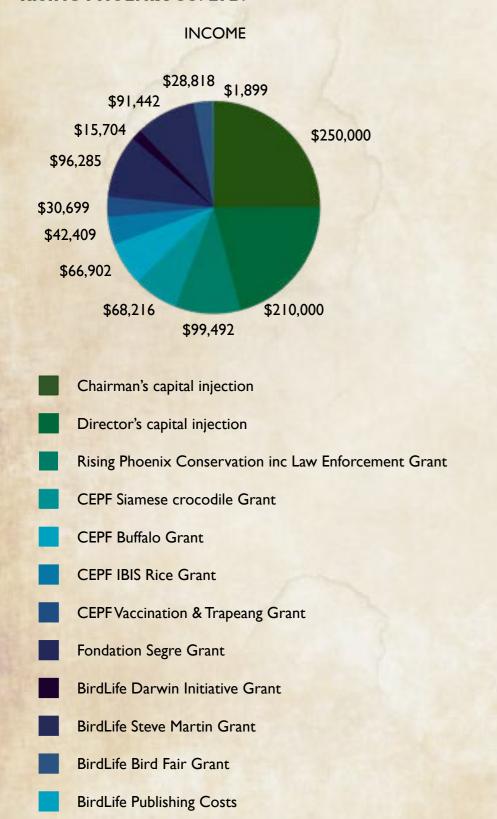




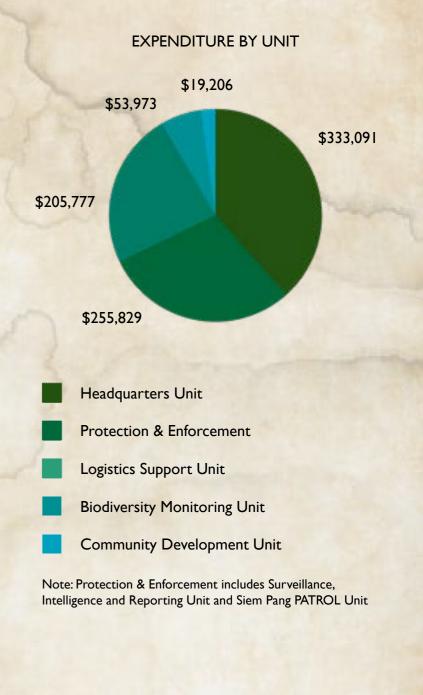
Financial Summary 2021

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.

RISING PHOENIX CO. LTD.

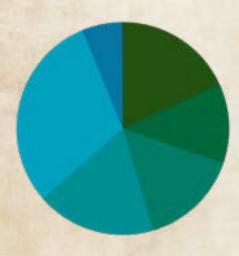


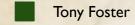


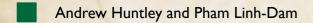


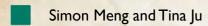
RISING PHOENIX CONSERVATION INC.

INCOME









- Susanna Kim-Bracke
- Ly Tran
- Peter Coolidge
- Ryan Cook

2020 contribution from Peter Ryder was received in 2021 but shown in the 2020 Annual Report.



- Fauna & Flora International 2020 Grant final payment
- Fauna & Flora International Crocodile Grant
- Rising Phoenix 2021 Law Enforcement Grant
- Administration fee
 - Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd. website costs



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

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. The registered address of Rising Phoenix Conservation Inc. is 5 Wolfback Ridge Road, Sausalito California 94965, USA.

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 future management agreement with the Ministry of Environment for Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. The registered address of Siem Pang Conservation is #111, Preah Norodom Blvd (41), Sangkat Chaktomuk, Khan Daun Penh, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Join Us

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

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



risingphoenix.ltd