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First Nest of Critically Endangered Siamese Crocodile Recorded in Sre Ambel River System

Conservationists from the Fisheries Administration (FiA), WCS and local communities found a nest with 19 eggs of the Critically Endangered Siamese Crocodile in Kean-to pond, near Preah Angkeo Village, Dongpheng Commune, Sre Ambel District, Koh Kong Province, while searching for tracks, signs, and dung of wild crocodiles in the area. This is the first Siamese Crocodile nest recorded in six years of research and protection in the Sre Ambel River System.

Siamese Crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*) is listed on IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered, because its global population is declining at alarming rate. This species lives only in Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. Its global population is around 410 adult Siamese Crocodiles, while 100-300 wild adult Siamese Crocodiles live in Cambodia, making it the most important country for the conservation of this species.

"I am delighted to see this Siamese Crocodile nest because previously we found only its tracks and dung. This is the first nest of Siamese Crocodile found on the Sre Ambel in six years," Said In Hul, FiA counterpart staff of WCS. [Read full story](#)

Globally Endangered Masked Finfoot Nest recorded in Cambodia

Conservationists from the Ministry of Environment (MoE), WCS and local communities found the first Globally Endangered Masked Finfoot nest for four years on the Memay River in the Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary (KPWS) in Preah Vihear Province. This site is the only confirmed breeding location in Cambodia for this very rare species.

Masked Finfoot (*Heliopais personatus*) is listed on IUCN Red List as Globally Endangered, because its global population is declining at an alarming rate. Its global population is less than 1,000 individuals, while little is known about numbers in Cambodia.

"After educating local communities about the Masked Finfoot, the Research team worked together with Community Protected Area committee and other local community members to search for the species. We then found a Masked Finfoot on the nest near the Memay River in KPWS, Preah Vihear Province," said Rours Vann, MoE/WCS Research Team Leader in KPWS. [Read full story](#)



Globally Endangered Masked Finfoot on the nest in Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary. © Rours Vann/WCS

Success of Local Nest Protection Gives Hope of Worldwide Conservation of Globally Endangered Greater Adjutant

Endangered Greater Adjutant chicks have successfully fledged from 175 nests in the Prek Toal Ramsar Site in Cambodia and disbursed across the country. The nests were protected for six months by conservationists from Cambodia's Ministry of Environment (MoE), Prek Toal village, and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).



Globally Endangered Greater Adjutants in Prek Toal Ramsar Site. © Eleanor Briggs/WCS

The Greater Adjutant (*Leptoptilos dubius*) is the largest stork species in the world, reaching 1.5 meters in height, and is listed on the IUCN Red List as Endangered. An estimated 800-1,000 mature individuals exist globally and 150-200 pairs live in Prek Toal, the only known breeding site in Southeast Asia.

"I am proud of working with my team to conserve this rare bird and am happy to see greater adjutants and other important waterbirds living and breeding safely here," said Chhan Chhoum, former egg collector and now a nest protector. "Local people in Prek Toal recognize the importance of waterbird conservation and the fact that these birds are providing a sustainable source of income through ecotourism." [Read full story](#)

First Nest of Globally Endangered White-winged Duck Recorded in Northern Plains of Cambodia

A nest with seven eggs of the Globally Endangered White-winged Duck was recorded in Northern Plains of Cambodia for the first time in five years after three local men informed to conservationists of Ministry of Environment (MoE) and WCS. The nest was located inside a Koki tree hollow about 12 meters from the ground in Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary (KPWS) near Sambo Village, Sr-yorng Commune, Kulen District, and Preah Vihear Province.



White-winged Duck is endangered, so more protection is needed to conserve the species from extinction. © WCS

White-winged Duck (*Asarcornis scutulata*) is listed on IUCN Red List as Globally Endangered, primarily because its global population is in decline due to habitat loss, disturbance along key stretches of riverine habitat and illegal poaching. The global population of this enigmatic duck species is estimated to be between 250 – 1,000 individuals, while little is currently known about the numbers present in Cambodia.

"We saw a White-winged Duck on the tree while walking to the rice field. We reported to WCS team because we know it is endangered bird. They came to check the nest and hired three of us to guard it with direct cash payment in return," said Mr. In Long, 36, who found the nest. [Read full story](#)

Two Critically Endangered Bengal Florican Chicks Found

The Wildlife Research and Monitoring team of Ministry of Environment (MoE) and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has seen two Bengal Florican chicks in the Northern Tonle Sap Protected Landscape, Kampong Thom Province.

The Bengal Florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*) is listed on the IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered, and has a global population of fewer than 800 individuals. Cambodia is the most important country worldwide for Bengal Florican conservation with an estimated 432 individuals nationwide in 2012. The grassland of the Tonle Sap floodplain in Kompong Thom Province is home to the largest population of the birds in the world and is critical to their survival. Bengal Floricans typically have either one or two chicks each year, these birds come from one nest.[Read Khmer](#)



Two chicks of Critically Endangered Bengal Florican spotted in Kampong Thom Province. © Son Virak / WCS

WCS Supports Decision by Ministry of Mines and Energy to Stop Sand Dredging in Sre Ambel River System

WCS supports the Ministry of Mines and Energy's (MME) decision to stop all types of sand dredging activities in Sre Ambel River system in Koh Kong Province and ban all export to abroad. The circular and declaration was issued on 10 July 2017.

This decision reflects strong commitment and efforts from MME in avoiding the negative impacts from sand dredging activities on the environment, fisheries, local communities as well as the protection of biodiversity, including Royal Turtles.

Sre Ambel River system is a very important conservation site because it is the only place in Cambodia where Royal Turtles, the Cambodia's national reptile, can be found. [Read full story](#)



Sre Ambel river system supports Critically Endangered Royal Turtles and Siamese Crocodiles. © Eleanor Briggs/WCS

Globally Threatened Lesser Adjutant Returned to the Wild

Angkor Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity (ACCB) in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and the WCS released a threatened Lesser Adjutant back to the wild in Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary, Preah Vihear Province after this Adjutant had been rehabilitated at ACCB for more than a year.

The Lesser Adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) is a large stork reaching 130cm in height with a wingspan exceeding two meters. Despite a global upper population estimate of 10,000 mature individuals, Lesser Adjutants are experiencing rapid population declines within their former range undergoing widespread contraction across Asia. As a result, it is listed as "Vulnerable" in IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species.

In June 2016, a villager found this Lesser Adjutant in bad condition in a forest near Tmatboey village. It was very weak and unable to fly, therefore the villager contacted WCS and it was sent to ACCB for treatment and rehabilitation. It was in an overall bad condition and had all flight feathers severely damaged. Now after one year, this adjutant is fully recovered and equipped to survive in the wild. [Read Khmer](#)



Globally Vulnerable Lesser Adjutant was released to the wild in Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary. © Rours Vann / WCS

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