



## Critically Endangered Giant Ibis Recorded in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary

Two pairs of the Critically Endangered Giant Ibis have been found in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KSWS), the WCS and MoE Wildlife Monitoring Team confirms. These are the first seen at the site in ten years. This finding confirms once again that KSWS is a biodiversity hotspot and vital for conservation of globally threatened mammal and bird species.

Giant Ibis (*Thaumatibis gigantea*), Cambodia's national bird, is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List. The species now occurs only in Cambodia, with very few recent records from Lao People's Democratic Republic and Vietnam. Cambodia has around 99 percent of the global population, estimated at 194 mature individuals, making it the most important country in the world for Giant Ibis conservation.

"We are proud of finding these Giant Ibises because now we can prove they are living in KSWS. Old reports mentioned about this species in KSWS, but we haven't found them for about 10 years," said Sot Vandoeun, who leads Wildlife Research and Monitoring team and found the Giant Ibis in KSWS. [Read full story](#)

Media coverage:

- [Bayern TV](#)
- [Cambodia Daily](#)
- [Sabay news](#)
- [Khmer Times](#)
- [Women Media Center \(WMC\)](#)

## VIDEO: “One Giant Leap” for Endangered White-winged Ducklings

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) released video of three Endangered white-winged ducklings leaving their Koki tree-hollow home (5-6m above the ground) for the first time while their mother patiently waits for them to follow.

The ducklings are the latest piece of great news resulting from an innovative program developed by WCS in conjunction with Ministry of Environment (MoE), in which local people are compensated to protect and monitor endangered birds instead of harvesting them.

Even more encouraging, the mother duck in the video is itself an earlier rescue of the program that was discovered injured in the wild, picked up by people from Prey Veng village in mid-2015 and given to WCS. WCS transferred the duck to Angkor Center for Conservation of Biodiversity (ACCB) for rehabilitation. The bird was later tagged and released back to the wild in December of 2015. [Read full story](#)

[Watch video](#)



*Globally Endangered White-winged Duck chick in Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary. © Rours Vann / WCS*

## Joint Efforts Countering Threats on Keo Seima’s Forests and Wildlife

With joint efforts between the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and community rangers, as well as technical and financial support from WCS, over 130 chainsaws, 400 snares, 85 motorbikes, and other equipment being used for illegal activities were confiscated inside Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KSWS) from July to September, while six



*Community patrol team in KSWS confiscated chainsaws and other illegal equipment. © WCS*

people were arrested and sent to the provincial court. This has been one of the most successful periods for law enforcement in KSWs so far this year, although continuing and increased law enforcement is needed to conserve KSWs' forest and wildlife.

“This result would not be possible without strong support and cooperation from everyone ranging from law enforcement team to local community level. Special thank goes to rangers who have been working so hard to combat illegal logging and poaching inside KSWs,” said Tan Setha, WCS’s Technical Advisor KSWs. “They have played a key role in securing KSWs’s forests and biodiversity over the past decades.”

## Cambodia - Vietnam Joint Efforts to Combat Transborder Wildlife Trafficking

Monduliri Department of Environment, in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), organized a third bi-lateral meeting since 2015, between four provinces of Cambodia (Monduliri and Kratie) and Vietnam (Binh Phuoc and Dak Nong) on wildlife trafficking. The meeting, “Combatting illegal wildlife trafficking between Cambodia and Vietnam”, was opened by the Deputy Provincial Governor of Monduliri and participated in by more than 52 participants from national and subnational government agencies from both countries, including the Department of Environment, Police agencies, Customs, Border Army, Forestry officials, protected area directors, and the provincial judiciary. [Read full story](#)



*Participants from national and subnational government agencies of Cambodia and Vietnam. © Kong Sothin / WCS*

## White-winged Duck Awareness Raising at Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary

Wildlife Research and Monitoring Teams from Preah Vihear Provincial Department of Environment (PDoE), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and local authorities jointly organized White-winged duck awareness raising events with 177 local villagers participating (including 57 women) from two target villages, Prey Veng and Sambo, in Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary (KPWS), Preah Vihear Province. The purpose of these events were to make local people aware of the importance of White-winged Duck for eco-tourism and encourage local people to participate in species conservation and habitat protection.



*MoE ranger educating villagers about White-winged Duck. © Phann Sithan / WCS*

White-winged Duck awareness raising would not be possible without important supports from the Sam Veasna Centre, Akron Zoo, the European Union, and Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies.

## Poison Puts Cambodia's Vultures at High Risk

Cambodia's vultures are facing a high risk of extinction and have seen a 50 percent decline in number since the late 2000's. Only 121 of the birds were recorded in this year's national census, the lowest number on record since 2003. Recent reviews indicate that poisoning is the major threat to the vulture population in Cambodia. In recognition of International Vulture Awareness Day, conservationists are spreading the message about the plight of these animals and the importance of conserving them.



*Vultures in Chhep Wildlife Sanctuary. © Eleanor Briggs/ WCS*

"Poisoning is probably the biggest threat to Cambodia's vultures, and it's bad for human health as well," said Simon Mahood, WCS's Senior Technical Advisor. "Strong efforts from government, conservation NGOs and local communities are required to save these vulture species." [Read full story](#)

Below are seven among 20 media coverage for vulture story:

- [PNN TV](#)
- [Phnom Penh Post](#)
- [Khmer Times](#)
- [Radio France International \(RFI\)](#)
- [FAYO FM](#)
- [Rasmei Kampuchea newspaper](#)
- [Thmey Thmey online](#)

**Saving Cambodia's wildlife from extinction by not purchasing or eating wild meat!**



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