

of protected areas in Cambodia supported by WWF(Srepok Wildlife Sanctuary and Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary)



local community members of 8 ethnic groups living in and around the protected areas in the Eastern Plains Landscape depend on forest

#### One of the world's 200

most biologically important areas. It is one of the largest stretches of continuous dry and semi evergreen forest in Southeast Asia

## Banteng

The world's largest banteng population occurs in the Eastern Plains Landscape with number estimates at 2700-5700 individuals

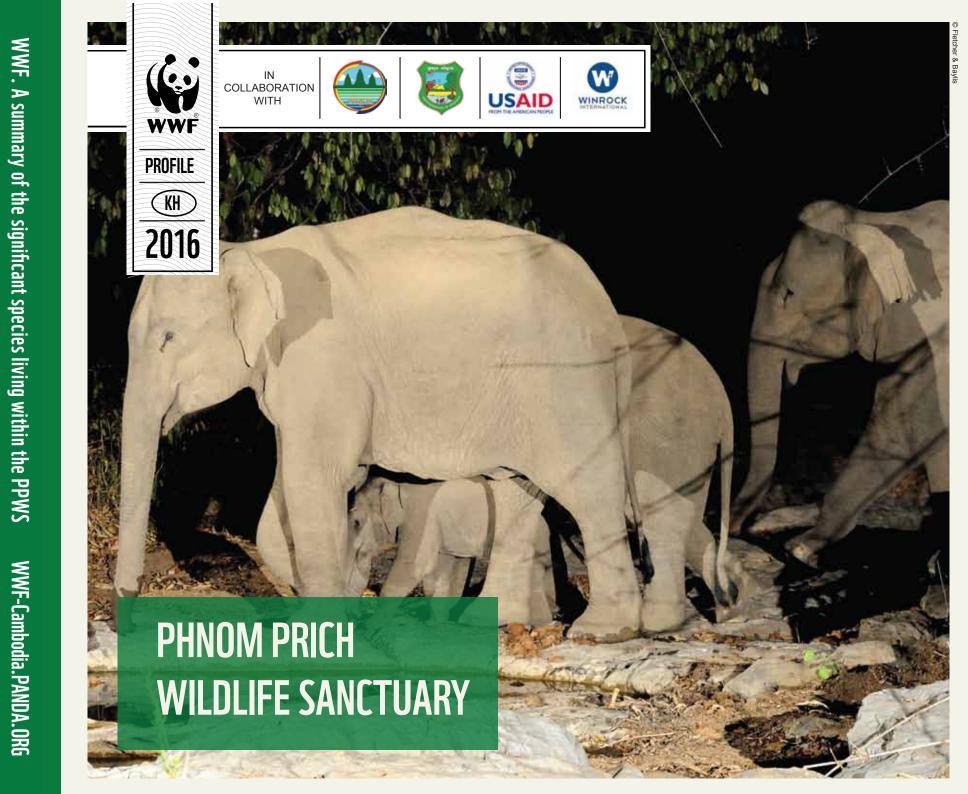
#### WWF-Cambodia

21 Street 322, Boeung Keng Kang 1, Chamkar Mon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia Tel: +855 23 218 034 / Fax: +855 23 11 909 Email: wwfcambodia@wwfgreatermekong.org

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#### PREFACE FROM THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT

On behalf of the Ministry of Environment, I would like to express my profound respect and sincere gratitude to Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, for his full support and strong commitment to strengthen the contribution of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. The Phnom Prich Wildlife Profile is a comprehensive document for biodiversity conservation and management in Cambodia and represents an important milestone for umbrella species in Cambodia for the future under the charismatic leadership of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

I would like to express gratitude and appreciation to Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen from line departments, NGOs, the private sector, and development partners for the good cooperation in the preparation and completion of this important wildlife profile.

The Ministry of Environment of the Royal Government of Cambodia works across both the Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary (PPWS) and the Srepok Wildlife Sanctuary within the Eastern Plains Landscape of Cambodia. Through collaborations with WWF and other conservation NGOs, the Ministry is working to protect the forests and the wildlife that live there for generations to come. This book shows some of those wildlife and local communities that benefit from this work. The Eastern Plains Landscape is of vital value for Cambodia and a stronghold for the region with key species such as the Banteng and the Giant Ibis, Cambodia's national bird, residing in it. Yet, the Landscape is facing pressing threats which need to be mitigated as soon as possible.

This book is a summary of the significant species living within the Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary for the General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection, Ministry of Environment by WWF-Cambodia. We hope it can serve to raise awareness on the majesty of the Sanctuary and its importance in the world. It was made possible thanks to the Ministry of Environment and WWF-Cambodia and with the generous funding and support from USAID through the Supporting Forests and Biodiversity (SFB) Project.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to line departments and agencies, development partners and experts for their valuable inputs, assistance and active participation in the development process of this wildlife profile in a timely and effective manner.



SAY SAMAL
Minister of Environment

Phnom Penh, 10 June 2016

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#### PREFACE FOR WWF-CAMBODIA COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Within Cambodia the Eastern Plains Landscape consists of approximately 1,300km² of connected protected areas. The EPL is also recognized for its global importance, as it falls within two Ecoregions from WWF's Global 200 project: the Annamite range moist forests and the Lower Mekong dry forests; the southern, evergreen parts of the EPL lie within the South Viet Nam / Cambodia lowlands 'Endemic Bird Area', and there are four 'Important Bird Areas' within the landscape. As part of the EPL, the Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary is of vital importance for the richness of its natural resources and biodiversity. But they are under increasing pressure from poaching, illegal logging, land-clearance, and unsustainable activities. WWF-Cambodia has been working since 2004 in the PPWS, supporting the Ministry of Environment in monitoring species, protecting the Sanctuary and collaborating with local indigenous communities in reaching legal status and for their members to have sustainable alternative livelihoods, ensuring that humans live in harmony with nature. WWF-Cambodia is currently providing technical support to the Ministry of Environment for the development of the PPWS Management Plan (2016-2021), and will continue to support its implementation.

WWF-Cambodia is thankful to the Ministry of Environment for years of close partnership and collaboration, which contribute to the safeguard of the protected areas for generations to come. As part of the USAID-funded Supporting Forests and Biodiversity Project, WWF-Cambodia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, has produced the PPWS Wildlife Profile. This Profile allows the general public to discover the beauty and majesty of the Sanctuary, while understanding the threats to it. It aims at raising nationwide awareness on the importance of the great biodiversity of PPWS in Cambodia.

We hope, through this Profile, to engage more people in the respect of biodiversity and its protection.



CHHITH SAM ATH
Country Director of
WWF-Cambodia
Phnom Penh, 10 June 2016

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Germain Silvered Langur

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Department of Terrestrial Protected Areas Conservation (DTPAC), General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDANCP), Ministry of Environment (MoE) and USAID in making this compilation of significant species in Cambodia possible.

The data from the field was made possible with thanks to the following NGOs and organizations working throughout Cambodia; Forestry Administration (FA); The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS); Wildlife Alliance (WA); Panthera and Wildlife Conservation Research Unit, Oxford University (UK); Angkor Centre for Conservation and Biodiversity (ACCB); Conservation International (CI) and Fauna & Flora International (FFI).

Pictures that were not taken in PPWS are marked and their origin is stated.

We also thank K. Fletcher & Donna Baylis for some of the beautiful wildlife images taken in PPWS for this book.







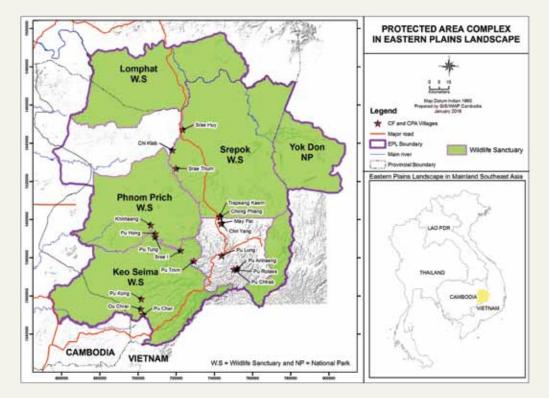




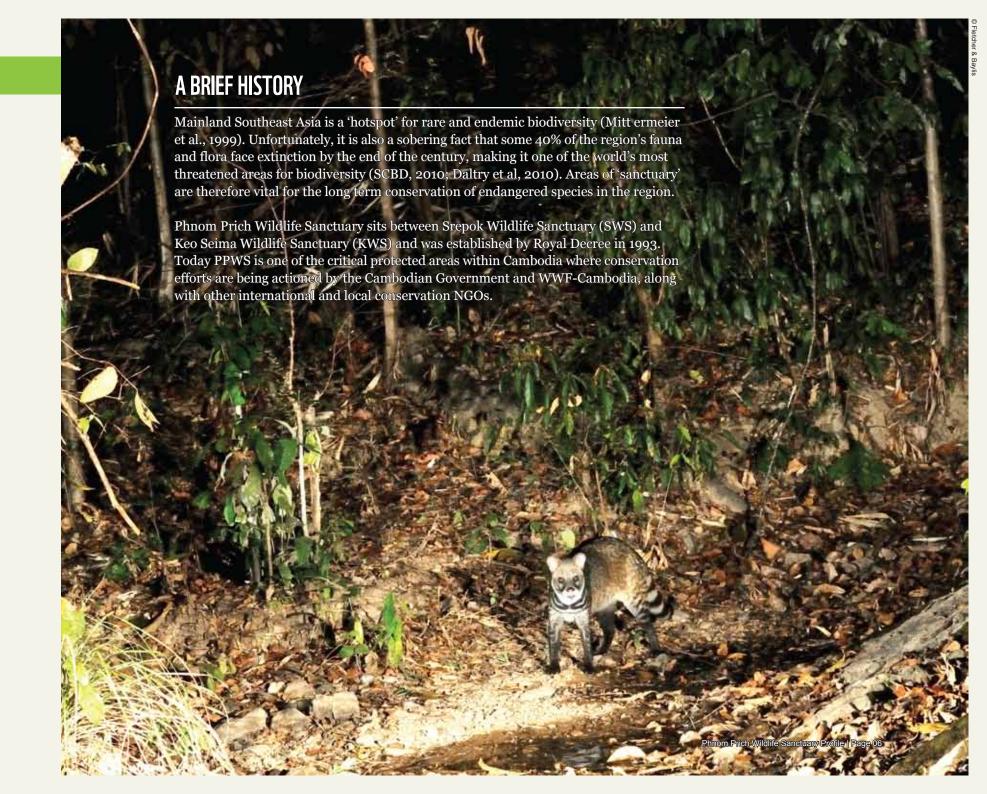
#### INTRODUCTION

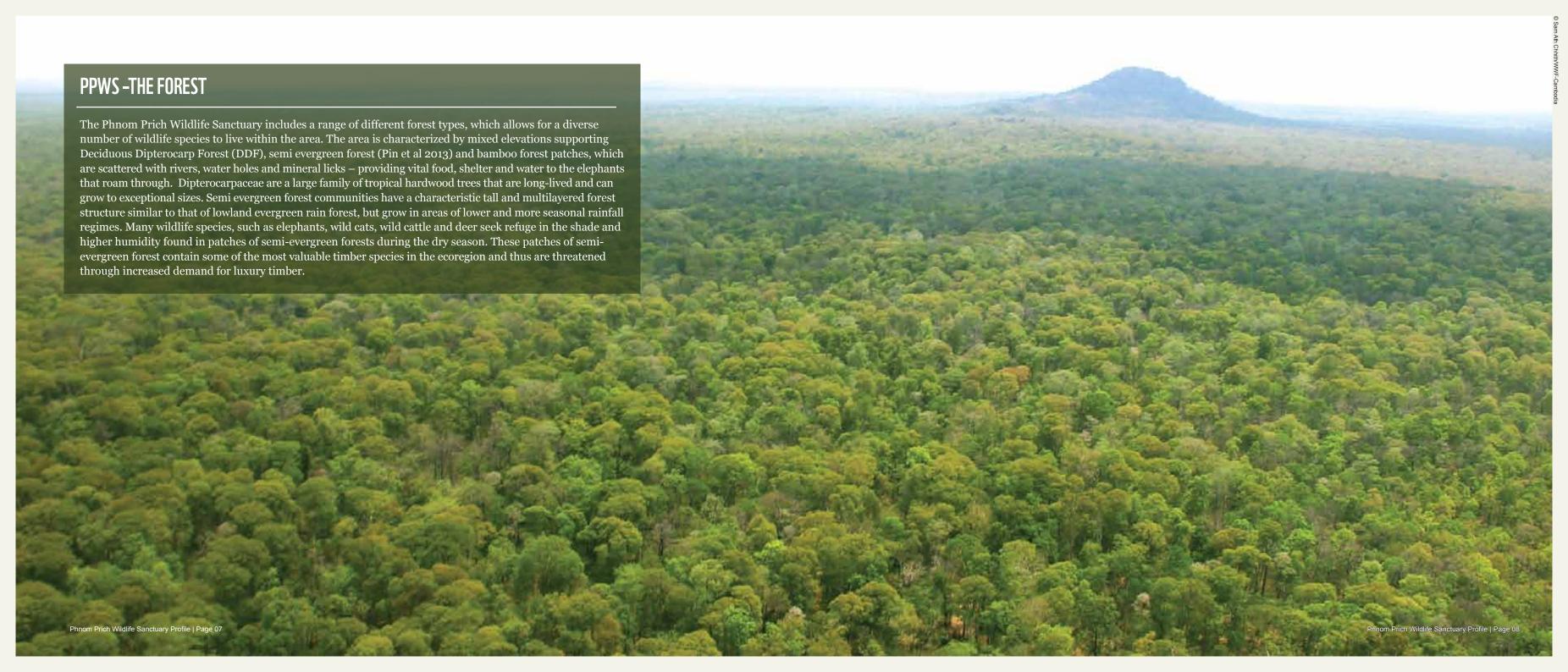
The Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary (PPWS) covers an area of more than 2,000km<sup>2</sup>, located within the heart of the Eastern Plains Landscape (EPL). The Eastern Plains Landscape, which straddles two countries, is a vast network of contiguous protected areas and is considered an important area for supporting a large number of globally threatened species (Gray et al 2012).

PPWS hosts an impressive array of wildlife species and rich habitat diversity, including 18 endangered and critically endangered species (mammals, birds and reptiles). Whilst PPWS is an important habitat for wildlife, it is also of great social, economic and cultural importance to the local communities who live there; with people harnessing the natural resources in the forest and providing much needed income for their households. Yet, pressures of the modern world (from habitat loss, to hunting, and conflict with humans) are having an extremely negative impact on the wildlife found in the region, and WWF-Cambodia is working with the GDANCP, Ministry of Environment to protect and conserve this landscape.



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#### FLAGSHIP SPECIES<sup>1</sup>

A flagship species is a selected threatened species that can act as a symbol, which can help drive conservation efforts to help protect a larger habitat. By focusing on, and achieving conservation of flagship species, the status of many other species which share its habitat – or are vulnerable to the same threats – may also be conserved. In Cambodia, the Asian elephants and Tigers (to be reintroduced) are both considered flagship species for the region. Whilst the Asian elephants are currently roaming the landscape, tigers are functionally extinct in Cambodia and it is the Royal Government of Cambodia's mission, along with support from WWF-Cambodia, to bring back tigers to this landscape.

#### Asian Elephant (Elephas Maximus)

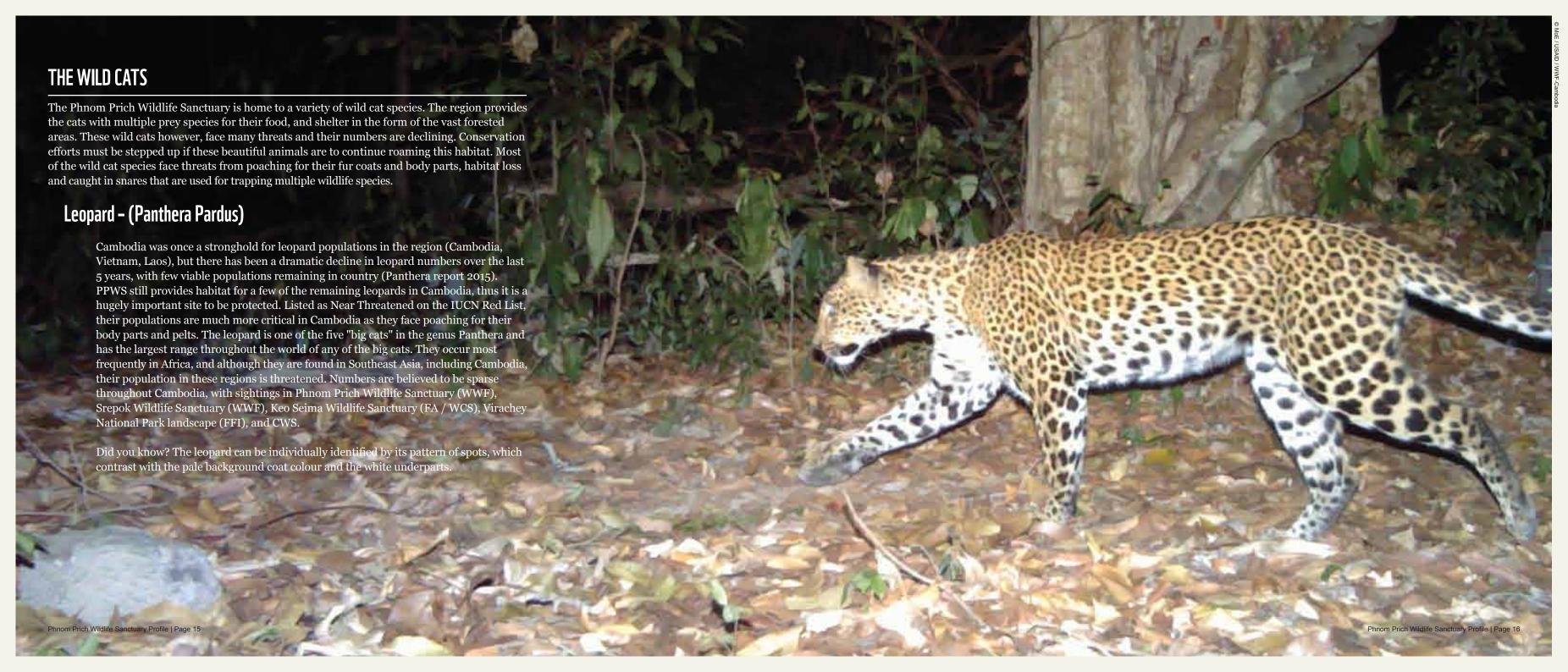
The Asian elephant is one of Asia's most iconic and charismatic species and for thousands of years has been an integral part of both the landscape and culture. Unfortunately, pressures of the modern world (from habitat loss, to hunting, and conflict with humans) have had extremely negative impacts on the elephant population. Asia is the world's most densely populated continent and a huge percentage of the elephants' former range has already been lost. And as the human population continues to grow, the species' remaining habitat is shrinking fast<sup>2</sup>. Cambodia is currently considered as a stronghold for Asian elephants within the region (Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam). The largest known populations in Cambodia exist within the (1) Eastern Plains Landscape (EPL) which comprises of 5 protected areas in eastern Cambodia, including PPWS, and (2) Greater Cardamom Landscape (Cardamoms) spanning 5 provinces in the South west of Cambodia, but can also be found in Chhaep Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS) and Prey Preah Rokha Wildlife Sanctuary in the north of the country. PPWS is a key habitat for the species and provides a vast forest in which the elephants can find water, food and shelter. Asian elephants need to eat an average of 150 kg per day to survive; they also need to drink up to 200 litres a day so they are always close to a source of fresh water (source: WWF International). Asian elephant population is currently estimated to be between 39,463-47,427 indiviuals worldwide, with only 250-600 individuals in Cambodia (IUCN). Using fecal-DNA based capture mark recapture sampling, WWF-Cambodia and MoE identified that the Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary holds part of a regionally significant population of approximately 136  $\pm$ 18 (Gray et al 2014).

Did you know? Elephants have the longest gestation period of all mammals, between 18-22 months, carrying their young for nearly 2 years before giving birth. Because of this long gestation period, elephants do not give birth to many young, thus conservation of this species is imperative if they are to remain in Cambodia.

http://wwf.panda.org/about\_our\_earth/species/flagship\_keystone\_indicator\_definition/

http://wwf.panda.org/about our earth/species/flagship keystone indicator definition/

http://www.asianelephant.net/wildlife.htm







#### **Clouded Leopard – (Neofelis Nebulosi)**

The Clouded Leopard is the smallest of the big cat species found in Cambodia and worldwide. Fully grown adults can reach a body size of 3ft long, with an impressively long tail of up to 3ft as well (ARKive). This beautiful Asian cat, named for its spotted coat, is seldom seen in the wild, and its habits remain a bit mysterious. The Clouded leopard is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and numbers are believed to be in decline due to habitat loss and poaching – although exact figures are not known due to the secretive nature of this species. Clouded leopards have a vast global range and roam the hunting grounds of Asia from the rain forests of Indonesia to the foothills of the Nepali Himalayas (IUCN Red List). Within Cambodia, PPWS is one of the areas that the Clouded leopards are found (WWF/WildCru), but not in great numbers. These cats are also known to prowl the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (FA/WCS) in the EPL and the Greater Cardamom Landscape (CI, FFI, WA). This species is more at home in the trees than on the ground and can move nimbly through the dense forests found in PPWS.

Did you know? Though Clouded leopards are great climbers, scientists believe that they do most of their hunting on the ground, feasting on deer, pigs, monkeys, and smaller fare such as squirrels or birds. They are aided in their hunting by the largest canine teeth ARKive).

## Marbled Cat (Pardofelis Marmorata)

The Marbled cat has a wide global range, and as well as being native to Cambodia, is also found across South East Asia and up into Bangladesh, China, India and Nepal (IUCN Red List). Listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List, globally the Marbled cat is not under as many pressures as some of the other wild cat species, however, they are still decreasing due in part to severely fragmented populations (IUCN). It is believed the Marbled cat is forest dependent (Nowell and Jackson 1996), and as such, PPWS (Panthera/WWF) provides a key habitat for the Cambodian population, however, over the years, camera traps have only captured a few images of this beautiful cat, suggesting it is only present in extremely low numbers. Marbled cats have also been recorded in KWS (FA/WCS), Cardamom Mountain Landscape (FFI), Southern Cardamom Mountains (WA), Virachey National Park Landscape (FFI), CWS, Kulen Promtep WS, and Prev Preah Rokha WS. This wild cat possesses an unusual mixture of small and big cat characteristics (ARKive). At just three kilograms in weight, it is roughly the same size as a domestic cat, but its exterior characteristics resemble the much larger Clouded leopard in its broad feet, enlarged canines and strikingly similar, blotched coat pattern.

Did you know? The Marbled Cat has a distinctive bushy tail, which is extremely long and used primarily for the arboreal lifestyle that this species adopts.







#### Sambar Deer (Rusa Unicolor)

The Sambar deer is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and in the last three generations, declines in population across mainland Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Malaysia), Bangladesh and possibly Borneo and Sumatra have exceeded 50% (IUCN Red List). Globally, these deer are threatened by a demand for bush meat, which is the biggest threat faced by all of the ungulates in Cambodia. They are also killed within their Cambodian range for food, as well as for their antlers. Endangered in Cambodia due to habitat loss and poaching, it is estimated that there are only a few Sambar Deer remaining in PPWS (WWF), so it is vital these individuals are protected. Within Cambodia, Sambar Deer are also found in SWS, KWS (FA/WCS), Greater Cardamom Landscape (CI, FFI, WA), Stung Treng Province (ACCB), Virachey National Park Landscape (FFI), Prey Lang WS (CI), CWS, Kulen Promtep WS, and Prey Preah Rokha WS. Male Sambar Deer are among the largest of Southeast Asia's deer, with adults reaching up to 2 metres in length. As in many other deer, only the male Sambar Deer has antlers. The Sambar Deer is one of the few deer that attacks sizeable predators, and it prefers to hold confrontations in shallow water.

Did you know? To mark his territory in the breeding season, the male will spray his body with urine, then stand up-right on his hind legs and rub his odour on the trees.





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#### Eld's Deer (Rucervus Eldii)

The Eld's Deer is indigenous to South and Southeast Asia, with three, geographically isolated subspecies recognised today. The Thailand brow-antlered deer (R. e. siamensis) is found in Cambodia, Hainan Island (China) and Lao PDR. The Manipur brow-antlered deer (R. e. eldii) is confined to a small population in Manipur, India; and the Burmese brow-antlered deer (R. e. thamin) occurs in central Myanmar. Listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List, the Eld's deer faces threats from poaching for their 'trophy horns' and for bush meat, and traditional medicine. The numbers of Eld's deer are declining worldwide and within Cambodia they are confined to just the PPWS (WWF), the SWS, and KWS (FA/WCS) in the northeast, and in the central lowland area of Western Siem Pang WS, as well as CWS, Kulen Promtep WS, and Prey Preah Rokha WS in the north. Ang Trapeang Thmor Sarus Crane Reserve is one of the handful sites of Cambodia where the Eld's Deer can be seen.

Did you know? This deer species undergo short migrations in order to find water during the dry season and food during the growing season; with a diet that includes a variety of grasses and fruit – the continuous habitat of PPWS and corridors for movement are therefore vital for the survival of this species.





<sup>4</sup>http://www.samveasna.org/bird-site/ang-trapaeng-thmor.html



## Red Muntjac (Muntiacus Muntjak)

The Red Muntjac deer is the most widespread of the 'barking deer' species and is listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List. It remains common throughout most of its range, in part due to its resilience to hunting and deforestation (IUCN). Twelve species of 'barking deer' are currently recognized, of which 11 occur in Southeast Asia, particularly in the north of the region. They are called 'barking deer' due to the alarm call they make when a predator or other threat is nearby - the call sounds like the piercing bark of a small dog. They are found in all 39 of the protected sites in Cambodia (ACCB, CI, FA/WCS, FFI, Panthera, WA, WWF). The population found in PPWS is of particular importance as the Red Muntjac is a vital prey species for the tiger restoration.

Did you know? The Red Muntjac has a unique way of communicating with other members of their species — they have a pre-orbital gland below each eye; secretions from this gland are used for chemical communication, and males use the secretions to mark their territory.











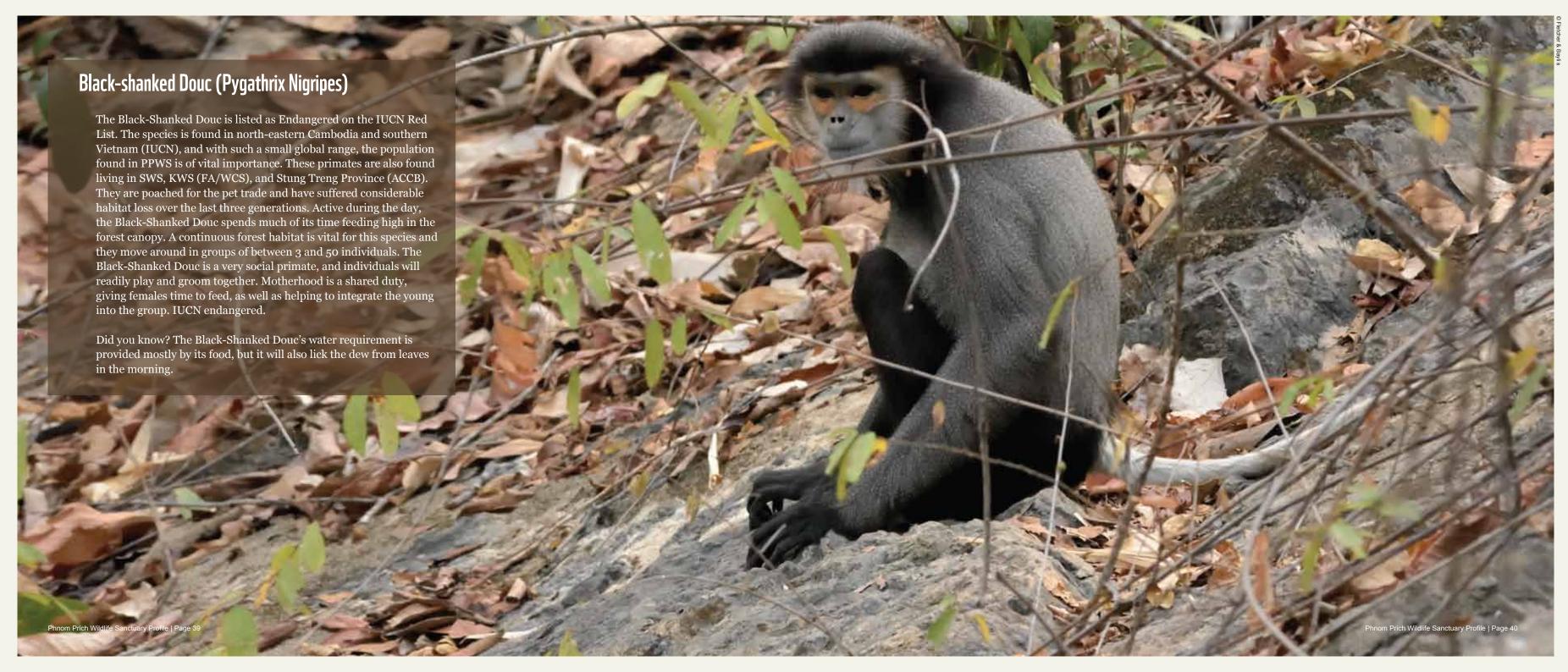


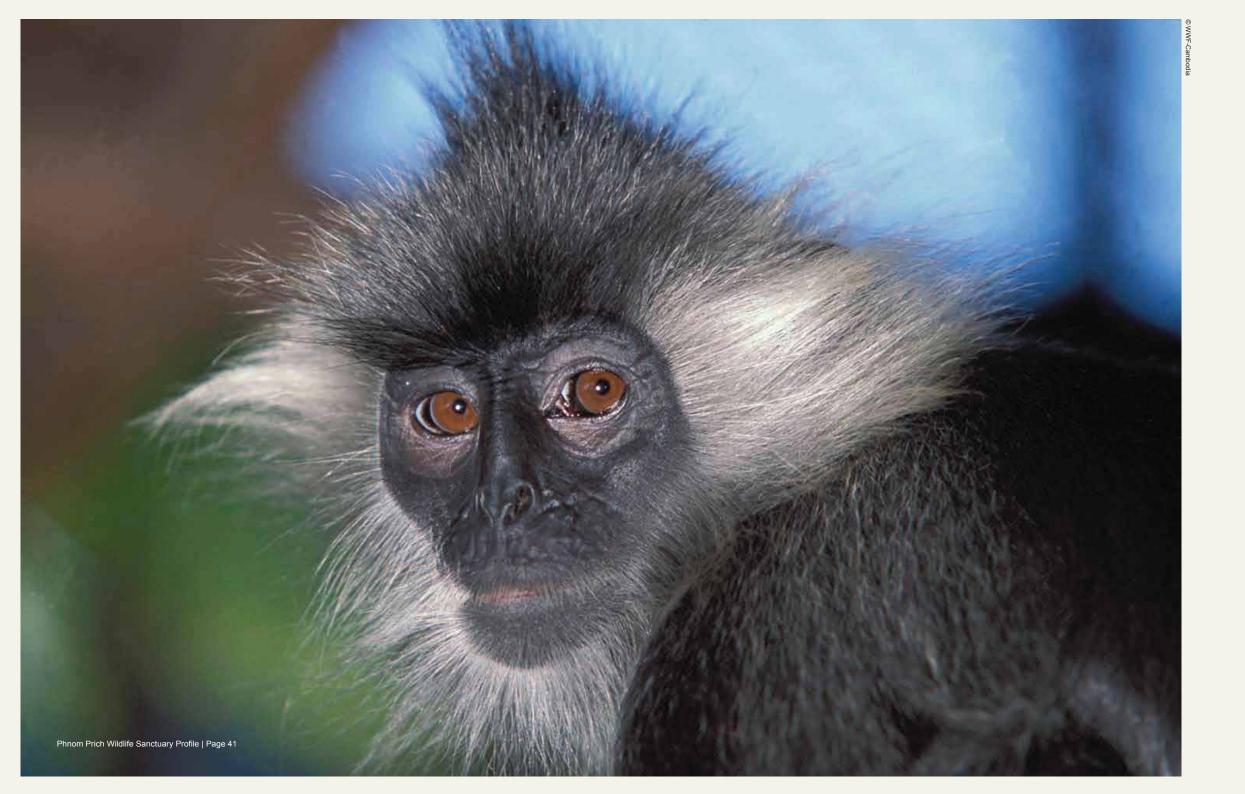
## **Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon (Nomascus Gabriellae)**

The Yellow-cheeked crested gibbon is a species of gibbon native to Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos (IUCN). This diurnal and arboreal gibbon lives in primary tropical forest, foraging for fruits, using its distinctive long arms to swing through the trees. The yellow-cheeked crested gibbon is one of six species of crested gibbons, all of which have suffered from accelerating declines throughout their range. They are listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List and face threats from poaching for the pet trade and habitat loss. Yellow-cheeked crested gibbons occur east of the Mekong river in northeastern Cambodia, southern Vietnam, and southern Laos, with Cambodia containing the largest population of Yellow cheeked crested gibbons in the world. In the Eastern Plains Landscape of Mondulkiri, a recent survey found PPWS to hold the second largest number of these gibbons in Cambodia after Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (FA / WCS). These primates are also found in Siem Pang WS (CI).

Did you know? As the young Yellow Cheeked crested gibbons grow up, their fur changes colour from bright orange, to the black / grey pelage that you see on the adults.





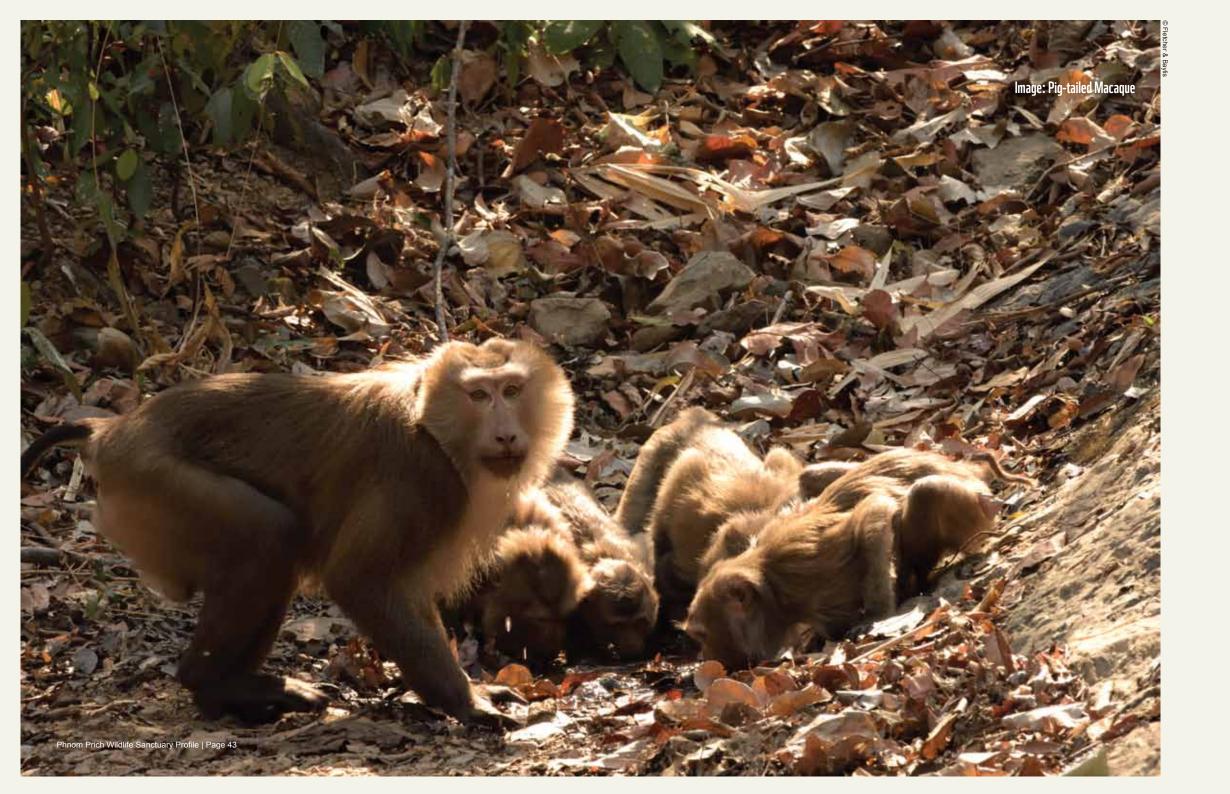


## Germain Silvered Langur (Trachypithecus Germaini)

Germain's Silvered Langur occurs in southeast Thailand, Cambodia (southern Vietnam, Myanmar, and southern Lao People's Democratic Republic, and is a long-tailed, tree-dwelling monkey. Listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List, the population in Cambodia, is therefore significant within the region and must be protected. This species has been found in SWS, KWS (FA/WCS), Southern Cardamom Mountains (WA), Stung Treng Province (ACCB), Siem Pang WS (CI), CWS, Kulen Promtep WS, and Prey Preah Rokha WS. The Germain Silvered Langur faces threat from poaching for the pet trade and use in traditional medicine (IUCN). Little information is available on the biology of Germain's langur. However, like other members of the genus, it is likely to spend most of its time in the trees, feeding on a diet of leaves, fruit and flowers.

Did you know? A large, specialized stomach containing symbiotic bacteria enables this group of monkeys to digest leaf material more efficiently than any other primates, and also to detoxify otherwise poisonous leaves.





#### **MACAQUES**

# Stump-tailed Macaque (Macaca arctoides); Pig-tailed Macaque (Macaca nemestrina); Long-tailed Macaque (Macaca fascicularis)

PPWS is home to several species of macaque, which thrive in the forests found there. Both the Stump-tailed and Pig-tailed macaques are listed as Vulnerable on the ICUN red list, whilst the Long-tailed Macaque is Least Concern. The latter species is extremely tolerant to a range of habitats, but they face a major threat of hunting throughout most of their range, as well as habitat loss (IUCN). They all have globally decreasing populations (IUCN), with habitat loss, poaching and pet trade being the major threats. Native to Southeast Asia, as well as up into India and China, these macaques have a wide global range, but the populations in Cambodia (as well as Laos, Vietnam and Thailand) are considered to be a stronghold (IUCN). PPWS provides a vast forested area for these primates (WWF), and within Cambodia they are also found in SWS, KWS (FA/WCS), Cardamom Mountain Landscape (FFI), Virachey National Park Landscape (FFI), and in the Northern Plains (WCS). They have a diet largely comprised of fruit, seeds, young leaves and other vegetation, but it is also known to eat insects, bird eggs and frogs. It spends the daytime foraging for food and stores the food it collects in cheek pouches, which are a common feature of the Macaca genus. Although the Stump-tailed Macaque can climb trees it is typically terrestrial and far more agile on the ground.

Did you know? As in humans, the Stump-tailed macaque is known to lose body hair as it ages and can even end up bald. Its tail is so small that it can often appear absent. Also, the Long-tailed macaques are primarily arboreal and can leap distances between trees up to five meters using their long tails for balance.

The Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary is home to a multitude of bird species in Cambodia, and is home to globally significant populations of both the Giant Ibis and the White shouldered Ibis, as well as all three species of vultures found in the region.

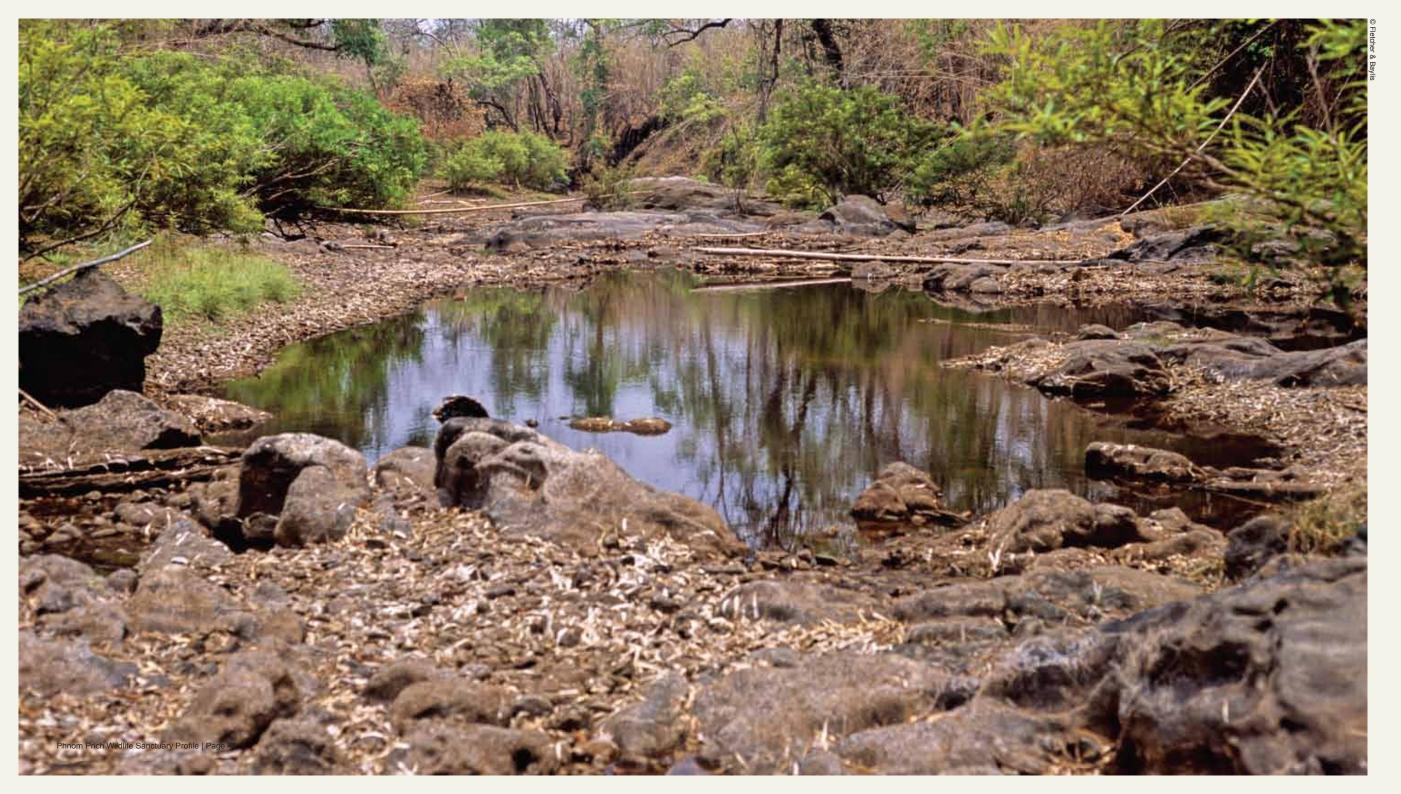
#### Giant Ibis (Thaumatibis Gigantea)

The Giant Ibis is the national bird of Cambodia and is an iconic symbol of the wild birds present in the country. This wild bird is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List and as such the populations found in Cambodia are globally significant. They face threats deforestation and habitat conversion in the region. The Giant Ibis, as its name suggests, is giant in size and once fully grown, they can grow up to 102 – 106 cm in length. With a remaining population of fewer than 250 birds, the Giant Ibis is found only in northern Cambodia and the extreme southern tip of Laos. It was previously found in southern Vietnam and southeast and peninsular Thailand, but is now extinct in these countries (IUCN). Data is limited, however, it nests in trees, and is known to wander widely in response to seasonal water-levels and human disturbance. Individuals, pairs or small groups of birds feed together, probing into soft mud, or foraging on dry land during the dry season (IUCN). There are globally significant populations of this species found in Cambodia's Mondulkiri province and Preah Vihear (IUCN). PPWS is an important habitat for the species as their numbers have been rapidly declining in different parts of Southeast Asia.

Did you know? The Giant Ibis's diet consists mainly of invertebrates, particularly locusts and cicadas, as well as crustaceans, small amphibians, small reptiles, and seeds (source: ARKive)







## White-winged Duck (Asarcornis Scutulata)

Listed As Endangered On The Iucn Red List, This Wild Bird Is Globally Declining In Numbers. They Are Native To Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand And Vietnam With An Estimated Population Of Only 1000 Individuals Left In The Wild (Iucn). Its Population Decline Is Largely Due To Habitat Loss Across Its Range And So Protected Areas Such As That Of Ppws And The Northern Regions Of Cambodia, Are Important For The Species. As The Name Suggests, This Large, Dark, Forest Duck Has White Wings When Open, With Only Small Patches Of White Visible When The Wings Are Closed. Found Singly Or In Pairs, The White-winged Duck Is Active Mainly At Dusk And Dawn, Feeding On Seeds, Vegetation, Fish And Other Animal Matter, As Well As On Aquatic Snails, Spiders And Insects.

Did You Know? The White-winged Duck Undergoes An Annual Moult In September Or October And Is Flightless For A Fortnight, Moving Into More Densely Forested Areas For Protection From Predators.



## **Green Peafowl (Pavo Muticus)**

The Green Peafowl is best known for the distinctive tail feathers carried by the male birds. The beautiful iridescent tail that defines the male green peafowl's appearance is made up of more than 200 feathers. Each if these feathers end in a beautiful brown, green and gold eyespot. It is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List and is threatened by poaching for feathers and meat, as well as habitat loss. This bird has undergone a serious decline in the last couple of decades and the only sizeable populations remaining are in the dry forests of Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam, and some pockets in Laos, China, Indonesia, India and Bangladesh (IUCN).

Did you know? Green Peafowl wander widely, but are not migratory, and are omnivores, foraging for grains, seeds, insects, shoots, buds, young leaves, and fruit. Females and juveniles travel in groups of two to six individuals, and do not form pair bonds or harems with males. However, when peahens (female peafowl) pass through the territory of a mature male during the breeding season, he will court them, dancing and displaying his impressive train in an upright fan-shape.



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#### **VULTURES**

Red Headed Vulture (Sarcogyps calvus); Slender-billed Vulture (Gyps tenuirostris); White-rumped Vulture (Gyps bengalensis)

Globally significant populations of three species of critically endangered vultures still persist in northern and north-eastern Cambodia. These birds play a crucial role in the ecology of PPWS as scavengers and assist in stopping the spread of disease. All are listed as critically endangered on the IUCN red list and have suffered severe decline throughout the Indian sub-continent from non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs NSAIDs, such as diclofenac which was used for veterinary purposes, which is toxic to vultures. However, the biggest threat at present in Cambodia appears to be secondary poisoning. Other than PPWS, these vulture species are seen at six vulture restaurants around the country and the north of the country has the biggest population.

Did you know? India has lost almost 90% of its population of vultures making Cambodia the stronghold for these birds in Asia and the world. They face ongoing threats from poisoning in the region and conservation efforts are needed to protect them. Through a joint of WWF-Cambodia, Birdlife International, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and ACCB vulture monitoring has been conducted throughout their range in Cambodia at supplementary feeding stations (vulture restaurants). These occur on a monthly basis and simultaneous counts are conducted every quarter with the national census conducted on two occasions in June.









#### **Elongated Tortoise (Indotestudo Elongate)**

The Elongated Tortoise gets its common name from its distinctively long, somewhat narrow shell, called the carapace. Listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List and facing threats from poaching is found in tropical southern and Southeast Asia, and is found in parts of northeast India, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Vietnam, Thailand and peninsular Malaysia. Recent surveys in Cambodia suggest the Elongated Tortoise to be found in PPWS (WWF), SWS (Panthera), KWS (FA/WCS), Stung Treng Province (ACCB), Cardamom Mountain Landscape (FFI), CWS, Kulen Promtep WS, and Prey Preah Rokha WS, although numbers are not known. It is an omnivore, regularly feeding on slugs and worms in addition to green leafy material and fruit.

Did you know? The male elongated tortoise tends to be narrower than the female, with a shorter tail and a more concave plastron (indented underside of shell). The hind claws of the female are also markedly longer and more curved than those of the male, and are believed to be an adaptation to nest building by the female.



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#### **Bengal Monitor Lizard (Varanus Bengalensis)**

The Bengal Monitor Lizard is wide ranging and is found from southeastern Iran, through south central Asia and eastwards throughout southeast Asia, as far as Java and into Indonesia. However, in the last century the species have been wiped out from parts of their former range (IUCN). This reptile is predominately threatened hunting for its skin and meat. Listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List, the species is found throughout Cambodia, with PPWS being one of the regions that they inhabit. They are fast on the ground and also good tree climbers! Young monitors may be more arboreal, but adults mainly hunt on the ground, with a diet consisting of mainly beetles and grubs, but also taking small rodents and snakes, ground birds, eggs and fish. Although large monitors have few predators apart from humans who hunt them for meat, younger individuals are hunted by many predators. The Bengal Monitor Lizard is mainly a solitary species. They are not territorial, and may change their range seasonally in response to food availability.

Did you know? Bengal Monitor Lizard use scent primarily as a method of communication and perception as they are known to flick their sensitive tongue to 'taste' their environment while moving their head side to side.



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With different beliefs and ethnic groups found within Mondulkiri Province and PPWS, the community illustrates a celebration of diverse society. The majority of households are Bunong – making up 70% of the total households in the region. The second most common ethnic group, is Khmer, which makes up 24% of the households in the village, and practices Buddhism. There are also a few Cham families (only 6%) who practice Islam. Bunong is the common language among the villagers. The Bunong are believed to have been living in the Mondulkiri area for around 2000 years, they traditionally have a strong link with their natural environment, collecting foodstuffs and other non-food products (such as timber or tree-sap) from the woods, as well as hunting in the woods around their villages. Traditionally the Bunong do not take products from the forests that they do not need themselves and therefore have a minimal impact on their environment. The Bunong's religious/spiritual beliefs are animistic, this is to say that they believe all things have spirits - animals, plants, hills, stones, jars, buildings - everything. Their ancestors are also represented by spirits. If these spirits are unhappy because of some human action they can intervene in the life of the Bunong, to harm or protect them. The Bunong area is a traditionally autonomous and self-governing society in which village elders are looked to solve internal disputes. If it is decided that a 'law' has been broken then it may be that the guilty party would have to pay a fine to the village and also need to carry out some ceremony. Crimes which are relatively common in the West and in much of 'developed society' as a whole such as thefts, physical violence, rape and murder are practically unheard of in Bunong society.







Son Bora / WWF-Cambodia



#### LIVELIHOODS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN PPWS

Agriculture and forestry are the most common sources of livelihood in the villages. Most of the villagers practice agriculture, with some of the most common cash crops planted being rice, soybean, peanut, sesame plants, and fruit crops like cashew. Corn and other vegetables are also planted and used mostly for household consumption. Cash earned from selling crops and other activities is used to buy rice for the family. Livestock is also common as cows, chickens and pigs are raised and used for daily consumption and traditional ceremonies. To supplement their income, local communities also go into the forest to collect non-timber forest products (NTFPs). The most common NTFPs being harvested in the Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary are resin and honey which are sold to traders who visit their villages. Bamboo is also a key NTFP, which is naturally very abundant in the region and is just starting to be cultivated by the communities. WWF-Cambodia has been working closely with the local communities and helped to set up the Mondulkiri Forest Venture, which will allow the sale of NTFPs from the forest to benefit the local communities. Training has also been put in place to show how to harvest the natural resources sustainably without exhausting the stocks.





WF-Cambodia





#### WWF-CAMBODIA'S WORK IN PPWS

WWF-CAMBODIA IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH MOE AND FUNDING PARTNERS TO TACKLE THE EXISTING THREATS AND PRESSURES SEEN IN PPWS AND BETTER PROTECT THE FOREST, THROUGH INCREASED LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PPWS MANAGEMENT PLAN.

WWF-Cambodia is helping to empower local communities through sustainable livelihoods projects, which allows them to utilize the natural resources within the forest without cutting down trees or exhausting the resources – for example with honey, resin and bamboo collection. WWF has provided the link between a private bamboo company and the local bamboo suppliers, to ensure improved and constant demand for the materials. WWF has also helped to set up the Mondulkiri Forest Venture (MFV) which is now running independently and allows the local people to make a sustainable living for themselves.

WWF-Cambodia is also working closely with schools and community leaders to provide education on the importance of conservation and prevention of habitat loss for generations to come, and the implications of climate change and crop failure if the forests are lost. WWF is carrying out teacher training, so that education can by consistently provided in school and a collaborative effort between the government and WWF has seen the development of eco-clubs, to bring environmental awareness to the next generation.

Furthermore, WWF-Cambodia along with RUPP and the Royal Government of Mondulkiri, have worked together to map and value the ecosystem services and natural resources present in Mondulkiri Province using the InVEST tool (Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Trade-offs). Such a valuation could lead the way for better spatial land planning in the country with regard to conservation.

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CR – Critically Endangered

DDF – Deciduous Dipterocarp Forest

ELC – Economic Land Concession

EN – Endangered

EPL – Eastern Plains Landscape

GDANCP – General Department of Administration for

Nature Conservation and Protection

InVEST - Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services and

Trade-offs

IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature

KWS – Keoseima Wildlife Sanctuary

LC – Least Concern

MFV – Mondulkiri Forest Venture

MoE – Ministry of Environment

NT – Near Threatened

NTFP – Non-Timber Forest Product

PA – Protected Area

PPWS – Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary

RUPP – Royal University of Phnom Penh

SLC – Social Land Concession

SWS - Srepok Wildlife Sanctuary

TX2 – Double Tiger Initiative

VU – Vulnerable

WCS – Wildlife Conservation Society

WWF – World Wide Fund for Nature



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