



**WILDLIFE  
ALLIANCE**

*Direct Protection to Forests & Wildlife*

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2021**

# CELEBRATING 21 YEARS

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This year marks the 21st Anniversary of Wildlife Alliance in Cambodia: time flies when you're fighting for conservation!

Throughout the decades, there are dark hours when the work weighs heavy on our shoulders, but the results speak for themselves: some 1.3 million hectares of rainforest protected, zero elephant poaching achieved, over 70,000 animals rescued from the illegal wildlife trade, engagement in environmental education by thousands, and award-winning wildlife rehabilitation, ecotourism, and agricultural projects. This year, we can add the life-altering construction of water wells and awarding of university scholarships to students from rural communities, thanks to the Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project.

This year, the trials and tribulations associated with the pandemic continued in Cambodia. However, our dedicated staff kept up the fight despite roadblocks, proof that our resolve to protect Cambodia's forests and wildlife remains as strong as ever. More importantly, we achieved outstanding results throughout 2021.

In the Cardamoms, rangers kept watch over seven protected areas, patrolling the landscape 24/7. Ministry of Environment rangers from 12 stations work hand-in-hand with Wildlife Alliance advisors to strengthen conservation enforcement and good governance; cracking down on illegal logging, poaching, and land grabbing. Over 5,300 patrols were conducted in 2021, keeping the forest and wildlife safe.

Outside protected areas, Cambodia's only "wildlife police", the Wildlife Rapid Rescue Team (WRRT) are the first and last line of defense for wildlife ensnared in the illegal trade. Notable rescues this year include Critically Endangered Sunda Pangolin and Douc Langurs, plus threatened species like the Pileated Gibbon, Clouded leopard, Sun bear, and Asiatic Black Bear. As sad as the continuation of the trade is, the decline in the number of animals seized is very likely a result of the WRRT's efforts to crack down on the trade.

For many rescued animals, Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Center becomes home. Here, Wildlife Alliance provides A to Z care for 1,000+ animals year-round, from

bottle-feeding infants to releasing captive-born adults. We are proud to have transformed Phnom Tamao together with the Forestry Administration from the place where animals go to die into the premier wildlife rescue center in the region.

This year, Phnom Tamao's intake was almost 1,300 animals. Following rehabilitation, suitable individuals are released, including into the 2,000+ hectares of forest surrounding the center. The threatened species like Eld's deer gained their freedom under the protection of community rangers who patrol the area. Of the 830 animals released this year, many got their second chance at life in the wild in the Cardamoms, thanks either to rangers who released them directly or staff at the Wildlife Release Station.

Nearby the Wildlife Release Station is Chi Phat, the site of our first community-based ecotourism (CBET) Project, which was followed by Steung Areng CBET, established in 2017. Tourism saw a dramatic decline in 2021 with international tourist numbers plummeting throughout Cambodia. Nonetheless, collectively some 1,200 tourists visited the two sites and both CBETs wisely used the time to refurbish and improve facilities in addition to professional development training.

This year, Sovanna Baitong, home of the Community Agriculture Development Project (CADP) went from strength to strength. Since 2004, the villagers have pivoted away from destructive slash-and-burn farming towards sustainable agriculture. Today, 20 hectares are under cultivation, and the community orchard boasts over 3,200 fruit trees that support local families. The adjoining CADP store provides neighboring communities with produce, seeds, and agricultural tools.

Meanwhile, the Kouprey Express (KE), Cambodia's only mobile environmental education unit, adapted to the 8-month suspension of their in-person outreach activities by producing engaging videos that were watched by the hundreds of thousands. When bans on travel and public gatherings were lifted, the KE resumed their outreach across schools and communities, as well as conducting the first student field trip to Phnom Tamao since March 2020!

Perhaps the most inspiring Wildlife Alliance activity this year was financial assistance provided to communities by the Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project (SCRP). In January, five exceptional students from communities in the Cardamoms were selected for the scholarship program - an all-expenses-paid 4 year university degree in Phnom Penh. The construction of key infrastructure in the Cardamoms also got underway. At the request of villagers, 18 water wells were built and construction began on an 18km road connecting communities. Thanks to this infrastructure, over 2,400 people now have easy access to markets and water on tap for the first time. In July, the SCRP responded to an SOS from the Pursat Provincial Administration who were struggling responding to COVID-19. Around \$200,000 in financial assistance was contributed in aid of medical supplies and staff.

Throughout the ups and downs of this year, what shines through is the dedication to the cause of protecting forests and wildlife for the future of Cambodia. In 2022, we will continue to provide direct protection to forests and wildlife while supporting livelihoods. Next year, expect more ranger stations, further assistance from the SCR, including another cohort of scholarships, 25 more water wells, the completion of the road, and more steps towards our ambitious project to reintroduce tigers in Cambodia.

I look forward to our continued partnerships with you all.

”

**Suwanna Gauntlett**  
Wildlife Alliance Founder & CEO



**Tigers play a pivotal role in the health and diversity of our ecosystem. Bringing back wild Tigers to the Cardamom forest is underway.**

# PROTECTING THE CARDAMOM RAINFOREST LANDSCAPE

**B**ehold the wonder that is the Cardamoms, one of the last large rainforests left standing in Southeast Asia. The Cardamom Rainforest Landscape is some 1.3 million hectares of forests which is home to an astounding 60 threatened species from Asian elephants to Siamese crocodiles.

Luckily for this trove of biodiversity, the Wildlife Alliance model of protected area management works. We are creative in our ranger team formation. We are uncompromising in our protocol. We are determined to mitigate and reduce threats to this important ecosystem like logging, poaching, and land grabbing. This is a winning formula, with Ministry of Environment rangers at the forefront of the Cardamom Forest Protection Program (CFPP). Consequently, CFPP teams are the best conservation enforcement units in the country.

Throughout 2021, CFPP teams covered a lot of ground, conducting 5,307 patrols over 200,631 km of the forest by foot, motorbike, car, and boat.

Throughout the Cardamoms, stations are manned by 14 rangers, including from the Ministry of Environment Judicial Police and Royal Gendarmerie with financial and technical support from Wildlife Alliance. Rangers are everyday heroes: they work in tough conditions and are on call 24/7.

Rangers report from nature's frontlines: They keep the forest standing and save endangered animals on the brink of extinction.

Since the turn of the 21st Century, the threats to the landscape have evolved. Today, deforestation in the Cardamoms is largely due to land-grabbing and speculation, which is increasingly driven by large-scale mainland Chinese investment. This is often on the doorstep of the Cardamoms, like the newly developed coastal Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone, approximately 70km away, the total investment of which is valued at \$3 billion (USD). Such investment increases the value of nearby land, thus promoting land speculation and illegal deforestation, while also stimulating demand for illegal wildlife and forest products.

So rangers in the Cardamoms have their work cut out for them. Despite the scale of the challenge before them, rangers achieved some incredible results, especially in deterring speculative deforestation. This year, Wildlife Alliance conservation enforcement units confiscated 1,192 meters of illegal timber and 1,534 chainsaws and dismantled 880 illegal logging camps. Some 184 cases of land encroachment were documented, 180 were sent to court, with 175 fines issued. In addition, wildlife and their forest homes were made safer: over 360 wild animals were rescued.



“If we lose the forest, our country will face disasters, such as irregular rain, severe storms, and water shortages. The most difficult thing is to change the mindset of the people to stop committing natural resource crimes.”

*Sowath Rethy, Koh Pao station supervisor*



The cost of this protection is constant vigilance: rangers are sometimes out on patrol for 5 days at a time which can be tough, especially for rangers with young families. But in Rethy's view, the hardest battle is the one for hearts and minds.

To address this mammoth challenge means engaging in "Legal activities and participating in the conservation of natural resources." That's where our community and livelihood Projects come in, including Community Agriculture Development Project, Savanna Baitong; Community-based ecotourism sites in Chi Phat and Chhay Areng; environmental education unit, Kouprey Express; plus a suite of activities to support local livelihoods, some of which launched this year.

# RAINFOREST PROTECTION

**1,309,812**

Hectares of rainforest  
under protection

**5,293**

Patrols conducted by  
specialized ranger units

**1,534**

Chainsaws confiscated  
from illegal loggers

**363**

Live wild animals rescued





In 2021, **1,534** chainsaws have been seized from illegal loggers by the rangers.

# DISRUPTING THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

The Wildlife Rapid Rescue Team (WRRT) was formed in 2001 to combat the wildlife trafficking which is pushing many species towards extinction. The WRRT contains a cross-section of technical and government staff, including Wildlife Alliance managers, plus officials from the Royal Gendarmerie, Forestry, and Fisheries Administrations. In 2021, the team grew to include an additional investigator and database manager to better examine the trade and active cases, including online sales of wildlife which are on the rise.

This year, the WRRT made several major busts, including ivory products, involving both traders and carving shops. Over 4kg of ivory was seized in a single raid. The team also intercepted large shipments of turtles prized as delicacy items. Over 1,500 animals were rescued, half of which were birds, as “talking” birds like parrots and mynahs, plus birds of prey like Black-shouldered Kites become increasingly popular pets.

Throughout the year, the team conducted over 800 operations, rescued over 1,500 animals, and seized approximately 750kg of wild meat. Many of the animals rescued are Threatened species, including Sunda Pangolin, Sun Bear, Black Bear, Silvered Langur, Black and Red-shanked Douc Langur, Pileated Gibbon, Smooth-coated Otter, and Asiatic Jackal.

The WRRT provides humane care to confiscated animals and, if deemed suitable, immediately releases them into appropriate habitat, with the assistance of administration officials. Animals that are injured, sick, or habituated to humans are instead brought to Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Centre for care, rehabilitation and later release where possible.

Plans for 2022 include recruiting four additional staff, to aid in animal handling and lead investigations, including in the online space where demand for and sale of wildlife appears to be increasing.





# WILDLIFE RESCUE & CARE

**1,534**

Live animals rescued

**973**

Animals released back  
into the wild

**669kg**

Wild meat confiscated

**721**

Operations conducted,  
including donations

**93**

Traders apprehended

Illegal wildmeat confiscated and  
burned during operations.





WRRT team gets calls on the Wildlife Rescue Hotline number which helps the team on their operations in saving wild animals.

**012 500 094**

# CARING FOR VICTIMS OF THE WILDLIFE TRADE

The beating heart of our Care for Rescued Wildlife (CRW) program is at Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Center (PTWRC), the largest facility of its kind in the country. The Forestry Administration (FA) has managed the center since its opening in 1995, with technical and financial assistance from Wildlife Alliance starting in 2000. Together, Wildlife Alliance and the FA have turned Phnom Tamao into the premier rescue center in Southeast Asia.

This year, some 1,270 animals arrived at Phnom Tamao, including threatened species such as slow loris, sambar, black bears, smooth-coated otters, leopard cats, pileated gibbons, and silvered langurs. The center also received around 500 pythons and some 300 birds, one-third of which were birds of prey.

Notable this year is the high number of primate arrivals, including 313 long-tailed and 27 pig-tailed macaques, plus another two Douc Langurs joined the troupe of four. Despite facilities around the world reporting difficulties, keepers Vok and Sol have cracked keeping these Douc Langurs in captivity, a great thing given their Critically Endangered status.

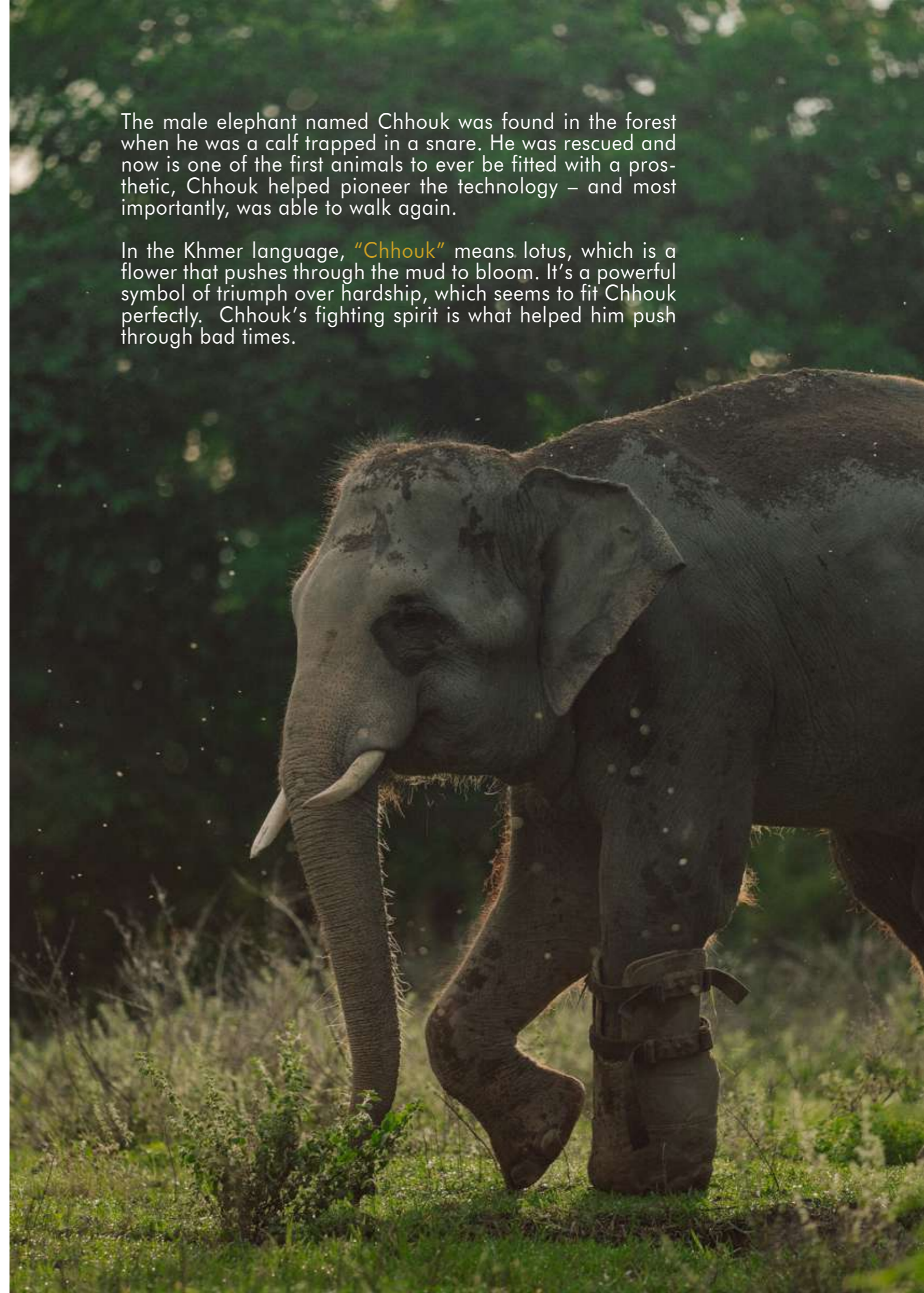
While weak and infant animals require a great deal of care in the nursery section, many adults make up Phnom Tamao's population of ~1,200 animals. Of these, a number gave birth this year, including serow, Eld's deer, muntjac, Sambar, Smooth-coated otter, brush-tailed porcupine, silvered langur, and pileated gibbons, plus painted storks and woolly-necked storks which hatched in our water bird aviary. The captive breeding program for Critically Endangered Siamese Crocodiles managed by Fauna and Flora International produced 26 crocs, some of which may one day swim the waterways of the Cardamoms.

Speaking of release, some 970 animals gained their freedom in the wild this year. Animals released within Phnom Tamao's 2,000+ hectare forest include endangered species like the six Eld's deer from our captive breeding program who joined the existing population of released deer. All Care for Rescued Wildlife releases are conducted in accordance with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) protocols, with post-release monitoring and supplemental food provided for as long as needed. In December, two Smooth-coated Otters were transferred to the Angkor Archeological Park for acclimatization and will soon be freed as part of the Angkor Wildlife Release Project, about which more follows.

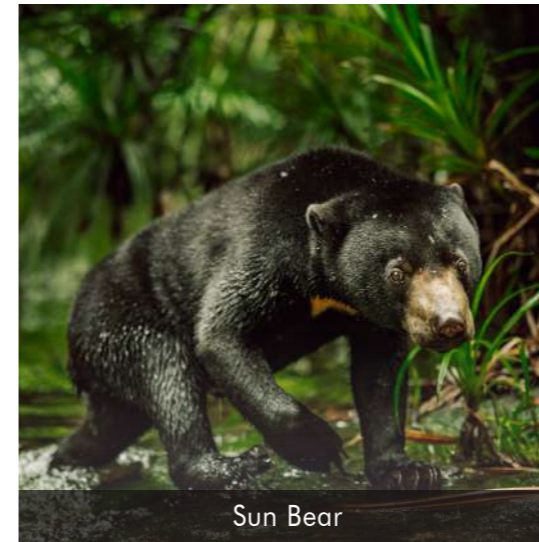
COVID hit Care for Rescued Wildlife hard this year; the huge drop in international tourism meant the loss of some \$200,000 in revenue from the exclusive Behind the Scenes tours of Phnom Tamao. That said, there was a small uptick in tourism at the end of the year and the CRW team was able to fundraise for a new food delivery truck to replace our aging stallion which has spent more time in the garage than on the road this year! Despite the financial challenges of 2021, no animals were turned away and none went without.

The male elephant named Chhouk was found in the forest when he was a calf trapped in a snare. He was rescued and now is one of the first animals to ever be fitted with a prosthetic, Chhouk helped pioneer the technology – and most importantly, was able to walk again.

In the Khmer language, "Chhouk" means lotus, which is a flower that pushes through the mud to bloom. It's a powerful symbol of triumph over hardship, which seems to fit Chhouk perfectly. Chhouk's fighting spirit is what helped him push through bad times.



Sunda pangolins are critically endangered. Like their fellow pangolin species elsewhere in Asia and Africa, they are being poached to extinction for their meat and their scales, which are used in traditional Chinese medicine, though there's no evidence they are effective.



Sun Bear

However, the forest around Phnom Tamao is not the only place where releases are conducted. Rescued animals get a second chance at life in the wild at a number of other well-protected sites around the country, including within the Angkor Archaeological Park and the Wildlife Release Station (WRS) nestled deep in the Cardamom rainforest.

The WRS is both a site of release and refuge. This year, our two resident sun bears, Sopheap and Micah were joined by a young cub we call Kolab, or "Rose." She was weak on arrival due to being kept as a pet but quickly improved and today she's a prolific tree climber! We hope that one day Kolab will be suitable for release. In the meantime, staff are preparing her for life in the wild by accompanying her on foraging walks in the surrounding forest and keeping hands-off, which is working well.



Smooth-coated Otter

Meanwhile, six Sunda Pangolins were released and tracked as part of our Pangolin post-release monitoring project which aims to determine individuals' survival and release success rates, and contribute ecological knowledge on this highly threatened and elusive species. Staff at WRS continue to monitor the safety and well-being of released animals via camera traps installed throughout the forest.



Leopard Cat

This year, 28 animals were released at the Station where they enjoy the protection of the Community Anti-Poaching Unit (CAPU) which regularly patrols to reduce threats, such as snares. As at other sites, the number of snares detected and removed increased by almost one-third on last year. We put this down to lockdown-related loss of income prompting people to turn towards the forest for support. In response, we appointed two new CAPU team members, which may have contributed to lower numbers of snares in the second half of the year.

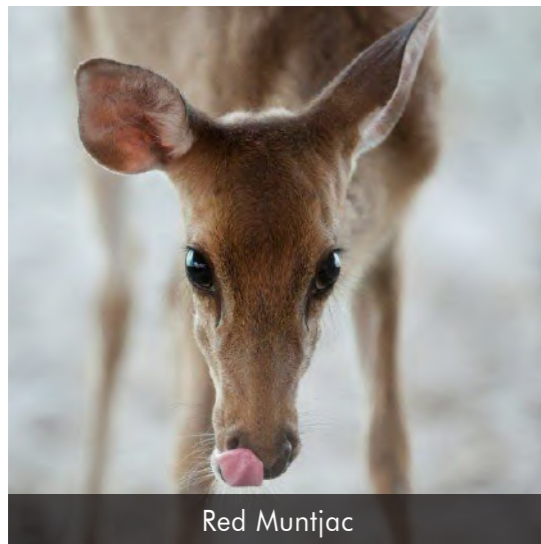
## COMMUNITY CONSERVATION SUPPORT



Silvered Langur

**W**ildlife Alliance's new Community Conservation Support program (CCS) provides local people who have taken the initiative to protect their local forest and wildlife populations with technical and financial support to sustain their efforts.

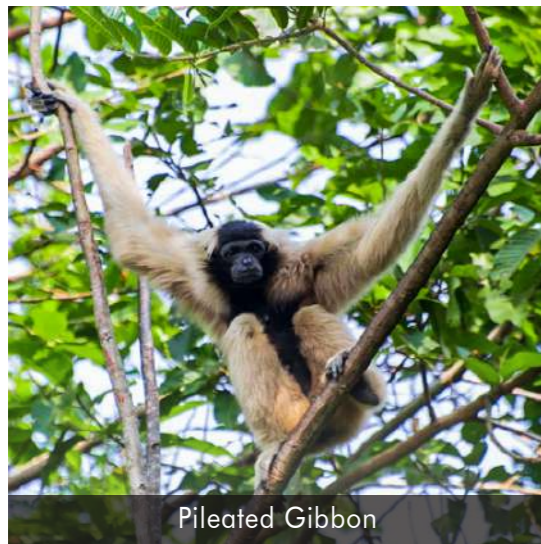
In Prambei Mom Community Forest in Kampong Speu province two new pools were constructed during the last 56 months to provide water for endangered banteng, making them less dependent on entering the surrounding plantations for water.



Red Muntjac

We built a pool in Metta Tomachiert Forest, also called Srail Boh Forest, in Kampong Speu to provide water for endangered species here, which includes silvered langurs, gibbons and bears.

A single male pileated gibbon lives in this forest and at the request of Monk Prom Sochier, we transported a suitable female from PTWRC who we hoped would pair up with the male. The female, named Karuna, was released in May and the pair now travel through the forest together, making this the first successful release of a captive gibbon to pair with a wild gibbon in Cambodia.




Pileated Gibbon

Our youngest CRW project, Community Conservation Support (CCS) continues to support people who have taken the initiative to protect their local forest and wildlife populations.



COMMUNITY CONSERVATION SUPPORT



The foremost of these is a 16-strong team of community rangers who protect a sub-population of banteng, the world's rarest species of wild cattle, in central Cambodia. When villagers noticed important habitat was being lost to sugarcane plantations and the banteng were being hunted, they began patrolling the area to protect themselves and wildlife. Wildlife Alliance began supporting the community rangers in 2018 with technical and financial support to sustain their efforts, including provision of per diems for patrols, purchase of equipment, interceding with local authorities on their behalf, and raising the profile of what they are doing to spread the word. The Forestry Administration, Wildlife Alliance, and several Cambodian businesses are now supporting the community.

This year, we turned our sights to further improving the remaining habitat for banteng. The area has precious few natural water sources so we constructed two more pools to make a total of four, to ensure that banteng and other wildlife have sufficient drinking water. Banteng are visiting the fourth pool to drink in larger numbers, perhaps 7 or 8 animals at a time, and females with young have also been filmed. In October, camera traps captured a historic first: a large bull gaur drinking at this pool! Gaur are increasingly rare in Cambodia due to hunting and no gaur were reported in the area for many years. These are the kind of stories that make our year!



# REWILDING ANGKOR

Release of wildlife back into their natural home is important for restoration of biodiversity and natural heritage. The Angkor Archaeological Park, home of the breathtaking Angkor Wat temple complex is an ideal site to reintroduce or “rewild” threatened species.

The ancient forests of Angkor once teemed with a great diversity of wildlife but populations were decimated by hunting at the end of the 20th century. Today, the UNESCO World Heritage Site is one of few well-protected places within the native range of threatened species.

In 2013, the Angkor Wildlife Release Project was established to repopulate Angkor with a variety of native species using animals rescued from the illegal wildlife trade or their captive-bred offspring. Today the Project is a roaring success, with a total of 35 animals released, including Pileated Gibbons, Silvered Langurs, Red Muntjac, Smooth-coated Otters, Leopard Cats, and Oriental Pied Hornbills, many of which have gone on to raise wild-born offspring in the forest.

Amongst these species, Pileated Gibbons have the greatest success story. The imperiled primates are found only in Southeast Asia where they face habitat destruction and capture for the illegal wildlife trade, leading to their Endangered status on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of threatened species. Cambodia is the world stronghold for Pileated Gibbon, making their comeback at Angkor all the more important!

To date, three pairs of Pileated Gibbons have been successfully released, and six infants have been born in the forest! This year, we celebrated the wild births of two infants and the release of a third pair. In March 2020, a third infant Kontes-long was born to the first pair, Baray and Saranick, while in August the second pair, Bayon and Tevy also added a third infant, Dun-kow, to their growing family. The previous infants are in good health, especially the very first, Ping-peeung who is gradually becoming more independent.

Meanwhile, the third pair of gibbons, Pompy and Borey, were released in July this year and a fourth pair is soon to begin their acclimatization, an important step towards eventual release.

Other animals previously released at Angkor still roam the forest and are seen occasionally. This includes the family of muntjac released in Angkor Thom in 2018 and the troupe of wild Silvered Langurs captured from the island of Koh Krabie and released at Angkor the same year. The langur troupe appears to have split and new bright orange babies have been seen in both troupes.

All releases at Angkor are conducted following IUCN protocols, with post-release monitoring and supplemental food provided for as long as needed. The success of the three Pileated Gibbon pairs in mating and raising their offspring demonstrates that we are laying the groundwork for a population that will one day be self-sustaining. Overall, the success of the Project is thanks to partners, APSARA and the Forestry Administration.

“The forests surrounding Angkor Wat are a perfect habitat and offer a much-needed safe haven for persecuted species.”

**Nick Marx, Wildlife Alliance**  
Director of Wildlife Rescue and Care

## TIGER REINTRODUCTION PROGRAM

With the endorsement of the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife Alliance is continuing to work to bring wild tigers back to Cambodia after they were extirpated in 2007. In August 2017, the concept of tiger reintroduction was endorsed by Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen. In 2019, the Ministry of Environment requested Wildlife Alliance to assist in the development of Cambodia's Tiger Reintroduction Project.

The Cardamom Rainforest Landscape is the priority reintroduction site identified by the Ministry of Environment. Construction of the Tiger Reintroduction Station is underway, to build enclosures suitable for acclimatizing translocated tigers before release into the wild. A ranger station is also soon to be built.



Enclosures being built to protect the tigers and the surrounding villagers. Tiger prey found in the identified sites of the tiger enclosures.



Photo of Tiger prey captured on night camera traps.



Asian Tigers will be calling the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape their home soon.

## SOUTHERN CARDAMOM REDD+ PROJECT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project protects 497,835 hectares of tropical rainforest in Southwest Cambodia which is globally significant for wildlife conservation, ecosystem servicing, and community livelihoods. This project supports local communities with infrastructure while protecting the biodiversity of the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape

The Project is accredited under Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) and Climate, Community & Biodiversity (CCB) standard.

There are 29 communities in Pursat and Koh Kong provinces involved in the scope of this Project. They all receive education on the importance of local communities and local authorities in keeping the forest standing.

As part of this involvement, the project works to improve community livelihoods and reduce poverty, through providing alternative livelihood projects such as eco-tourism, agriculture and livestock-raising.

After receiving requests from eight communes to construct wells, toilets, schools and road infrastructure, Wildlife Alliance has conducted surveys to confirm existing conditions and feasibility of the requested infrastructure (for example, the presence of ground water suitable for well digging).

In 2021, 18 water wells were constructed with funds from the Cardamom REDD+ Project in 3 communes (5 villages).

- 2 in Tasal commune of Kampong Speu
- 8 in Russey Chrum commune of Koh Kong
- 8 in O'Som commune of Pursat



Water wells with solar panels were provided to communities needing clean water facilities.



Villagers happy to have access to clean water.



## Road Construction

An 18km laterite road with 25 cement culverts linking Preah Angkeo and Purboeung in Koh Kong is funded by the Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project.

The road was in very poor condition which made travelling almost impossible for villagers in Purboeung to reach Sre Ambel in case of emergency and for transporting agriculture products to market.



Levelling the road for easy access and safer commute for the villagers.

## COVID-19 Assistance

Financial support from the Cardamom REDD+ Project was contributed to Pursat Provincial Administration during the COVID-19 outbreak in the province.



Financial support contributed to Pursat Provincial Administration.



A new road has made it easier for villagers to access markets and health care.

## SOUTHERN CARDAMOM REDD+ COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM



The Southern Cardamom REDD+, Community Education Program, is dedicated to helping youth in the targeted communities get a chance to complete four years of university. The first targeted communities are Chi Phat, Pralay, Chumnoab, Thma Donpov and Sovanna Baitong.

This Program funds all needed costs for the scholarship students, including four full years' university fees, a stipend, a fuel allowance, insurance, school uniforms and materials. The students are being housed together with a security guard, a caretaker and security cameras to ensure that the students remain safe.

In 2021, Wildlife Alliance selected five Chi Phat and Areang Valley students to be awarded the scholarships. Two students chose Tourism Management, two chose Engineering Information Technology and one chose International Business Management.

The students arrived in Phnom Penh in early March, were provided with all the study materials and uniforms, and were also given some training.

Due to COVID-19, the students had to study online. However, these students attended their classes regularly as they were eager to learn. All these selected students come from impoverished family backgrounds. Their parents are either farmers or do minor work in their villages. These families cannot afford higher education for their children.

When asked, the students said that they are grateful for the scholarship opportunity provided through the Southern Cardamoms REDD+ Projects. They are learning many new things and now can see a broader scope for using their knowledge to better their community.



Chom Tong from Chi Phat Village.  
Studying International Business Management,  
started University in Year 2021.



On Soknoeun from Choam Sla Village.  
Studying Tourism Management,  
started University in Year 2021



Tith Sure from Chamnar Village.  
Studying Information Technology Engineering,  
started University in Year 2021.



Bun Brakthin from Chi Phat Commune.  
studying Information Technology Engineering,  
started University in Year 2021



Pich Savary from Chi Phat Village.  
Studying Tourism Management,  
started University in Year 2021.



## TRANSFORMING LIVELIHOODS IN THE CARDAMOMS

Direct protection of forests and wildlife has always been our mission. To enable this, community engagement is essential. The Cardamoms remain a remote area with high levels of poverty. Here, local communities typically look to the forest for survival. We aim to shift livelihoods away from unsustainable exploitation of nature towards conservation-focused alternatives.

## Sovanna Baitong

The story of the community of Sovanna Baitong in the Cardamoms, is one example of a community who benefits from livelihood improvement based on forest protection thanks to the Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project.

Sovanna Baitong is one of 29 communities that benefit from the financial assistance provided by the Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project.

Almost 20 years ago, Wildlife Alliance started the Community Agriculture Development Project (CADP) in Sovanna Baitong. Before the Project, residents lived in destructive slash-and-burn farming and hunting in the forest. With the launch of CADP, the aim of the community would be sustainable livelihoods that benefit people and the forest.

Instead of going to the forest to cut the trees and kill the animals, community members grew a brighter future for themselves and their families, using modern equipment and techniques to cultivate high-quality crops.

In 2013, a Community Orchard was established. The orchard was planted with fruit trees, including durian, rambutan, and longan. At the time, Wildlife Alliance knew the trees would take years to establish and grow large enough to produce fruits. But again, we knew that the hard work would pay off in time! Community buy-in and engagement are essential. In early 2017, Wildlife Alliance handed over project activities and responsibility to the Sovanna Baitong Agriculture Association, with Wildlife Alliance continuing to provide technical support.

In 2021, there were over 3,000 fruit trees at Sovanna Baitong, covering 20 ha. In addition to fruit trees, other crops were planted, including long beans, winter melon, and chili. These are in demand for everyday use by villagers from Sovanna Baitong and surrounding villages, thus increasing the local benefits the Community Agriculture Development Project provides communities.

Sovanna Baitong got a massive boost in support from the Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project. Sustainable agriculture is only one part of the Livelihood improvement projects from the Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project.

In addition to direct sales of crops to communities, a Community Store was opened. The store provides a range of products, from agricultural tools and inputs to seeds and seedlings, of plants such as tomato, bell pepper, papaya, wax gourd, eggplant, and hot chilli to meet the demand of farmers of Sovanna Baitong and neighbouring villages. The Community Store, like the Community Orchard, is managed by the members of the Sovanna Baitong community.

The community works  
together to produce a  
good harvest at  
**CADP**





## Community-Based Eco-Tourism

In 2021, our principal community livelihood activity in the Cardamoms was our award-winning Community-Based Ecotourism (CBET) Projects. These Projects now operate across 12 villages in the Cardamom Mountains, with 484 families working as community service providers and receiving regular income which, critically, depends on maintaining the natural resources of the Cardamoms.

Our original CBET Project was established in 2007 in the village of Chi Phat, a spot once notorious for logging and poaching. Chi Phat went from rampant slash-and-burn farming and open sale of threatened wildlife to Cambodia's premier ecotourism destination. Since its opening, an estimated 31,500 tourists have visited Chi Phat. The village was nominated the "best community-based ecotourism in Cambodia" by Lonely Planet and the Ministry of Tourism.

A second CBET was established in 2017, at Steung Areng in 8 villages of the nearby Chhay Areng Valley. The CBET has already brought sustainable income to around 150 participant families.

The number of tourists visiting in 2021 was roughly half that of the previous year, due to Covid-related restrictions on international travel. However, both CBETs attracted more domestic tourists who accounted for over 80% of all combined visitors this year.



# LOCAL LIVELIHOODS IMPACTS

**1,477**

Tourist visitors to  
ecotourism Projects

**1,152**

Families benefitting from  
ecotourism Projects

Wildlife Alliance collaborated with local cultural groups to restore a unique indigenous musical instrument (*the "Ploy"*) to the Areng Valley.



# CHANGING HEARTS AND MINDS THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Cambodia is young! Over two-thirds of the population is under 30 years of age, making youth engagement essential for safeguarding Cambodia's natural heritage.

Created in 2005, KE is the only mobile environmental education team in Cambodia. Its programming fills a gap in the national school curriculum and delivers support to underserved rural communities by teaching students about Cambodian laws protecting forests and wildlife, threats to wildlife species and their habitats, deforestation, and climate change, and actions they can take to help protect Cambodia's natural heritage. But KE's work doesn't end there!

The team also delivers sessions to teachers and community members, raising awareness of conservation, and building capacity all the while. Since its inception, KE has reached some 500,000 people, engaged over 350 schools across all 25 provinces, and broadcast environmental messages to 13 million via televised Public Service Announcements.

KE knows how to turn a challenge into an opportunity! In the face of Covid-related school closures and bans on public events, the team developed an innovative delivery system in person by bringing environmental education directly to people's homes. This at-home program raised awareness about the health risks associated with eating wildlife in response to the outbreak of COVID-19. The new door-to-door outreach was a runaway success that enabled the KE to engage a larger demographic and a larger audience overall.

An estimated 28,000 people were reached as both direct beneficiaries and through sharing with extended family members. That's why KE is mainstreaming door-to-door outreach into its core programming. After all, this innovation supports KE's mission to foster positive behavioral change by enabling students, teachers, and whole communities to address the myriad threats to biodiversity, including habitat loss, deforestation and degradation, poaching, and demand for wildlife products in the trade.

Over the years, the KE's expertise was sought out by several organizations based in tropical Asia and Africa for help to develop fun and effective environmental education. Last year was the turn of Liberia Animal Welfare & Conservation Society (LAWCS) whose staff visited Cambodia on a study tour which provided materials, hands-on experience and practice plus advice.

This year, LAWCS designed their own education program focusing on national wildlife law, including the importance of protecting wildlife, habitats, and communities' responsibilities to safeguard species from the negative impacts of the bush meat trade. This program was delivered to 4,676 people across 84 communities who appreciate education, LAWCS and the Liberian Forestry Development Authority were able to rescue 5 monkeys and 4 turtles bound for the wildlife trade.

At Wildlife Alliance, we live for these success stories which show that is possible through community engagement and outreach.



The young generation being inspired by the **Environmental Education Team - Kouprey Express** through fun and engaging lessons.

# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

**9,022**

Students received lessons on  
wildlife and forests

**1,862**

Rural Cambodians reached  
through door-to-door wildlife  
protection program

**60**

Rural Cambodians reached  
through Community night shows

**31**

Schools and NGOs visited

**19**

Educational videos produced



Field trips to **Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Center** organized by the Kouprey Express for rural students, teachers, and community members are always a highlight of our educational curriculum.





“ We need space with good habitat...  
 We need prey. And we need to be left alone.  
 We need protection from people.  
 We need protection from poaching.  
 We are coming soon ... ”

## ORGANIZATION AND INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Our considerable advances in conservation are a direct result of the organizations and individuals who share our values.

### \$100,000+

U.S Fish & Wildlife Service  
 Wallace Research Foundation

### \$50,000 - 99,000

Golden Triangle Elephant Foundation  
 Morgan Family Foundation  
 Tmor Rung Development Company  
 Wildlife Conservation Society Wildlife Asia

### \$25,000-\$49,999

Conservation International  
 Margret Ellen Ellwanger  
 Nicholas Paul Marx  
 Singapore Zoological Garden  
 Wildlife Reserves Singapore

### \$10,000-\$25,000

Boylston Charitable Foundation  
 Lorraine Parmer  
 Tamaki Foundation  
 Thomas Plant

### \$1,000-\$9,999

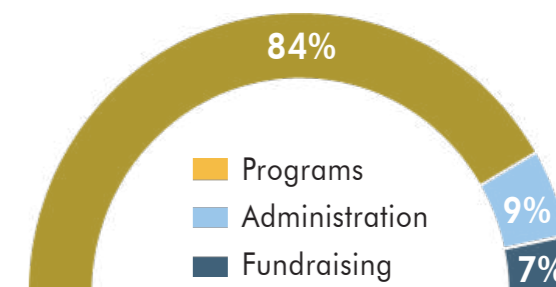
Abraham Foundation  
 Benevity Fund  
 Big Cat Rescue  
 Big Cat Sanctuary  
 Eric & Joan Norgaard Charitable Trust  
 Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
 Gulf Breeze Zoo  
 Infoblox  
 International Wildlife Coalition  
 Mostyn Foundation  
 Rockwood School District  
 Rockwood Trust  
 Segre Foundation  
 Seidman Family Foundation

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 Eastin, Bryan  
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 Ellwanger, Aragon  
 Ellwanger, Britta  
 Ellwanger, Brygn

Evtimov, Alen  
 Golotta, Peter  
 Goodfellow, Charles  
 Kelton, Ryan  
 Kling, Frank Friedrich  
 Konkar, Ameet  
 Von Langen, Cliff  
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 Reynolds, Roger  
 Rice, Theresa Janette

Robertson, John  
 Smith, Bradley  
 Smith, Charles  
 Svay, Lucas Lorene  
 Tropp, Almut  
 Vallet, Rita  
 Vele, Laura

### EXPENSE BREAKDOWN





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