



KEO SEIMA REDD+ WILDLIFE SANCTUARY CAMBODIA

**Species conservation, biodiversity
protection and community**



This project protects almost 167,000 hectares of East Cambodia's Seima Protection Forest from deforestation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and protecting the habitat of 41 Globally Threatened species, including the Asian elephant. The project also funds local sustainable development, and helps address landlessness issues experienced by Seima forest communities.

The Context

The Seima Protection Forest covers 292,690 hectares in eastern Cambodia's Monduliri and Kratie Provinces. The forest is located at the juncture of two important ecoregions; the Annamite Mountains and the lower Mekong dry forests. Yet unplanned deforestation threatens the forest and its 41 Globally Threatened species, including the Asian elephant, several primate species, and the critically endangered Giant Ibis. The site is also central to the spirituality of the local ethnic Bunong people, for whom the forests are also an important income source.

The Project

A joint project between the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Royal Government of Cambodia, the Keo Seima REDD+ Wildlife Sanctuary conserves 166,983 hectares of the Seima Protection Forest. Preventing deforestation and degradation and reducing forest and wildlife crime through law enforcement increases local species populations. The project also funds local community development, improving numeracy and literacy levels and encouraging locals to profit from sustainable land and resource use, including ecotourism and the marketing of non-timber forest products.

The Benefits

By preventing deforestation, the Keo Seima REDD+ project improves local biodiversity and reduces carbon emissions, contributing to global climate change mitigation. There are also positive impacts for surrounding communities, who benefit from more readily available clean water, more sustainable agricultural productivity and improved education. Legal and planning support provided by the project have also helped seven villages secure legally recognised indigenous communal land titles.

The Wildlife Conservation

Society has worked with the community to habituate two groups of endangered Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbons in the forests surrounding the Jahoo Gibbon Ecotourism Camp. One group is made up of a male and female pair, and the other is a family of six.



2,500+
households

benefiting from natural resources and preserved cultural identity



782
children

engaged in education programs



449
jobs

created in law enforcement and community representation



Jahoo Gibbon
Ecotourism
Camp

established and run by local ethnic Bunong people



1,426,648
tCO₂e

reduced on average each year



25,000+
ha

of deforestation avoided to date

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Official name: Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary | **VCS link:** http://www.vcsprojectdatabase.org/#/project_details/1650 | **VCS ID:** 1650