

4 REDUCE THREATS TO WILDLIFE AND FOREST HABITAT

The EPL enforcement team uses a prevention and intervention approach to strategically protect the biodiversity values of MPF and PPWS:



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- A mobile team of members from Forestry Administration, Ministry of Environment and Police patrol outside the protected area in Mondulakiri province to prevent the transport of wildlife and timber products.
- Several patrol teams consisting of member from Forestry Administration, Ministry of Environment, and community rangers daily patrol inside protected area to stop hunting, logging, and other illegal activities.
- Enforcement efforts in the EPL are supported by community members that supply the team with critical information on wildlife crimes.
- Over the past few years, enforcement activities in the EPL have led to arrest of loggers and wildlife traders, confiscation of numerous chainsaw, hundreds of cubic meters of luxury timber, and many seizures of wild animals (both dead and alive) including several endangered species.



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CAMBODIA'S OUTSTANDING DRY FOREST LANDSCAPE IN the EASTERN PLAINS

The Eastern Plains Landscape (EPL) covers an area over 30,000 square kilometers in 4 provinces (Ratanakiri, Mondulakiri, Kratie and Stung Treng) and forms the largest intact block of forest in southeast Asia. Northeastern Cambodia's Mondulakiri Province, at the core of the EPL, is recognized as one of the 200 most important areas for global biodiversity by WWF. Mondulakiri's two protected areas, Mondulakiri Protected Forest (MPF: 363,177ha) and Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary (PPWS: 222,500ha) contain a large diversity of habitats ranging from hill evergreen to open dry forest, and supports resident populations of many endangered species including Asian elephant, tiger, leopard, banteng, Siamese crocodile, and Eld's deer as well as several endangered large waterbirds and vultures.



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What you can do ?

Stay at the community homestay in Dei Ey to discover the natural beauty and forests of Mondulakiri! Call CCBEN at +855 (0)23 35 52 72 or e-mail to info@ccbenn.org for more information.

Support livelihoods of local people by buying sustainably collected non-timber forest products e.g. honey or rattan. For more information on Mondulakiri Wild Honey, and rattan products, contact:

* NTFP-EP at +855 (0)23 72 74 07 or at ntfp-marketing@online.com.kh

* The Rattan Association of Cambodia: Tel: +855 (0)12 40 27 24. Website: www.rattancambodia.com

Do not buy luxury wood or wild animal meat! If you see wild meat for sale or suspect any other wildlife crime – whether logging, trading, hunting, or transporting— report it to the Mondulakiri Mobile Team hotline at +855 (0)12 40 41 43 immediately.

THE EPL PROJECT

To counter serious threats to the landscape and to conserve the EPL's globally significant biodiversity, WWF-Cambodia has set up the Eastern Plains Landscape Project in cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Forestry Administration and Ministry of Environment, General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection. The EPL project works to conserve biodiversity in Mondulakiri province focusing on the two protected areas but is also active through the entire province promoting sustainable resource use, land use planning and reducing wildlife crimes.

OUR VISION

is to keep the last wilderness of Cambodia intact and connected, helping people protect their wildlife while sustaining livelihoods.



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THREATS

The EPL's rich biodiversity is under threat due to uncontrolled logging, hunting for trade, land clearance for agriculture and settlements, and other unsustainable use of natural resources. Economic development including mining and hydropower form additional serious threats to forest and wildlife. Species like the Kouprey, Cambodia's national animal, have probably already gone extinct, and tiger, Asian elephant, wild water buffalo and Eld's deer are threatened with extinction in the next few years unless immediate action is taken.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In order to achieve its conservation vision as well as to support community livelihoods living in and around protected areas, the EPL project has implemented the following key activities:

1 IMPROVING COMMUNITY BASED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Community education throughout the EPL plays a very important role by teaching community members – adults and children alike – about environmental protection and conservation work while encouraging villagers to take part in forest protection. Most of the EPL's inhabitants (4,000 households living in 5 communities) belong to ethnic minorities whose lives have depended on forest resources for centuries but whose livelihoods are now threatened by unsustainable practices.

Through the efforts of the EPL project staff, in cooperation with government and partners, most community members are now well aware of the benefits of sustainable natural resource management to their lives and those of future generations. The EPL project has been able to improve community livelihoods by facilitating the establishment of community groups focused on sustainable honey and resin collection as well as community fisheries and community protected areas.



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2 ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT FOR CONSERVATION LIVELIHOODS

As part of the strategy to conserve wildlife, WWF uses ecotourism to support community livelihoods around protected areas as well as to co-finance protected area management. To increase the benefits to locals and visitors alike, the EPL project has provided capacity building activities to communities including ecotourism management, hospitality, cooking, tour guiding, and weaving.



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Tourists can now make use of several ecotourism-services in the EPL including a community homestay, participating in activities like trekking, mountain biking, or boat riding as well as visiting villages to learn about Phnong culture. The homestay alone employs 13 people and is managed by a community ecotourism group with technical support from WWF. Following one year pilot period, WWF aims to hand over independent management to the community.



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The EPL project is also developing a mid-range eco-tent camp along the Srepok River in the Mondulkiri Protected Forest. After completion, the tent-camp will be handed over to the Forestry Administration to manage in cooperation with the private sector. The camp will provide an opportunity for tourists to enjoy the natural assets of the Protected Forest, provide employment opportunities for local communities as well as encourage both villagers, and tourists to conserve the natural environment and be involved in sustainable forest management.



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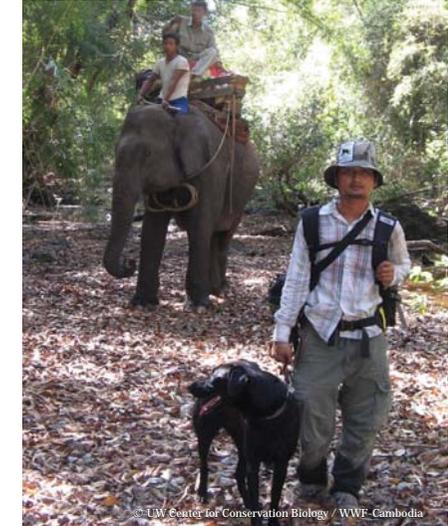
3 RESEARCH MONDLUKIRI'S RICH BIODIVERSITY FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT

Knowledge of animal populations is central to understanding their status and to planning their management and conservation. That is why WWF has several research projects in the EPL to gain more information about the biodiversity values of PPWS and MPF.

- More than 170 camera traps in the protected areas supply WWF researchers with a continuous flow of data on animals and their movements.
- Regular line transect surveys are conducted to collect data on large ungulates like banteng, gaur, and Eld's deer – all potential prey species for large carnivores including tigers.
- WWF has recently implemented detailed studies to estimate population size of key species such as Asian elephant, tigers and leopards, Siamese crocodiles, and yellow cheeked gibbon.



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