



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USAID Supporting Forests and Biodiversity Project
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PRESS RELEASE

First profile highlighting the treasures of Cambodian wildlife in the Mondulkiri Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary launched

Phnom Penh– 21st July 2016 – The USAID funded Supporting Forests and Biodiversity Project (SFB), implemented by Winrock International, **WWF-Cambodia**, and the Ministry of Environment (MoE), launched a comprehensive profile of the Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary (PPWS), located in Mondulkiri Province, today at the Ministry of Environment. This 76 pages long profile is a summary of the significant species living within the PPWS and highlighting them with beautiful pictures and also describing the conservation work conducted to preserve the protected area for future generations.

“With this profile we want to promote the importance of the biodiversity resources of Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary to the Cambodian public, especially to young Cambodians, to make them understand the uniqueness of the sanctuary’s values and the urgent need for conservation”, said Chhith Sam Ath, Country Director of WWF-Cambodia.

PPWS hosts an impressive array of wildlife species and rich habitat diversity, including 18 endangered and critically endangered species. 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. Those people need the natural resources of the forest that provides much needed income for their livelihoods.

Forests and wildlife in PPWS are under threat due to habitat loss, hunting, poaching and illegal logging. The USAID-SFB project is collaborating with the Ministry of Environment, General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDANCP) to protect and conserve this landscape.

“We support the work of USAID, WWF-Cambodia, Winrock International and the relevant line departments of the Ministry of Environment who have been working closely together to produce this great piece of work. We hope it can serve to raise awareness on the majesty of the Sanctuary and its importance in the world”, said H. E. Say Samal, Minister of Environment.

PPWS lies between Srepok Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS) and Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS) and covers an area of more than 2,000 km², 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 internationally important area for a large number of globally threatened species.

The launch of the profile is organized by WWF-Cambodia in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, General Department of Administration for the Nature Conservation and Protection (GDANCP) and the generous funding of the USAID “Supporting Forests and Biodiversity” Project.

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NEWS TO EDITOR:

About USAID SFB

The USAID SFB Project – implemented by Winrock International – funds WWF conservation activities that improve the conservation and governance of the Eastern Plains and Prey Lang landscapes to mitigate climate change and conserve biodiversity. The Project works alongside the Royal Government of Cambodia officers at all levels, forest communities, NGOs and other stakeholders to: 1) enhance the effectiveness of government and key natural resource managers at national and subnational levels to sustainably manage forests and conserve biodiversity, 2) improve constructive dialogue on forest management and economic development at the national and sub-national levels and 3) increase equitable economic benefits from the sustainable management of forests.

About USAID

USAID works with Cambodian and international partners on a broad range of programs designed to benefit all Cambodians. Areas of focus include strengthening democratic governance and human rights, improving health and child development, fostering economic growth, alleviating poverty, increasing agricultural production and food security, helping households adapt to and mitigate the effects of global climate change, and fighting trafficking in persons.

About WWF-Cambodia

WWF was established in Cambodia in 1995 as a part of the WWF Greater Mekong Programme. WWF's mission in Cambodia is to ensure that there will be strong participation and support from all people to conserve the country's rich biological diversity. Through the encouragement of sustainable use of natural resources, WWF-Cambodia promotes new opportunities for the benefit of all people, enhancing local livelihoods and contributing to poverty reduction in the Kingdom of Cambodia. Go to cambodia.panda.org for more information.

Materials to this press release

The new PPWS profile is available for free download on cambodia.panda.org.

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