



Protection and Recovery of Tigers and their Prey  
in Mondulkiri, Cambodia

**Final Report**

*to the*

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
Exxon/Mobil Save the Tiger Fund

*from the*

Wildlife Conservation Society

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# PROTECTION AND RECOVERY OF TIGERS AND THEIR PREY IN MONDULKIRI, CAMBODIA

## THE SOUTHERN MONDULKIRI CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE



Forest Administration (FA) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

Supported by The Save The Tiger Fund, a special project of the  
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation in partnership with the Exxon Mobil Corporation

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## PROTECTION AND RECOVERY OF TIGERS AND THEIR PREY IN MONDULKIRI, CAMBODIA

### Background

In early 2000, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Forestry Administration (FA) visited the Samling logging concession as part of nationwide efforts to locate the most important sites for wildlife in the country. The area was quickly recognized for its conservation importance for tigers and other wildlife, which were summarized in a subsequent report (Walston *et al.* 2000). Further research confirmed the area's rich diversity of habitats (Zimmerman and Clements 2002, MacDonald 2004) and its importance for the livelihoods of the resident Phnong ethnic group (Evans *et al.* 2002, Richardson, M. 2003).

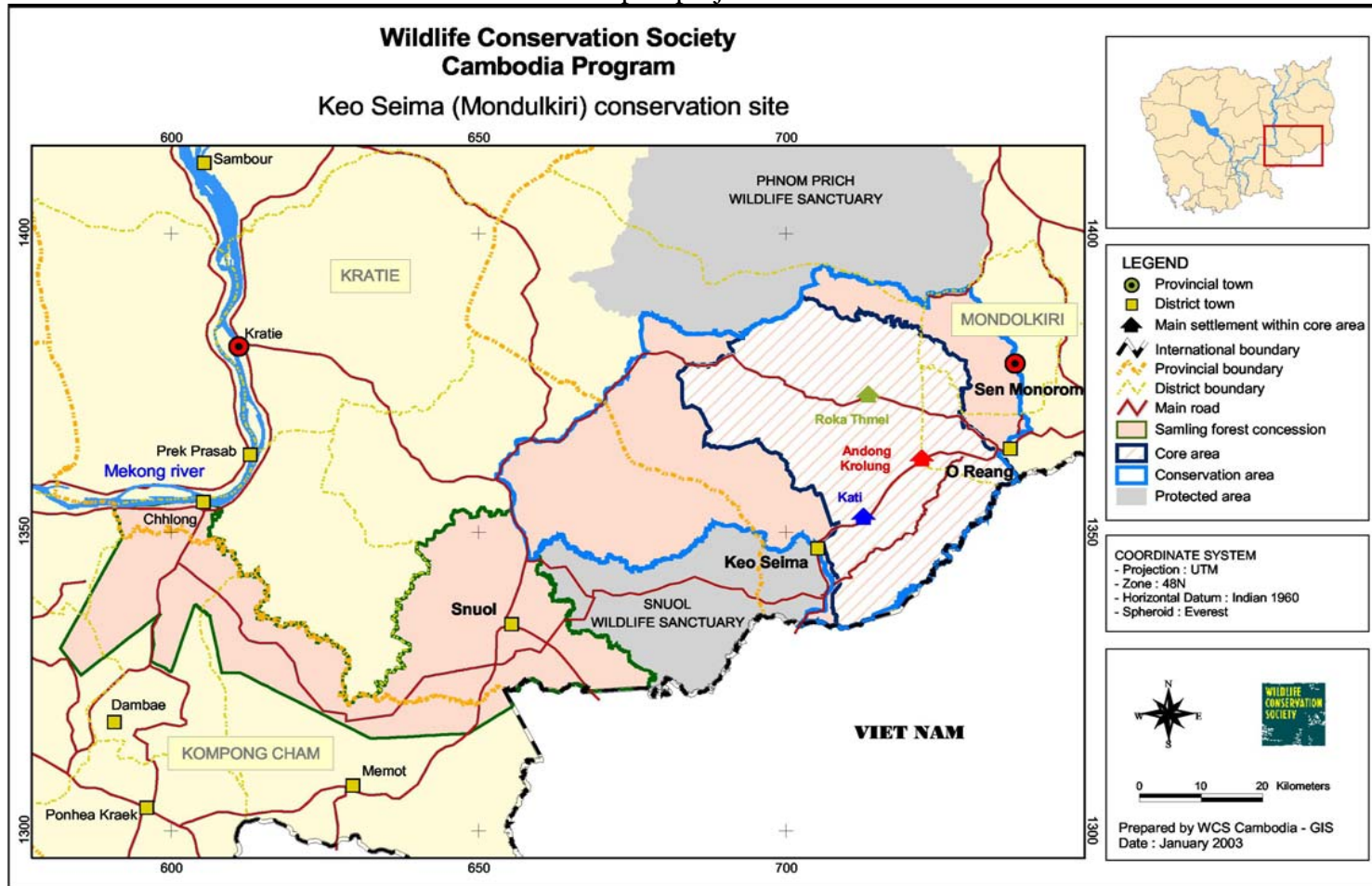
Since then WCS has been helping to conserve this landscape by providing financial and technical support to the government's Forestry Administration (FA). Originally this was in cooperation with the Samling concessionaire, working to improve its commercial forest management practices, though this approach changed when Samling stopped its operations due to disputes with the government. During this period of uncertainty the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) issued a *prakas* declaring 303,440 ha of the landscape as the Seima Biodiversity Conservation Area within the concession.

As part of this change in status from exploitation to conservation, it was clear that in order to secure the long-term future of tigers here, field stations must be established at strategic sites around the core tiger area of the forests. The FA and WCS assumed direct responsibility for the hiring and training of 25 patrol staff from the FA, police, military, and local communities. In 2003 WCS requested support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Exxon/Mobil Save the Tiger Fund (STF) to build six law enforcement and patrolling field stations and to equip its patrol staff.

Because the main cause of decline of tigers in Cambodia is the targeted hunting for the illegal trade in wildlife, direct protection of the last remaining populations is essential. Without protection the tiger will be effectively extinct in the wild in Cambodia within five years. Without these stations, the ability to prevent the last tigers and their prey of Southern Mondulkiri (possibly the most important site in Cambodia for the species) from being poached is nearly impossible.

To that end, in early 2003 STF granted the project funds to construct field stations at strategic sites around the core tiger area of the forests of Keo Seima and O'Reang District and to equip patrol staff to allow for year-round patrolling and monitoring.

Map of project area



## ACTIVITIES

The project was simple in its design and objectives and was successfully completed. This report summarizes the outcomes.

Summary activities and achievements:

- Four field stations were constructed to protect and manage over 150,00ha of core conservation area with the one of the last known tiger populations left in the country.
- Twenty-five staff now use these stations, giving them more direct access to the core area. They previously lived at a single project station.
- These 25 staff are now supplied with field clothing, specialist equipment (GPS, iCom radios etc.), recording gear, and other field essentials required to work for extended periods in the forest.
- The project is supporting the conversion of this logging concession into a conservation landscape comprising a core area (150,000ha) and adjacent areas with land-uses complementary to conservation. The total conservation landscape is over 300,000ha.
- A range of habitats are now being conserved including hill evergreen, semi-evergreen, mixed deciduous and deciduous dipterocarp forests.
- A range of Globally Threatened species are being conserved through the grant from STF. In addition to tiger, the area supports significant populations of banteng, douc langur, yellow-cheeked gibbon, white-winged duck, sun bear, Asiatic black bear, pygmy loris, clouded leopard, marbled cat, fishing cat, jungle cat, Asiatic golden cat, Asian elephant, large-antlered muntjac, giant ibis, white-rumped vulture, slender-billed vulture, orange-necked partridge, Germain's peacock pheasant, great hornbill, green peafowl, gaur, lesser adjutant, Siamese fireback.
- A national workshop on illegal land clearance was held in Phnom Penh, at which WCS made a presentation on the project. Attendees included the American Ambassador, senior government officials, NGO representatives, and multi-lateral donors.

During the life of the project, the Department of Forestry and Wildlife (DFW) was reformed in its entirety. The changes were fundamental to the structure of the organization, resulting in a physical de-centralization and a re-centralization of authority. The old colonial administrative structure was reintroduced and staff have now been sent to live in the provinces and report directly to Phnom Penh. This new body, called the Forestry Administration (FA) created a series of local forestry zones, called Sangkats. The WCS/FA project is now under the jurisdiction of a new local administration.

The new administration required a revision of the project's proposed sites for the field stations. This review occurred in late 2003 and it was decided to delay construction

until early 2004. Further discussions with the government and project staff led to a final decision that three main stations were the highest priority given the intensity of threats along the main national road running through the area.

While the other four sites are longer-term priorities, the main focus of law enforcement and patrolling activities were in Coupes 2a and 3 along the main road. Along this road on either side of the project area land clearance has been extreme and the project highlighted this concern at a national meeting in November 2003. Concerns over land-grabbing and other illegal forms of land clearance have grown throughout the country since the passing of the Land Law in 2002 and Mondulkiri is a prime example of a province that has suffered greatly. In order to counter this increasing threat, the project decided to add another patrol team to the existing law enforcement efforts and to base them in Keo Seima. STF funds were used to build a second station at Keo Seima in order to accommodate this team. Thus, two new field stations were constructed at Keo Seima.

The field station at O'Reang was constructed and equipped as planned. This became a larger building than was previously planned as it has become necessary to increase the number of personnel working out of it. In addition to the patrol team, there is now a community team working and living in the field station helping with a process of Participatory Land-use Planning (PLUP) with one of the Phnong villages in the Andong Krolueng project area.

The commitment by STF has been used to leverage further government support for infrastructural development for conservation. Using a World Bank loan, the Forestry Administration has ear-marked a further \$30,000 for the project site. This money will be used to construct a communications antenna, repair existing infrastructure, and buy furniture and office equipment.



The two-story field station is situated in O'Reang at the crossroads of the main national road and the old national road. It houses two patrol teams of five people each. Additionally, the Participatory Land-Use Planning (PLUP) teams work out of the office facilities. The station has a well, water-pump, iCom radio, electricity

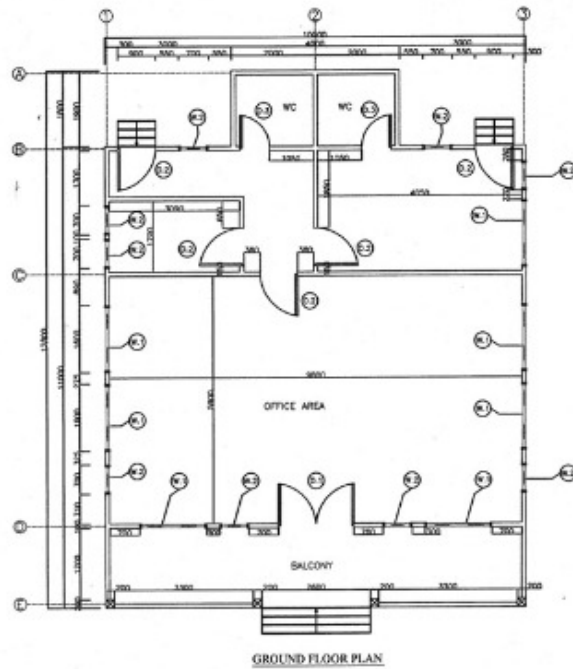
generator, and exterior cooking and washing facilities. A computer and printer are currently being installed.



This station, with the cooking and washing huts behind, overlooks the edge of the project area and the extensive forested interior.

#### **METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION**

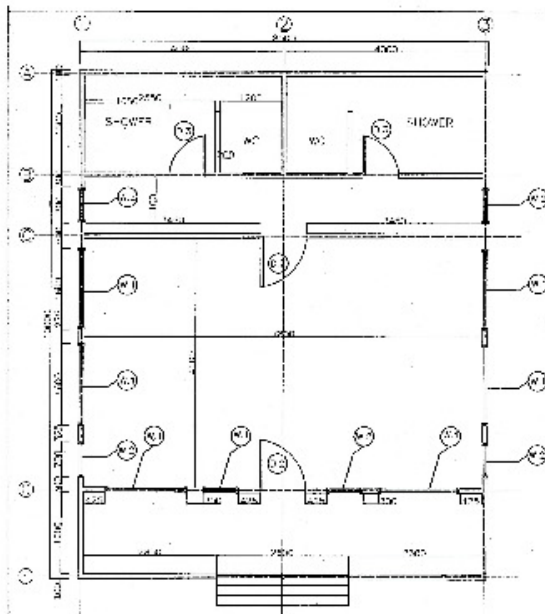
All buildings were professionally designed and constructed. Architectural plans were made by an Australian drafting team and the costs were compared to various similar construction quotes. All materials and equipment items were selected for their quality. In Cambodia, as in many developing countries, the quality and longevity of buildings is extremely varied and it was of the utmost priority to the project that those built were of an appropriate standard and type. Two buildings are constructed entirely of timber, one is a combination of concrete and timber and one is constructed entirely of concrete. This last building is to house the project computer and thus required proper protection from dust and heat. Some samples are provided here:



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

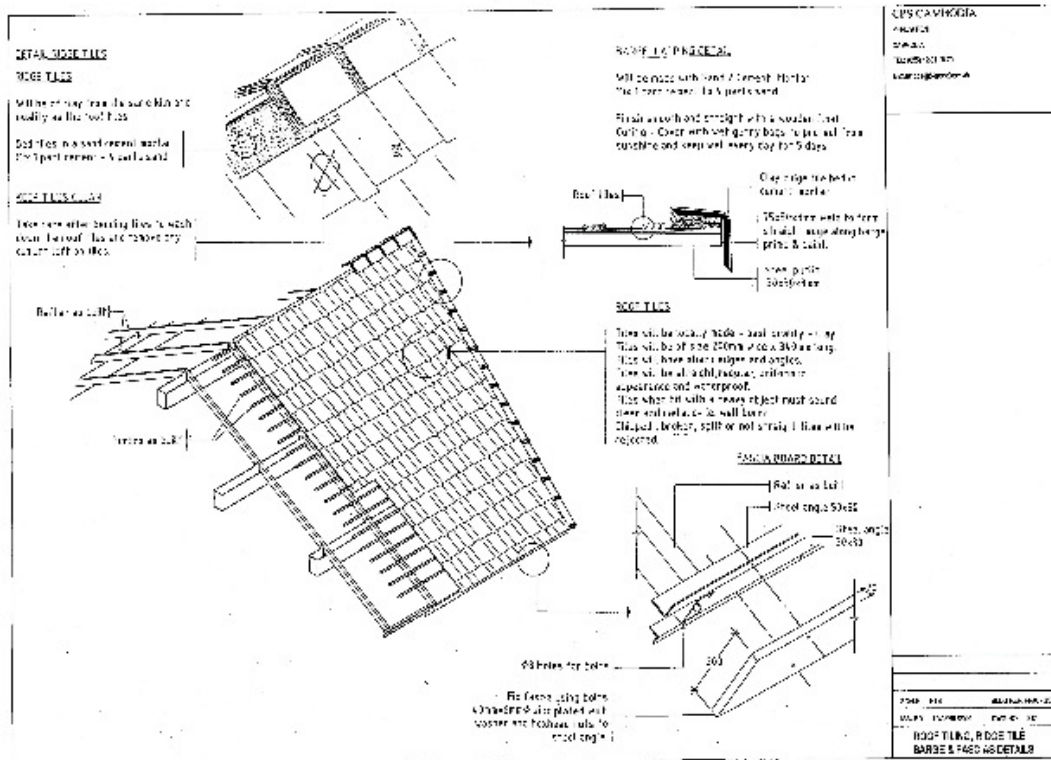
CLIENT	WCS	TITLE	GROUND FLOOR PLAN		CPS CAMBODIA	CLIENT	WCS	TITLE	GROUND FLOOR PLAN		
PROJECT	MONTELEONE BUILDING	DRAWN	CPS	CHECKED	RAC	PROJECT	MONTELEONE BUILDING	DRAWN	CPS	CHECKED	RAC
DRAWING No CPS01	SCALE 1/75	DATE	23 APRIL 2004	PAPER SIZE	A0	DRAWING No CPS01	SCALE 1/75	DATE	23 APRIL 2004	PAPER SIZE	A0

Groundfloor plan of main office, Keo Seima



<p>LEGEND</p> <p>⑩ DOUBLE DOORS 900mm WIDTH</p> <p>⑪ SINGLE DOOR 700mm WIDTH</p> <p>⑫ DOUBLE WINDOWS 1600mm WIDTH</p> <p>⑬ SINGLE WINDOW 700mm WIDTH</p>	<p>CPS CAMBODIA</p> <p>PROJECT</p> <p>DATE</p> <p>SCALE</p>	<p>CLIENT</p> <p>WCS</p> <p>DATE</p> <p>SCALE</p>
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Groundfloor plan of KM 164 Field Station



The construction is of a quality to withstand the harsh conditions of heat and humidity. Here the plans for the tiling of the main field station were made in order to ensure adequate protection for the computer and other electrical items of equipment.

### EQUIPPING AND TRAINING

Throughout the period of the project, patrol and monitoring staff received training in a number of different fields. Some of these included:

#### 1. Basic Field Skills Training: July 2003

Dr Tony Lynam, Joe Walston, Men Soriyun and a number of specialists gave a hands-on training course to all patrol team staff over a one-week period in early July. Twenty-five staff from the FA, local police, military police and local authorities received skills training in map reading, GPS-use, field craft, data gathering and recording, observation skills, reporting procedures etc.



Dr Tony Lynam and Men Soriyun, Project Manager, present patrol staff with their equipment after training

## 2. International Red Cross First Aid Training: May 2004

As part of WCS's policy of having all full-time staff trained in First Aid, the project brought the International Red Cross to the field site to give an intensive three-day course to all patrolling and law enforcement staff.



Staff of the Red Cross training two staff members in general First Aid at the Keo Seima Field Station

## 3. Patrolling and Law Enforcement Monitoring: July 2003-June 2004

Throughout the year the reports and data of patrol teams were checked and assessed, both for consistency and to identify further training needs. A total of seven short training courses were given on an ad hoc basis to meet the specific needs of staff.



Members of the patrol teams after a nights training exercise in the forest

#### 4. Support and Sustainability

The need to establish political support for the project is essential in order for activities to be successful and for the results to be genuinely sustainable. To that end, WCS has been working to garner such support, both for the STF components and other activities. Some of the notable supporters are:



Ambassador to the United States Charles Ray being shown the project plans by Men Soriyun, Project Manager.



His Excellency Chan Sarun, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, speaking at the opening of the project in Mondul Kiri. To his right, the Provincial Governor and to his left Dr John Robinson, Director of International Programs for WCS.



At the same opening, members of the donor and NGO community including DFID, GTZ and the World Bank listen to the speech of H.E. Chan Sarun.

The STF project has helped to leverage further support from other donors. This has been important to ensure the long-term sustainability of such efforts as the construction and equipping of field stations.

#### **PROBLEMS AND CONSTRAINTS ENCOUNTERED**

- One senior Provincial official (not named here) is an exceedingly influential individual with little regard for conservation, indigenous communities or human rights. His liking for high-value timber logging means he covets the project area.
- No government formed for almost a year post-election resulted in gradually increasing levels of lawlessness and some unwillingness to establish new relationships when many political appointments were soon to be reshuffled.
- There is an increasing number of border police posts in the forest, some engaging in hunting.
- Land encroachment in the project districts is accelerating. It is outside the core area but close enough to increase hunting/harvesting pressure on the core.
- Hunting still occurs, however, at a lower level than before initiation of the project.
- We must be careful that over-rapid expansion of the project does not lead to overstressing the fledgling management capacity of national staff.

#### **GOALS/ACTIVITIES FOR POST-PROJECT PERIOD**

- Improve relations with the Provincial Governor, or his successor.
- Establishment of the unitary management authority with a clear internal structure, mechanisms for consultation with other stakeholders, and a revised project area boundary.
- Garner high level (Prime Ministerial) recognition for the conservation area.

- Facilitate stakeholder negotiations leading to a landscape-level zoning and management plan.
- Clarify the respective authorities of various agencies (military, border military, police etc.) and their involvement in the project and across the landscape.
- Select, hire, and train additional locally-based staff from the restructured FA
- Overhaul the patrolling system (to allow expansion), in particular by improving community liaison, intelligence gathering and internal reporting.
- Construct at least two new field stations.
- Further reduce hunting and logging rates across the landscape.
- Complete the Land-use Planning process in the pilot village, establish a long-term support structure, and conduct PLUP in two additional villages.
- Initiate an annual demographic survey to monitor trends in immigration/population growth and provide an early warning of planned mass movements.
- Review and refine the monitoring project and the training of site-based staff to undertake and review the required activities.
- Expand activities to the north of the project area.
- Publish wildlife and local livelihood research in peer-reviewed journals.

#### **CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS & EVALUATION:**

The STF-funded project is a key part of the larger program of conservation that has relatively ambitious aims to maintain the economic, social, and biological integrity of the forests of southern Mondulkiri Province. It is a project of growing size and complexity, not least because of the need to confront some very clear, immediate, and acute problems while, at the same time, planning for a long-term presence and initiating research into more complex issues for future intervention. While the overall landscape and its wildlife communities have enormous potential for conservation success, the next two years will be crucial.

The project's approach is to achieve long-term conservation security through the development of sustainable management strategies that are both practical (politically, financially and culturally) and effective. These efforts include components for community forestry, law enforcement, land titling, resource-use rights, and natural resource protection. STF has been instrumental in being able to strengthen the law enforcement. It is also intended that this project function as a model to provide alternatives to current forest management regimes throughout the country as the concession-based system undergoes significant reform. To that end, the project has made remarkable achievements given that it has been operating for less than two years. It began with some very onerous factors, the landscape was (and technically still is) a logging concession; it is located in a 'least-developed' province; and is on the international border with Vietnam. There is little government presence, remnants of banditry and lawlessness, new roads entering the area, high levels of hunting, and significant remaining amounts of valuable timber. Over the past two years, in particular over this past year, WCS has established the only NGO-concessionaire working relationship of its kind and MAFF declared the area as a special site for biodiversity protection. During this time, government presence increased especially through the FA and banditry and lawlessness all but disappeared (though WCS cannot

claim to have solved this). No more roads were built within the project area, hunting levels dropped significantly in most areas, and the timber resources so coveted by many sectors were maintained. There are few, if any, areas in the country that can boast similar results.

Staffing continues to increase in both size, scope, and efficiency thanks in part to the STF-funded project. The Project Manager has continued to improve skills of management and coordination and, although much progress still has to be made, has shown exceptional political skills needed to cope with some highly sensitive situations. His teams, predominantly selected by himself, have shown both aptitude and commitment. Patrolling and law enforcement were the major focus of early activities along with research to inform future interventions, and now four patrol teams operate full-time.

While the project has already produced visible achievement (arrests, trap removals, timber confiscations, Ministerial decree etc.) it is the laying of the foundations of the long-term conservation program that may be the most significant accomplishment. The Project Manager has established the project as a visible political and physical entity both within the province and with the MAFF. The project has been tested at a number of levels and the resulting support received from the Cambodian Government and the international community has publicly reaffirmed its growing status. This status is vital if we are to avoid conflict at the site-level by deterring would-be illegal operators, especially those from the provincial and military authorities.

The STF project has played a simple but important role in improving conservation for this area of international importance for tigers, their prey, and other globally threatened wildlife species.

## APPENDIX 1: HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

- 1999** - WCS signs joint MoU with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and Ministry of Environment (MoE) to support conservation activities in Cambodia.
- 2000** - Under a joint program with the Department of Forestry and Wildlife (DFW), and the concessionaire Samling International, WCS and DFW staff begin the first biological surveys of the area.  
- Based on the initial results of the first surveys Samling implements a complete ban on staff consuming, hunting or trading wildlife, and other conservation measures.
- 2001** - The first report on the importance of the concession for globally threatened biodiversity is published (Walston *et al.* 2001).  
- WCS, DFW and Samling initiate a program of wildlife conservation within the concession area, the first of its kind in Indochina.  
- An international workshop is held bringing together for the first time governmental, NGO and private sector stakeholders from Cambodia and Malaysia to discuss the initiative.  
- The DFW endorses the concept by providing support to WCS to assist in revising national biodiversity in concession guidelines based on the southern Mondulkiri model.  
- A field office is established at Keo Seima forest station.  
- Detailed studies of key threatened species, e.g. tiger and Yellow-cheeked Gibbon are initiated.  
- Socio-economic surveys begin, focusing on the ethnic Phnong minority of the core area.
- 2002** - Previous study indicates resin-tapping of Dipterocarps is single most important income-generating activity for Phnong. Detailed study of this activity is completed and published (Evans *et al.* 2002).  
- Patrol teams are created to increase law enforcement in the area. Main tasks to tackle include illegal hunting, logging and land encroachment.  
- The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (His Excellency Chan Sarun) and the Director of DFW (Mr. Ty Sokhun) visit the site along with other senior government officials and give strong public support for the initiative.  
- The Wildlife monitoring protocol is designed and tested.  
- Forest structure surveys are initiated.  
- A Ministerial Decree is passed to strengthen management protection  
- WCS invests more by supporting further DFW and local staff and increasing patrolling efforts.
- 2003** - WPO/CAT Community-based Wildlife Conservation Project integrates with Seima project in two districts to enhance mutual efforts.  
- STF supports the project infrastructure by funding new field stations and equipping staff.  
- The livelihoods research report is completed.  
- The U.S. Ambassador visits the project to see its achievements.  
- The Wildlife Monitoring report is completed and indicates statistical increases in wildlife populations in some parts of the core area.
- 2004** - The new FA and WCS start to plan for a five-year program of conservation.

## APPENDIX 2: JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROJECT

WCS believes every conservation project needs to justify why it needs support and why it deserves the government's attention and endorsement.

**Biological importance:** Southern Mondulkiri is a site of global significance for biodiversity conservation, maintaining a host of endangered species in populations larger than almost anywhere else in Indochina. It maintains potentially the world's largest population of the yellow-cheeked gibbon, green peafowl, black-shanked douc langur and orange-necked partridge. More globally threatened mammal and bird species are present in southern Mondulkiri than any other single site in the country. The critically endangered giant ibis and white-rumped vulture, the endangered tiger, banteng, elongated tortoise, white-winged duck and Asian elephant, and many vulnerable species including dhole, eastern sarus crane, marbled cat, clouded leopard, Asiatic black bear, and pygmy loris all inhabit the area. There are more bird species in the Keo Seima District than there are in the whole of the central Cardamom Mountains. Cambodia's only population of the Endangered Orange-necked Partridge is restricted to southern Mondulkiri. The forests are some of the most complex in South East Asia and exhibit a mosaic of formations, mixing grasslands with deciduous dipterocarp 'open' forests, grading to dense hill evergreen on the slopes of the Sen Monorom Plateau. The site is within the Indomalayan Hotspot (Conservation International's priority areas) and the WWF Indochinese Ecoregion (Z9 and Z10) where it is assigned its highest priority.

**Socio-economic importance:** Mondulkiri is one of the most remote and least developed provinces. With only about 40,000 people inhabiting the entire Province and only a single major road connecting it with the rest of the country, the population of Mondulkiri relies almost entirely on subsistence agriculture and forest products, mainly timber and wildlife. The timber industry is the single largest commercial activity in the area and is defining the political and social landscape of southern Mondulkiri, for better and for worse. Wild-caught fish and game remain the staple of most people's protein intake, especially for the Phnong ethnic group that inhabits much of the Province's interior. These resources are now under severe threat (see below). Official government data and those from field-based research are almost entirely lacking and WCS is one of the first groups to have ever worked closely with the communities of the area and are now helping the Phnong to stabilize and improve their livelihoods while reducing pressure on the forests.

**Threats to the area:** The threats to the biodiversity of southern Mondulkiri are relatively new. The southern Mondulkiri site itself has traditionally been inhabited by the Phnong ethnic group who have subsisted off shifting agriculture, hunting and limited trade. With the onset of commercial logging new roads and financial incentives brought in populations of people from outside the area and the industrialization of many activities that had previously been undertaken at much lower levels of intensity. The pressures that threaten the area are acute, but not insurmountable. They can be defined as:

- **Forest Crime.** A lack of management and administrative capacity at the local level restricts the ability to reduce illegal commercial logging, hunting, and other extraction activities.

- **Land Clearance.** Much of the clearance is land-grabbing being undertaken by outsiders, not established communities, resulting in peripheral areas being destroyed and adding pressure to the core area.
- **Hunting.** Unsustainable hunting for commercial profit has recently grown as roads open-up previously remote areas and international markets become more accessible.

However, WCS believes that these threats, with support for the project, can be overcome in the next few years.

## APPENDIX 3: INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

The project is an initiative of the Forest Administration (FA) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Cambodia Program, operating under the overall management of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).

### **NGO Relationship with Government**

Unique among conservation NGO's in Cambodia, WCS works under a five-year joint MoU with the two Ministries, MAFF and MoE, responsible for biodiversity conservation. Since then, WCS Cambodia has been dedicated to training government staff with the potential to become conservation leaders in a number of disciplines. Efforts have included in-country training courses, sponsorship for higher degrees overseas, and the opportunity to gain experience on other WCS Asia projects. The Cambodia program also provides assistance upon request to the government on a number of national policy and data reviews. WCS continues to work in support of the government.

### **International collaborators**

There are no other international conservation NGO's working at the project site, although the project does work with other INGO's working in the development sector (e.g. Nomad and CIDSE). At the provincial and national levels, WCS has a long-standing partnership with WWF who have been partners on four national-level projects over the past three years. WWF currently implements activities in the adjacent Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary and joint training activities have already occurred. Coordination of future activities is on-going.

### **National collaborators**

The project works closely with the FA's Community-based Conservation Project (supported by CAT and implemented by WPO), which is the most active of the on-going conservation efforts in the broader landscape. Collaboration with other national partners includes joint activities with the informal Phnong community networks, as well as with the Cambodian Development and Resource Institute (CDRI). With the latter, WCS is working on ways to support resin-tapping based on research into the importance of the industry undertaken in 2001 and the possible positive implications it could have for wildlife conservation. Other institutions include the Royal University, the Royal Agricultural University, *Mlup Baitong* (Green Shade) a local environmental awareness NGO, Youth for the Development of Cambodia (YDC), and Osmose, a wildlife-focused ecotourism initiative.

### **Other relationships**

With Mondulakiri being a remote province, some of the most important relationships are the ones developed with those who wield informal influence in the region. While this clearly includes members of local government, often the real power is held by local businessmen, concessionaires and military personnel. With a weak government base at the local level, it is important to both support and enhance this base while also working within the existing operating systems of the area.

#### APPENDIX 4: SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

The project is young, barely four years old, but already there is wide acknowledgement of both the intrinsic value of the area, the progress made thus far in such a short period of time, and the potential for long-term conservation success. The biological value of the area is unquestionable and the key question is its potential for genuine long-term conservation.

The low human population, the relative health of many wildlife populations, the limited scale of the threats, and the relatively low pressure on land-use found in southern Mondulkiri, are found in few other sites in the region. All contribute to the ability of the area to sustain sizeable large-mammal and bird communities in perpetuity, making southern Mondulkiri an essential investment for long-term conservation effort. While threats persist and are sometimes acute, many of them relate to a lack of management capacity and law enforcement, both of which are possible to change in a relatively short space of time given sufficient support.

This initiative has already received high profile and strong support from the RGC, culminating recently with a site visit by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Director of the FA, the U.S. Ambassador and a number of senior government officials, as well as the drafting of a Ministerial declaration to support the initiative. This swift development of the area for conservation is due to the strength of the justification given by WCS, supported by clear field data informing a comprehensive and inclusive strategy. In just over three years, the program has achieved the following:

##### DESCRIPTION OF ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES/PROGRESS DURING THE PROJECT:

- *Maintenance of project office and staffing.* Currently 37 staff are based full-time in Keo Seima working on a range of activities.
- *Local Relations.* The project has continued to work hard at maintaining its networks of communication and reporting throughout local and provincial government.
- *FA Restructuring* The main government partner, formerly DFW, has restructured itself as the Forestry Administration, FA. Project government staff have been active in clarifying their roles and responsibilities in this new framework.
- *Government Support.* Ministerial support remains strong. Commitment in principle has been received from MAFF for the establishment of a unitary management authority, refining the FA structure to enable more effective management of the conservation area.
- *International Support.* The project continues to be seen as a high profile example of positive NGO/government engagement and a test case for new management models in ex-concession forests (which now form a large part of the forest estate). High profile attention includes visits by the American and British Ambassadors, various donors and the World Bank.
- *Project document.* A document was developed detailing the scope, aim, objectives, activities of each project within the project.
- *Law Enforcement.* The established security teams have continued their patrols to counter illegal logging, hunting and land clearance. This component had to

be rapidly strengthened as the withdrawal of the concessionaire and its security staff was accelerated.

- *Land-Use Planning.* Working with MLMUPC, the project has proceeded well with participatory process of land-use planning (PLUP), the first time this has been attempted anywhere in the province. This will demarcate boundaries to prevent land-encroachment by non-locals, increase land security for the indigenous groups within the area and establish clear, monitored harvest regimes for key forest products.
- *Communal land-titling* The PLUP work has also been selected as a national pilot site (one of only three) for developing enabling legislation to provide communal title to indigenous communities for their agricultural lands. This will limit future land sales to outsiders whilst giving the villages security to manage their lands in the long term.
- *NTFP Research.* Completion of a pilot study into the livelihoods of the Phnong, focussing on sources of protein and the role of wildlife in consumption patterns. Initiation of a major follow-up study into the ecology and management of stream fisheries, linking into the land use planning process (see above).
- *Natural resource economics.* Collaboration with the Cambodia Development Research Institute on an economic study of management options for high value forest, including studies of timber potential and non-timber forest product abundance.
- *Monitoring.* A detailed monitoring program has been developed and initiated, both to detect trends in resource levels and illegal actions as well as to measure the success of the project activities.

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