

Darwin Initiative Main Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Writing a Darwin/IWT Report” Information Note:
(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms-change-request-forms-and-terms-and-conditions/>).

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2021

Darwin Project Information

Project reference	27-005
Project title	Organic livelihoods conserving Cambodia’s big five
Country	Cambodia
Lead organisation	Birdlife International Cambodia Programme
Partner institution(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Department of Environment (DoE) Stung Treng and Ratanakiri provinces, Ministry of Environment 2) Sansom Mlup Prey (SMP) 3) IBIS Rice Conservation Co., Ltd 4) Department of Land Management (DoL), Stung Treng and Ratanakiri provinces 5) Seven Villages Forums around Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary 6) O Rey and O’ Koki Community Protected Areas, and Veal Kambor Community Protected Area at Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary
Darwin grant value	£ 289,000
Start/end dates of project	01/04/2020 - 31/03/2023
Reporting period	01/04/2020 - 31/03/2021, First Annual Report
Project Leader name	Jonathan C. Eames
Project website/blog/social media	N/A
Report author(s) and date	Mak Sopheap and Bou Vorsak, 20 April 2021

1. Project summary

This project will enable 2,750 rural people to improve food security via an organic rice scheme at nine villages surrounding two globally irreplaceable protected areas in Cambodia; seven at Siem Pang and two at Lomphat wildlife sanctuaries. The project will work closely with local authorities and communities to support farmers and reduce illegal activities and establish two additional Community Protected Areas within the two sanctuaries, allowing for stable populations of Cambodia’s Big Five Critically Endangered bird species.

Siem Pang (SPWS) and Lomphat (LWS) wildlife sanctuaries in Cambodia (Figures 1 and 2) are irreplaceable, supporting globally significant populations of five Critically Endangered bird species, and 15 IUCN listed mammal species, which are at risk of extinction from local

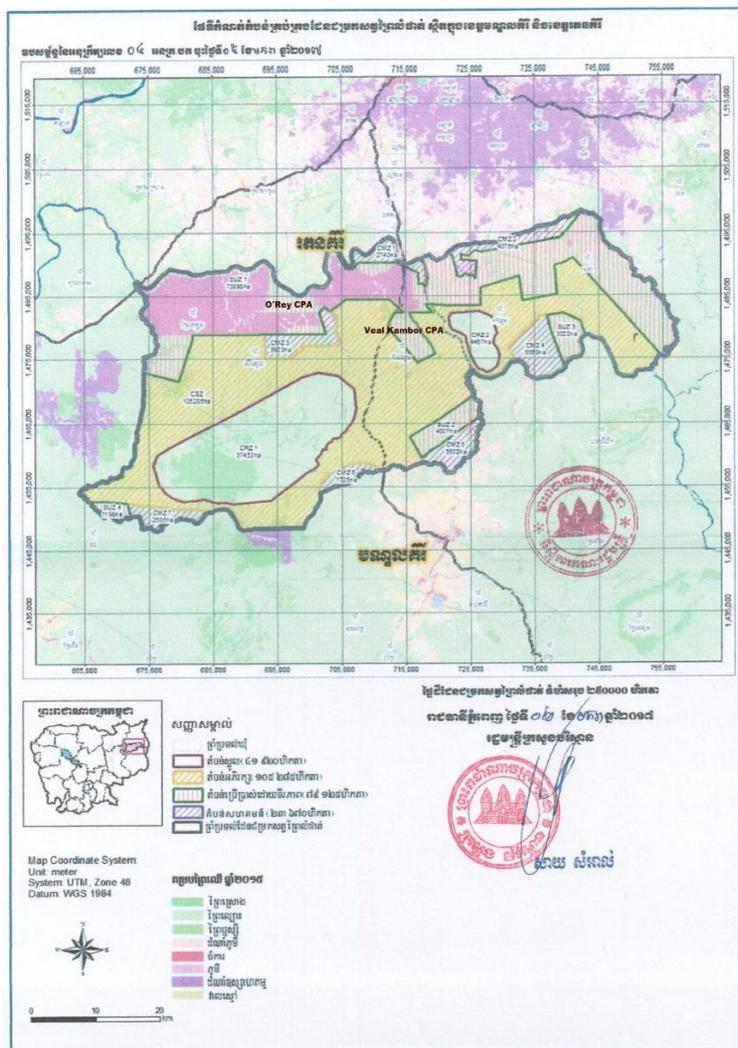


Figure 2: Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary Zonation map

2. Project partnerships

The main Darwin project partners are BirdLife International, Stung Treng and Ratanakiri Departments of Environment (DoE), Sansom Mlup Prey (SMP), IBIS Rice Conservation Co., Ltd, and the Departments of Land Management (DoL) of Stung Treng and Ratanakiri provinces.

The **DoEs**, BirdLife and Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd continue to work hand in hand for the conservation of the Sanctuaries working together on law enforcement and awareness raising initiatives. Working with the DoE, BirdLife have played a central role in developing approved zonation plans for both sanctuaries, and in supporting the IBIS Rice initiative which is now established in nine villages surrounding SPWS and LWS. Within and beyond the timeframe of this Darwin project, the DoE staff continue to support protected area management with local authorities via Stakeholder Forums, by providing staff to attend meetings, providing awareness raising and technical support. Thus, contributing to the project legacy.

Sansom Mlup Prey (SMP) is a Cambodian NGO that has worked with farmers living in and around protected areas to reduce poverty in ways that are consistent with biodiversity conservation since 2009. SMP and BirdLife collaborated on an earlier Darwin project successfully supporting 2,650 rural people in producing wildlife-friendly IBIS Rice and achieving organic certification for the households in SPWS. With IBIS Rice, households were able to generate 51% additional income compared to conventionally grown rice varieties. SMP has collaborated with BirdLife to provide further technical support in expanding the IBIS Rice scheme to three additional villages at SPWS and another two at LWS. Under this new Darwin project, SMP will develop the capacities of farmers via agricultural extension training and coach them in abiding by the rules of the compliance system.

At the four villages at SPWS where BirdLife and SMP worked under the previous Darwin project, the delinquent rate was less than 5%.

IBIS Rice Conservation Co., Ltd (IRCC) is an ambitious, not-for-profit conservation enterprise working with Cambodian farmers to produce world-class, organic jasmine rice. During Year 1, IRCC provided BirdLife on market access and provided seeds to farmers.

Once farmers comply with the conservation agreements and achieve organic rice certification, IRCC purchases the rice at a premium price. Households in the scheme received significantly elevated rice price. Depending on rice prices, adding a 50-60% premium. At SPWS, a total 357 metric tonnes of IBIS Rice were sold during 2020. Demonstrating such significant financial benefits encouraged other villages to join. Participation increases family wealth more quickly (equivalent to a family member in full time employment/ owning a hand-tractor) and households are four times less likely to cut forest. In this new Darwin project at LWS, SMP will develop an implementation plan prior to piloting IBIS Rice at two villages. SMP used year 1 of the pilot to adapt the principles of IBIS Rice to LWS as necessary.

The Department of Land Management (DoL) of Stung Treng and Ratanakiri provinces

The Department of Land Management of Stung Treng Province has been collaborating with BirdLife since 2016 to map household rice fields. The rice field map enables the IBIS Rice scheme team to monitor changes to the extent of the rice fields and determine whether there has been encroachment. This is an essential prerequisite for joining IBIS Rice. As a result, from 2016 to 2020, 1,130 rice field parcels for 838 households from nine villages of Khes Svay, Khes Kroam, Pong Kriel, Nhang Sum, Pha Bang, Lakay, Kham Phouk, Peam Khes and Sre Rusey, surrounding SPWS, were mapped and registered at provincial level. Since in rural Cambodia few households hold land title, participating households are provided with a copy of the approved map, which serves as a “soft land title.” The original is archived by the DoL at their provincial office in Stung Treng. Over the last year of this new Darwin Initiative project the DoL and BirdLife mapped an additional 146 new households in the seven villages in Siem Pang District now within the IBIS Rice scheme. At LWS, with the support of Ratanakiri DoL, 68 households at the two participating villages have registered to map their land.

O Rey and O’Koki Community Protected Areas, and Veal Kambor Community Protected Area (CPA) at LWS were established under a previous project. These were officially registered and have signed 15-year agreements with the Ministry of Environment to co-manage an area of 5,662 ha within LWS for sustainable use and biodiversity protection. The CPAs have boards elected from the villages. The CPA boards are responsible for developing and approving land-use plans for the CPAs. They are responsible for allocating villagers to implement the CPA land-use plans. Under this new Darwin project, another new CPA committee, called O Koki CPA, was created and progress reported in this report. These CPA committees provided support and engaged in the development and implementation of a feasibility study for IBIS Rice replication. They motivated members of the first two villages to pilot the wildlife friendly rice, and motivated more local communities and CPA members on sanctuary protection.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Project start-up

The project started on 1 April 2020, although the Darwin Initiative only approved the project for funding in May 2020. Project start was not delayed however, because BirdLife used co-financing to implement project activities from April 2020. In 2020 Cambodian lockdown restrictions were short and only restricted holding district and village meetings for a short period of time. In 2021 COVID-19 has become more serious and currently more stringent restrictions are in place. This report therefore covers the period from 1 April to 31st March 2021.

Recruitment of staff

Most project staff were already on board by 1 April 2020 because BirdLife has long-standing presence at both sites. The GIS Data Management Officer at SPWS, Chea Sophea, resigned in September 2020 and he was replaced by Hai Bunleng, who has an MSc in Enterprise Management from Beijing Forestry University in China. At LWS, the terms of reference (ToR) for project staff were revised to enable them to begin IBIS Rice activities in two villages.

Project partners meetings

A meeting was held with SMP in April 2020 to develop a work plan and timetable for implementing the IBIS Rice scheme at the seven villages surrounding SPWS and two villages at LWS. The IBIS Rice sub-grants with SMP for seven villages in SPWS was signed in April 2020. A meeting was held with SMP to finalize the ToR and budget to replicate IBIS Rice at LWS, and a sub-grant contract signed in October 2020. Two meetings were held with the DoL of Stung Treng Province in April and July 2020 to discuss and report on the progress with rice field land mapping. Meetings with village chiefs at SPWS were conducted separately in April to introduce the project and recruit new members to join the IBIS Rice scheme. Three quarterly Stakeholder Forum meetings were conducted in June, September and December at Siem Pang District Hall to introduce the project, review the progress with the IBIS Rice scheme, and to raise and seek solutions to any issues raised. The BirdLife LWS project team visited SPWS in September to learn about implementation of the IBIS Rice scheme.

Project monitoring, review and reporting

Monthly progress reports were prepared and are available upon request. The project monitoring and evaluation framework is being developed and integrated with the previous project monitoring and evaluation framework. This will be reported on further in the net report.

Outputs 1: *The IBIS Rice scheme will be expanded to an additional 2,250 rural people (50% women)*

Activity 1.1 Establish M & E framework and baseline surveys for rice production, rice sales, financial literacy and land certification and compliance of all new participants at start of project

The M&E framework from the previous Darwin project 03-010 is being used and adapted for this new project. A monitoring workflow has also been established. Baseline data on rice production and sales from 2017 to 2020 is available to guide this. The New Villages Assessment Report 2019 and the Rice Production Assessment report Siem Pang 2016, also form part of the baseline. The IBIS Rice summary report for 2020 was produced (Annex 6). The pre-test and post-test for financial management literacy trainings was also established (Annex 7).

Activity 1.2. Sales of Ibis Rice are made at a minimum 10% premium price at SPWS and LWS

At SPWS, the IBIS Rice scheme has now been expanded to seven villages. In September 2020, 640 households from Khes Svay, Khes Kraom, Pong Kriel, Kham Phouk, Pha Bang, Lakay and Nhang Sum villages registered with the scheme and signed the conservation agreement contract (Annex 8) which commits them to halting illegal activities (no encroachment, no logging and no hunting within SPWS). As a result, in 2020, 530 households grew IBIS Rice (Annex 9) and achieved organic Certification from ECOCERT in November (Annex 10). Subsequently, 441 households sold 357,545 Kg of Ibis Rice to SMP at a 51% premium price which generated in total a cash income of US\$ 148,596 for participating households or US\$ 337 per household (Annex 11). This is cash income that would have not been otherwise generated. More most households it is likely to have been the only cash income they received during the year.

IBIS Rice was not grown at LWS during Year 1 as only laying the foundations for its future production were planned and undertaken. See Activity 1.6 below for actions being undertaken to establish IBIS Rice at LWS.

Activity 1.3 Rice field mapping and registration for 260 households with the Department of Land Management (SPWS & LWS)

In Year 1 of the project a total of 327 land parcels belonging to 214 households were mapped and registered. At SPWS, we mapped 164 land parcels belonging to 146 households. The land certificates were endorsed by the DoL and the local authority and were provided to households.

A rice field map database was maintained and shapefiles were developed and managed by the BirdLife compliance officer (Annex 12 and 13). Additional households will be registered in Years 2 and 3 as the project progresses.

At LWS the rice field mapping and registration committee was established and data collection at Sre Chrey and Srepok Thom villages occurred. A total of 107 households agreed to register their land (Table 1), and during the reporting period 68 households had 163 land parcels mapped. The land registration certificates will be provided in the first quarter of Year 2.

Village	Registered household	Contracted Farmers (HH)	Residential		Rice field		Crop plantation		Total of parcels	Total area (ha)
			Parcel	ha	Parcel	ha	Parcel	ha		
Srepok Thom	76	37	33	4.73	44	104.77	14	25.13	91	134.63
Sre Chrey	31	31	26	11.24	37	123.44	9	16.88	72	151.66
Total	107	68	59	15.97	81	228.21	23	42.01	163	286.29

Table 1: Rice field registration at LWS

Activity 1.4 Quarterly Village Forum meetings

At SPWS, seven Village Forums at seven villages were strengthened and held regular quarterly meetings. The forums discussed the villagers concerns and solutions. During the reporting period, we conducted three quarterly village forum meetings in June, September, and December 2020. Minutes of each meeting were produced (Annex 14).

In May at LWS we held a district forum at Lomphat District hall with 53 participants to inform villagers and local government about protected areas law and discussed land encroachment issues along the Srepok River. In February 2021, O Koki CPA management committee conducted a quarterly meeting attended by the Sre Angkrong Commune council chief, village chiefs, totalling 19 participants including 4 women. The meeting aimed to strengthen community committee capacity, built the relationship with local authorities, shared and reported the results of CPA committee quarterly patrolling and biodiversity monitoring, and informed about challenges and requests for intervention (Annex 15).

In January 2021 we created two Village Marketing Network (VMN) committees in the two new pilot villages to support IBIS Rice implementation and compliance at LWS. The VMN committees are responsible promoting IBIS Rice, assisting in rice field mapping, gathering members for meetings, distributing rice seed, recording farm diaries, conducting internal inspections of IBIS Rice, attending compliance meetings, raising issues, and updating progress. The VMNs attended the regular quarterly CPA meetings and district forum meetings.

Activity 1.5 Financial literacy skills training sessions

A training on basic financial management literacy was conducted in October and November 2020 in six villages at SPWS with 307 participants (156 females). As the result, 20% passed the pre-test, but following training, 75% of participants passed the test (Annex 7). This activity will be held at the participating villages at LWS only once they start to produce IBIS Rice.

Activity 1.6 Select two villages in LWS and pilot IBIS Rice scheme at LWS

BirdLife signed a sub-grant agreement with SMP to implement the IBIS Rice scheme. In March 2020 we assessed three villages and two were selected for Ibis Rice pilot implementation based on their proximity to LWS and because their rice fields are within then Sustainable-use zone (see Annex 16 for the detailed assessment). In November 2020, two meetings were held at Srepok Thom and Sre Chrey villages to discuss the IBIS Rice scheme, the challenges for rice production, pre- and post-harvest, and market supply chain. The benefits of the IBIS Rice scheme were introduced and people encouraged to join the scheme. A total of 29 villagers (ten women) joined the scheme, the low number reflecting COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time on public assembly. Participants included village chiefs, CPA committee members and village elders. In January, 2021, BirdLife and SMP conducted another two separate meetings. The first meeting attended by 98 participants including 53 women, informed villagers and promoted the IBIS Rice scheme and recruited new members. The second meeting attended by 91 participants including 52 women, selected the members of the VMN committee. During the

meeting 44 additional households from Srepok Thom village and 10 additional households from Sre Chrey village registered for the scheme. A total of 68 households have now registered for the IBIS Rice scheme (Table 2).

Village	Total village household (HH)	Cooperated farmers (HH)	Signed IBIS Rice farmer contract (HH)	Estimate land area (ha)	Project beneficiary/ female
Srepok Thom	376	76 (20%)	37 (10%)	119	214/110
Sre Chrey	200	31 (15%)	31 (15%)	29.5	150/54
Total:	576	107	68 (12%)	148.5	364/164

HH= household

Table 2: Households registered for IBIS Rice at LWS in 2020

Output 2: Two Community Protected Areas (CPAs) are established (one at SPWS and one at LWS).

Activity 2.1. Establishing M & E framework and baseline for newly established Community Protected Areas, including numbers of participating villagers, access to ecosystems services, compliance and forest cover within CPA

This was not completed during the reporting period. The activity is scheduled for completion the first quarter of Year 2.

Activity 2.2. Establishment of Community Protected Area working groups at SPWS and LWS

This was not completed *per se* because existing structures in the form of a village forum at Kam Phouk village and a CPA management committee already exist at O’Koki. At Kam Phouk as work progresses, we may change or modify the working structure. At LWS, since O’Koki CPA was established and approved by the Ministry of Environment in 2015, but had not been functioning for over two years, we have reviewed and strengthened the committee and CPA structure. We recruited a new management committee in August 2020 following five meetings organized at village and commune level.

Activity 2.3 Participatory assessment and consultation with relevant communities at SPWS and LWS

In July 2020 a prime ministerial decree initiated a nationwide review of land claims in all protected areas (see Annex 17 for the detailed land claims in Khmer and the link <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50741306/land-in-protected-areas-to-be-gifted-to-long-term-occupants/>, and the link <https://cambodianewsservice.com/some-plots-of-land-in-protected-areas-to-be-cut-for-local-people/> for a brief English summary.

Community Protected Areas may only be established in Sustainable-use Zones of protected areas. Our IBIS Rice database reveals that at SPWS there are 121 land parcels in this zone, the future of which is uncertain. The government may choose to exclude these areas from the protected area by re-drawing the boundary, or it may decide to grant title or user rights to the relevant households, or it may decide to give all the Sustainable-use Zone over to village land. To be part of the process BirdLife has joined the Siem Pang District working group to review land claims. Only BirdLife has the GIS capacity and land holdings data base to permit such a review. However, it is important to note the following: The process appears open-ended and astonishingly no guidelines have been issued by the Ministry of Environment. The process differs from province to province and certainly in the case of Koh Khong Province, the army has taken the opportunity to try and grab 200,000 ha of protect forest lands. Thus, the capacity and integrity of the government as well as its motives in wishing to undertake the exercise must be questioned. The outcome at SPWS is therefore far from clear.

However, the MoE has now decided to proceed with demarcation of the SPWS boundary and our project staff participated in an MoE led mission in February 2021. BirdLife believes that boundary demarcation is a priority and we have an interest in a resolution of the issue.

To mitigate the possible impacts of these developments we were counselled that developing a formal CPA might be unwise. To keep to the project activities and timeframe we opted to develop a CPA in its broadest sense– a *de facto* community protected area but without formal designation.

Kam Pouk is the only village within the SPWS boundary. It has an extensive Sustainable-Use Zone which includes part of the O’Khampa river which is used for fishing. Via our village forum we consulted villagers about their preferred livelihood improvements (in addition to IBIS Rice) and we have agreed to establish a community managed fish no-take zone on the O’Khampa river, compensated by the provision of one large fish pond and three wells and the provision of fisheries extension training to participating households. During the reporting period we restored one large fish pond at Kham Pouk. Additionally, three bore wells were also dug to provide water to the fish ponds. The well pumps will be solar powered.

BirdLife cooperated with the CPA Office of Ratanakiri Provincial Department of Environment (DoE) to consult the O’Koki CPA committee based on Ministry of Environment guidelines. Finally, 11 candidates including four women were elected to be a new CPA management committee elected from three villages (Phumi 1, Phumi 2 and Phumi 3 of Sre Angkrong commune).

No	Topic	CPA	Date	#. Attendee/fe male	Place	Facilitated by	Organizer/ support
1	Consultation meeting on CPA management recruitment	O’koki	4/08/20	18/02	Sre Angkrong Commune	DoE	BirdLife
2	Election new committee village level	O’koki	7/08/20	42/20	Phumi 1	DoE	BirdLife
3	Election new committee village level	O’koki	8/08/20	35/05	Phumi 2	DoE	BirdLife
4	Election new committee village level	O’koki	10/08/20	24/06	Phumi 3	DoE	BirdLife
5	Final CPA management committee meeting at commune level	O’koki	11/08/20	24/07	Sre Angkrong Commune	DoE	BirdLife

Table 3: CPA management recruitment and consultation meetings at LWS

Activity 2.4 CPA establishment application

For reasons given above no formal CPA establishment is planned at SPWS and the O’Koki CPA is already endorsed by government.

Activity 2.5 Develop by-laws and organizing of CPA structure

This is scheduled for completion during the first quarter of Year 2 at SPWS.

The new by-laws and structure of O’Koki CPA was approved by Ratanakiri DoE Director in December 2020 (Annex 18).

Activity 2.8 Baseline data collection and monitoring and evaluation of natural resource use and forest cover within the new CPAs at SPWS and LWS

At SPWS data was collected monthly on natural resource use in the form of monitoring five Critically Endangered bird species and one Endangered mammal species. This is presented in monthly biodiversity reports. Forest cover change is monitored annually.

At LWS, BirdLife supported the O’Koki CPA committee to monitor key species of birds and mammal and habitat. At least two patrols were conducted per month. Each patrol comprised four to six CPA committee members including women.

Output 3: Village Forums, with local authority support IBIS Rice and CPA initiatives and commit to SPWS and LWS protection.

Activity 3.1 Establish M & E framework and baseline surveys for numbers of village forums established and effective, awareness raising amongst village beneficiaries, compliance and forest cover within SPWS and LWS

An M & E framework for this output has not yet been developed. It will be developed in the first quarter of Year 2. At SPWS we monitor local authority attendance at village forums by number of attendees, gender, and whether they hold a position of authority in the government. The compliance unit monitors and reports any household infringing the conservation agreements. The forest cover change reports from 2016 to 2019 at SPWS and for LWS from, 2020 onwards, give a measure of government support for protected areas.

Activity 3.2 Village Forum declarations made by newly established Village Forums

At SPWS, there are now a total of seven Village Forums, one in each of the participating villages. Four of these were established under the previous Darwin project and the declaration of three more was completed at Kam Pouk, La Kay and Pha Bang villages during the reporting period. In the reporting period we strengthened the capacity of members, reviewed the management structures, by-laws, and monitored the quarterly meetings.

At LWS, the new O’Koki CPA management committee replaces the village forum.

Activity 3.3 Village Forum Conservation Agreements Signed

At SPWS the heads of the seven Village Forums have signed the conservation agreements. During the reporting period we ensured the quarterly meetings were conducted following the agreement.

At LWS, Sre Angkrong commune chief issued a decree in August 2020 to recognize the new O’Koki CPA management committee and instructed them to discharge their duties as stated in CPA by-laws. In September 2020, with facilitation of DoE, the O’Koki CPA management amended their by-laws to fit with new management structure. The new by-laws were endorsed by the district governor, and Ratanakiri DoE issued the decree for O’Koki CPA committee to manage their CPA.

Activity 3.4 Quarterly Village Forum meetings at commune/district level

At SPWS, three Village Forum meetings were conducted in Preak Meas and Thmor Keo communes in May, August, and November 2020. All village chiefs and commune chiefs gathered to discuss issues and challenges across livelihoods, conservation, and illegal activities in the wildlife sanctuary. The results of the meetings were shared in the district stakeholder forums (Annex 19).

Four district Stakeholder Forum meetings, chaired by the Provincial Deputy Governor were conducted in June, September, December 2020, and February 2021 at Siem Pang District Hall. Each meeting had 25 to 30 participants representing each of the seven villages and other relevant stakeholders including all village chiefs, two commune chiefs, district governor, DoE officers, local police and district military. The purposes of the meetings were to strengthen relationships between key Siem Pang stakeholders by inviting them to attend regular quarterly meetings and exchange information about common issues and threats to SPWS.

In May, BirdLife organized a district forum at Lomphat District hall to inform villagers and local government about protected area law. This was attended by 53 people and chaired by the Lomphat District governor. The forum actively discussed land encroachment issues east of the Srepok River developed a plan for awareness raising.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions the LWS provincial stakeholder forum was not held during the reporting period. In February 2020 the O’Koki CPA committee conducted a quarterly meeting with commune authorities at Sre Angkrong commune hall.

Activity 3.5 Awareness raising on the importance of SPWS and LWS and the illegality of hunting/snaring conducted in nine villages by Village Forum committees

BirdLife raised the awareness on the importance of SPWS and LWS and the illegality of hunting/snaring through the seven village forums meetings and the district stakeholder forum meetings reported on above.

Activity 3.6 Awareness raising on the importance of SPWS and LWS and illegality of hunting/snaring/logging conducted in two CPAs

This issue was discussed at meetings held at Kam Phouk village and reported on above.

At LWS, this was done through IBIS Rice awareness raising meetings, CPA committee meetings with local authorities and district stakeholder meetings with various stakeholders. Signboards were developed and installed at strategic points to inform local communities about protected areas law. We also used social media platforms to inform about the negative impact of snaring and poisoning. See the following link: <https://fb.watch/4PBemQFufA/>, <https://www.facebook.com/833997846630199/posts/4280958805267402/>, and <https://www.facebook.com/833997846630199/posts/4212159745480642/>

Output 4: Stable populations of five Critically Endangered bird species and one mammal species (Eld’s deer) within SPWS and LWS

Activity 4.1 The five Critically Endangered bird species occurring at SPWS were monitored monthly.

The five Critically Endangered bird species occurring at SPWS and the two at LWS were monitored monthly by BirdLife Field Monitoring Teams. Monthly biodiversity reports and a 2020 annual report were produced for both wildlife sanctuaries (Annex 20 and 21).

Activity 4.2 Searching and monitoring nests of White shouldered Ibis in LWS and SPWS

At SPWS, nest searching and monitoring was conducted from November to April. In 2019-2020 we found 24 nests of White-shouldered Ibis and by March 2021 we had found 30 nests. (Annex 20 and 21). At LWS, we conducted nest searching and monitoring from December 2019 to May 2020 (2019-2020) and we found 10 nests. By March 2021, we had found 9 nests.

Activity 4.3 Searching and monitoring nests of Giant Ibis in LWS and SPWS

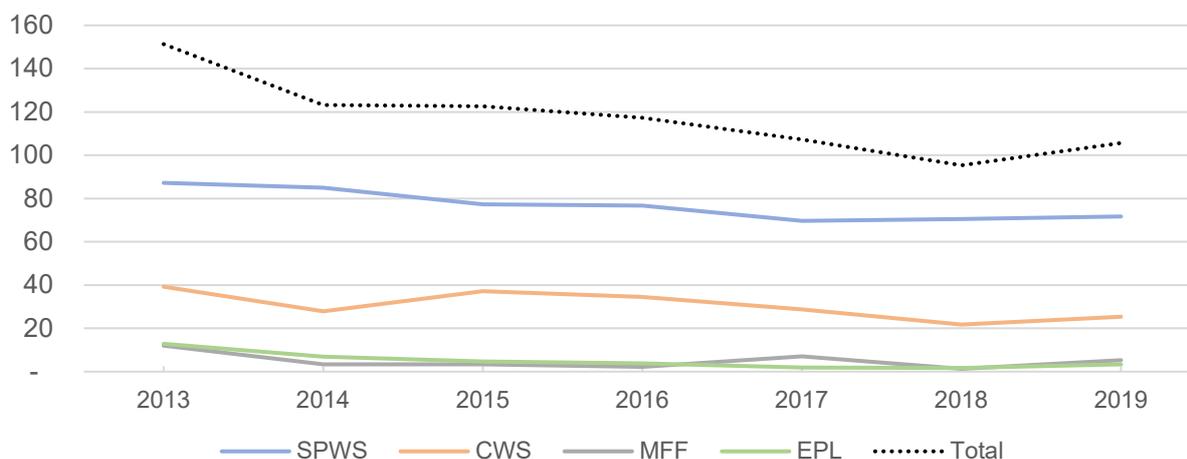
At SPWS we undertook nest searching from June to October 2020 and found 10 nests, similar to 2019 which 11 nests were counted. At LWS we conducted nest searching from June to November 2020 and found 8 nests. In 2019 we found 10 nests.

Activity 4.4 Searching and monitoring vulture nests at SPWS

At SPWS, we conducted vulture nest searching from November 2019 to July 2020 and again from November 2020. In the first period we found nine nests. To date in the 2020-2021 season we have found 9 nests already. At LWS, vultures have been extirpated before the project started, thus this activity is confined to SPWS.

Activity 4.5 Conducting monitoring of three vulture species at vulture restaurants at SPWS

From August 2020, we began weekly vulture restaurants, previously conducted fortnightly. Forty-eight vulture restaurants were held in 2020. The maximum vulture count at single restaurants in 2019 and 2020 was 97 individuals, The national vulture census for 2020 recorded 97 vultures compared to 72 recorded in 2019. The national trend and trend by site is shown in Figure 3. Annual vulture attendance by site confirms SPWS as the single most important site in Cambodia.



Source: Broadis, N & Ny, N. (2020) 'CVWG Annual Report 2019', Cambodia Vulture Working Group, BirdLife International Cambodia Programme, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Figure 3: The 2020 national vulture census

Activity 4.6 Conducting White-shouldered Ibis (WSI) roost census in LWS and SPWS (monthly and annual census)

At SPWS, Eight White-shouldered Ibis roost sites were counted, of which five were active, and three were not in use. We conducted counting in July, August, September and October 2020. The maximum count was 385 birds. The maximum count in 2019 was 344 individuals. The numbers showed an increase of 41 birds compared to the 2019 baseline but this is likely to be a function of counting accuracy rather than a change in status.

At LWS, we counted 13 roosts on the same day and date in 2020. The highest count was 12 birds. In 2019 the highest count was 25 birds. The count trend at LWS has shown a continuous decline (Figure 3). The reason for the decline is that since January 2011 the former Minister of Environment, Mok Mareth, granted 50,000 ha of forest habitat within the sustainable-use zone of LWS to Vietnamese and Chinese agribusiness companies as economic land concessions. These companies, including the notorious Hoang Anh Gia Lai, have now clear-felled this part of the sanctuary and planted it with first oil palm (which failed) and then fruit crops. Previously, this area held a significant proportion of the world population of White-shouldered ibis numbering several hundred birds. For example in October 2011, 187 White-shouldered Ibis were counted at roosts in LWS by BirdLife staff.

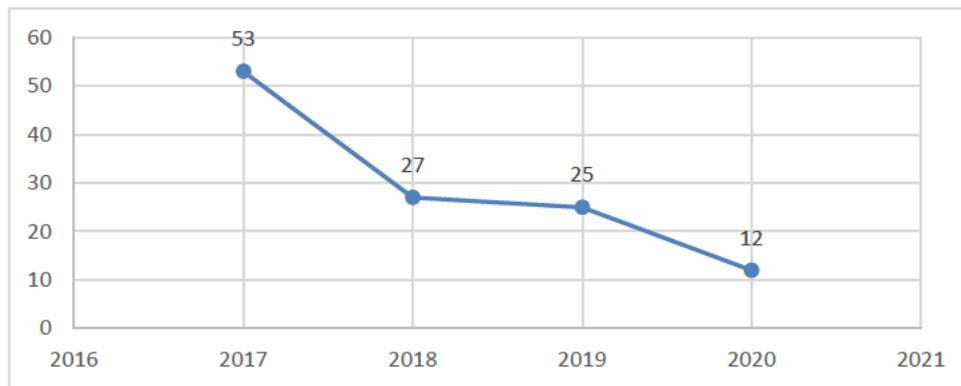


Figure 4: Annual White-shouldered Ibis roost count at LWS

Activity 4.8 Searching and monitoring Eld's deer in SPWS

The Eld's Deer rapid survey was undertaken in April 2020. The survey counted a minimum of 32 individuals compared with 10 in 2019 and 32 in 2018 (Figure 4). No trend is detectable.

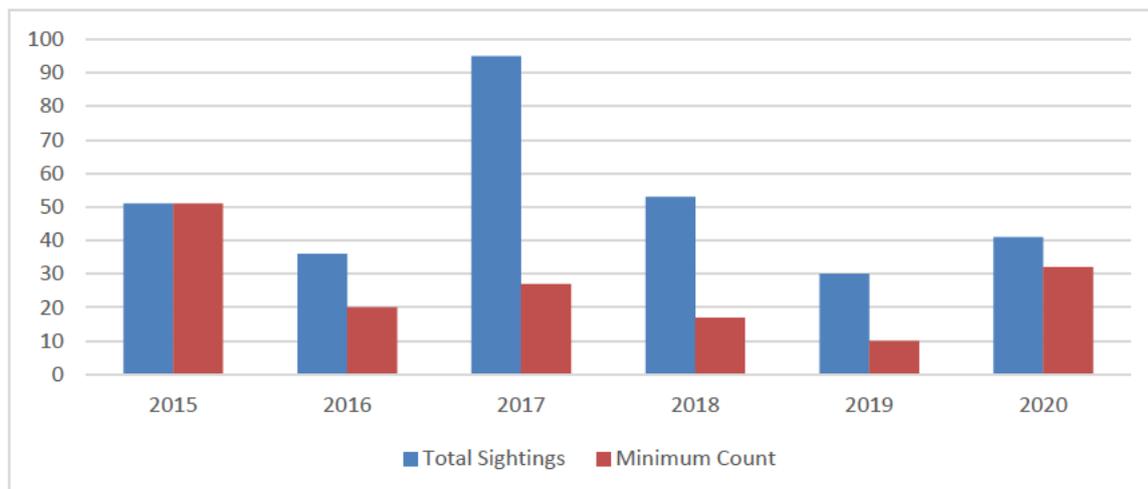


Figure 5: The total sightings and minimum count of Eld's deer during rapid vehicle surveys in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. Total sightings include repeated observations of the same individuals during the survey.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Outputs 1: *The IBIS Rice scheme will be expanded to an additional 2,250 rural people (50% women)*

Indicator 1.1

90% of participating farmers have gained a minimum 10% income premium on IBIS Rice sales by project end.

In 2020 at SPWS, the project was expanded to seven villages comprising Khes Svay, Khes Kraom, Pong Kriel, Nhang Sum, Kham Phouk, Pha Bang and Lakay at SPWS. 530 households participated and grew IBIS Rice successfully. A total of 441 households sold a total of 357,545 kg of rice to SMP at a 51% premium price and altogether these 441 households received a total income of \$ [REDACTED]. This result does not include the volume and value of rice which farmers kept for their own consumption for the year.

IBIS Rice was not produced at LWS during Year 1. It will be grown for the first time and reported upon in Year 2 of the project.

Indicator 1.2

Over 50% of participating farmers have obtained a provincially-recognized land certificate by the end of project.

In Year 1 of the project a total of 327 land parcels belongs to 214 households were mapped and registered and either have received (SPWS) or will receive (LWS) certificates. A total of 593 families sold IBIS Rice at SPWS or registered for it at LWS, which means that 19% of participating households have received provincially recognized land certificates. This means we are on target to meet 50% BEOP.

Indicator 1.3

90% of participating farmers have not broken the contract's rules within the project lifetime

In 2020 at SPWS only 5 (1%) of 530 households had violated the conservation agreement (Annex 22).

Indicator 1.4

90% of participants pass the financial literacy test BEOP

During Year 1 of the project, the trainings were extended to 307 rural people (156 females) in six villages at SPWS. 75% of the participants passed the test after the training.

Indicator 1.5

Establish pilot IBIS Rice schemes at two villages at LWS by the end of project

Two villages were selected to pilot the IBIS Rice scheme at LWS. The sub-contract to implement the IBIS Rice scheme with SMP was signed and 68 households signed the contracts to implement IBIS Rice.

Output 2:

Two Community Protected Areas are established/strengthened (one at SPWS and one at LWS)

Indicator 2.1

500 rural people at two villages (one at SPWS and one at LWS) have participated in the design and implementation of CPA management plans BEOP.

The management plans for the CPAs have not yet been developed. This is an activity for Year 2.

Indicator 2.2

Both CPAs (one in LWS and another one in SPWS) are gazetted by government BEOP

The CPA at O'Koki in LWS is already gazetted by government. We no longer propose to advance a formal CPA at SPWS for reasons already given but rather pursue an informal CPA.

Indicator 2.3

85% of participating households do not break the CPA rules within the new CPAs within the lifetime of the project

As CPA rules and conservation agreements were only put in place at LWS this year, this was not evaluated in Year 1, but will be evaluated in Year 2 of the project.

Indicator 2.4

Both CPAs support at least one of the five Critically Endangered bird species and BEOP

Not evaluated in Year 1 of the project. This will be reported in Year 2 of the project.

Output 3: *By March 2023, seven Village Forums in SPWS are strengthened and two Village Forums in LWS are established.*

Indicator 3.1

Five new Village Forums (3SPWS and 2LWS) reject illegal activities in their respective villages BEOP.

All members of the seven village forums at SPWS have signed the conservation agreements.

At LWS, one CPA committees and two VMNs function as Village Forums were established and have agreed to reject illegal activities.

Indicator 3.2

Seven Village Forums raise awareness amongst people from their villages on the importance of SPWS and LWS and the illegality of hunting/snaring BEOP.

In Year 1, capacity has been strengthened for seven village forums in SPWS. Awareness raising on the importance of wildlife sanctuaries and the illegality activities were raised through three quarterly Village Forum meetings and four Stakeholder Forum meetings at SPWS, and one quarterly CPA committee meeting and IBIS Rice meetings at LWS.

Output 4: *The five Critically Endangered bird species and one mammal species (Elds deer) within SPWS and LWS are regularly monitored and maintained.*

Indicator 4.1

The numbers of nests of White-shouldered Ibis, Giant Ibis and three vulture species remains stable compared to baseline at project start SPWS and LWS, during the project period.

The nest and roost data for White-shouldered, Giant Ibis and the three vulture species at SPWS in Year 1 of the project is comparable with the baseline and shows no discernible change. White-shouldered Ibis began a major decline due to destruction of habitat at LWS prior to the start of the project and the trend continues. Vultures are not monitored at LWS because they became extinct prior to the start of this project.

Indicator 4.2

The numbers of vultures recorded at the SPWS vulture restaurant remains stable compared to baseline, during the project period.

At SPWS, the maximum count of the three vulture species at the restaurant in 2020 was 97. And the maximum count in 2019 was also 97 birds. The numbers of vulture in SPWS during this reporting period is the same as the baseline.

Indicator 4.3

The numbers of White-shouldered Ibis recorded at communal roosts at SPWS and LWS remains stable compared to baseline, during the project period.

At SPWS, whilst fewer birds were recorded at roosts in 2020 compared to 2019, this may be a function of effort or errors in counting. However, the trend dating from before the baselines, shows a slight decline. The count trend at LWS showed a continuous decline.

Indicator 4.4

Giant and White-shouldered Ibis are recorded at both new CPAs.

Routine monitoring has not yet detected the presence of these species.

Indicator 4.5

Eld's deer population at SPWS remains stable compared to baseline at start of the project.

The Eld's Deer rapid survey undertaken in April 2020 counted a minimum of 32 individuals compared with 10 in 2019 and 32 in 2018. No trend is discernible from the data.

Indicator 4.6

National and international awareness raised of status of focal species at SPWS and LWS.

Not undertaken during Year 1 of the project. Scheduled for Year 2 of the project.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Outcome: *2,750 rural people achieve improved food security through wildlife friendly practices, and with the support of local authorities, commit to the sustainable use of SPWS and LWS increasing endemic biodiversity.*

Indicator 1

The IBIS Rice scheme will be expanded to an additional 2,250 rural people by March 2023. Comprising 1,000 additional rural people in the four villages at SPWS that are currently participating, 750 rural people at three new villages at SPWS and 500 rural people at two new villages at LWS.

In SPWS, in 2020 we expanded the IBIS Rice scheme from 1,545 people in four villages in 2019 to 3,029 people in seven villages. This comprised 986 additional rural people in the four villages that were already part of the scheme, and 498 rural people at three new villages at SPWS. At LWS 364 rural people joined the scheme. In Year 2 we expect to reach this target.

Indicator 2

Across nine villages (7 at SPWS and 2 at LWS) 2,250 rural people (1,750 at SPWS and 500 at LWS) will receive organic certification for their rice production.

In Year 1, the 3,029 rural people at seven villages at SPWS received organic certification for their rice production from ECOCERT. Thus the target has already been met. The IBIS Rice will be grown at the two participating LWS villages in 2021.

Indicator 3

By March 2023, 500 additional rural people (50% women) will have sustained access to ecosystem services from the establishment/strengthening of two CPAs and no longer engage in the illegal activities in SPWS and LWS.

This will be reported on in Years 2 and 3 of the project.

Indicator 4

By March 2023, the populations of five Critically Endangered bird species and one Endangered mammal species (Eld's deer) within SPWS and two bird species at LWS will remain stable compared to the project baseline.

Breeding data for Giant and White-shouldered Ibis, and the three vulture species at SPWS indicated no detectable change in Year 1 compared to the baseline. This pattern is also shown for Giant Ibis at LWS. The White-shouldered Ibis shows a continued decline at LWS. There is no detectable change in numbers of Eld's deer recorded during the annual survey conducted at SPWS.

Indicator 5

Forest cover inside SPWS and LWS does not decline by more than 2% over the lifetime of the project.

The forest cover change reported at SPWS in March 2021 was a 0.68% loss compared to the baseline (Annex 23). At the start of the project, the forest cover change was 0.61% for 2018-2019. The forest cover change of 2021 in LWS will be reported in the first quarter of Year 2.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Outcome level assumptions

Assumption 1: Government support and socio-economic conditions nationally remain favourable to implementation.

Comments: The Royal Government of Cambodia, through the Ministry of Environment and other agencies, has been supportive of project implementation during Year 1. Weak management and corruption amongst DoE staff at SPWS continue to be an issue hindering effective enforcement. Since 2016, when Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd assumed responsibility for supporting enforcement at SPWS, Rising Phoenix has invested in infrastructure, for example there are now three ranger stations, a protected area wide radio communications system, standard operating procedures have been introduced and a scout force recruited and trained.

Assumption 2: Rate of community compliance with conservation agreements remain high.

Comments: Only 5 of 530 households, 1% broke the terms of the conservation agreement, suggesting the majority remain committed to upholding them.

Assumption 3: Community compliance with conservation agreements reduces rate of habitat degradation.

Comments: During Year 1 of the project, the loss of the forest cover was only 0.68% at SPWS, and the number of non-compliant IBIS Rice members in 2020 was only 5 among 530 households (1%). Encroachment hotspots are around Khes Svay and Kam Phouk villages. We are addressing this via a plan to demarcate the protected area boundary adjacent to these villages. In addition, at Kam Phouk village we are providing aquaculture livelihood alternatives in the form of fish farming, and establishing a fish no-take zone on the O'Khampa River as part of our activities to support community protected area establishment.

Assumption 4: Land speculation outside the protected areas does not force villagers to clear land inside the protected areas.

Comments: There has been land grabbing and fencing at Khet Svay village and a number of poorer households have grabbed land within the Sustainable-use Zone. We fear this is a growing trend. The Siem Pang District authority have allocated land for development in the town with the aim of re-locating villagers who have grabbed land along the Sekong River within the wildlife sanctuary.

Assumption 5: Rates of inward migration to villages around the protected areas remains low.

Comments: No new inward migration to the villages around SPWS was recorded during Year 1.

Assumption 6: Rainfall patterns remain stable and there are no prolonged dry seasons caused by El Nino events.

Comments: The rainfall patterns in 2020 remained stable. The first heavy rain was on 17 April and the monsoon arrived on schedule during May. As a result, farmers got good harvest of rice paddy. This year 2021, is a La Nina year which means milder and wetter than average. The weather is not expected to adversely affect rice production.

Assumption 7: The premiums paid by IBIS Rice continue to make it profitable for villagers to participate in the scheme.

Comments: Previously IBIS Rice committed to a 10% premium price to farmers. In 2020 was increased to 51%.

Output level assumptions

Output 1:

Assumption 1.1: Villagers voluntarily report infringements.

Comment: The IBIS Rice VMNs supported project staff to conduct inspection on illegal activities among their members and two compliance meetings were conducted with support of VMN in Pong Kriel and Nhang Sum villages to identify the non-compliant members. As result, five members who broke the rules were suspended from the project for two years.

Assumption 1.2: *Community compliance with conservation agreements reduces rate of habitat degradation.*

Comment: In 2020 0.68% forest cover was lost at SPWS. The rate of overall forest loss remains low but corruption within DoE permits logging in SPWS and confusion over limits of authority sees commune chiefs issuing non valid logging permits.

Assumption 1.3: *Communities remain engaged in organic, wildlife-friendly rice certification scheme for the duration of the project.*

Comment: Overall the number of households participating in the scheme has increased, which means continued and increased commitment.

Assumption 1.4: *A close partnership is created with SMP and IBIS Rice Conservation Company (IRCC) commit to continue purchasing the IBIS rice produced in the villages even after project end.* Comment: In 2020, SMP in collaborated with IRCC purchased 357 metric tonnes from seven villages at SPWS. There is no reason to doubt the commitment of SMP or IRCC and Siem Pang has become the second largest producing area in Cambodia for IRCC. The challenge is finding alternative sources of funding to underwrite SMPs annual costs in Siem Pang District and making the shift towards sustainability.

Output 2:

Assumption 2.1: *Villagers understand what a sustainable use zone means in the context of protected areas management.*

Comment: People respected the wildlife sanctuary boundary as a whole protected area, not only one or two zones. However, there has been encroachment into SPWS from Khet Svay village. Despite an agreement to do so the DoE has failed to evict these households. The formal awareness raising meetings on boundary and zoning demarcation will be held in Year 2.

Assumption 2.2: *Villagers wish to become engaged in CPA development and management.*

Comment: Village chief and Village Forums members in Kham Phouk were very supportive to establish a CBO. They chose to restore water sources for aquaculture and water storage capacity for their village. A challenge will be establishing and policing the no-fish take CPA along the O'Khampa River in Year 2.

Assumption 2.3: *Villagers will abide by the protected area zonation plan.*

Comment: Villagers were consulted in the elaboration of the zonation plan. The test will be in 2021 when the MoE and DoE begin marking the boundaries.

Assumption 2.4: *Villagers will abide by the rules of the CPA that they establish and not log within the protected areas.*

Comment: This will be reported in Year 2.

Output 3:

Assumption 3.1: *Local authorities perceive the value of the project and start preventing poachers and middlemen from conducting illegal activities in their villages.*

Comment: Corruption amongst some DoE staff remains high. This includes trying to frustrate enforcement operations by tipping-off offenders, failure to confiscate equipment including chainsaws and hand-tractors from offenders, and extorting money from offenders. Our colleagues Rising Phoenix are attempting to address this.

Assumption 3.2: *Local communities and local authorities continue to be interested in engaging and contributing to these forums.*

Comment: Participation in forums by villagers and officials is high. Normally, from 25 to 35 participants attend each meeting.

Assumption 3.3: *Close relationship with Government at District and Provincial level ensures a reduction in encroachment from the Army and private companies.*

Comment: There is confusion amongst local government officials about their limits of authority in relation to SPWS. This is exploited by some for profit. There has been no significant further encroachment by the army in 2021. There is no evidence of pressure from private companies.

Output 4:

Assumption 4.1: *That nesting success, roost counts and restaurant counts reflect overall species trends.*

Comment: Nesting success as an indicator of population trend is difficult to evaluate. For example, since monitoring began in 2013 we have monitored the fledging of 83 Giant Ibis chicks. However, two population estimates six years apart estimated 25 and 26 pairs. What becomes of the young annually. We do not yet know the juvenile survival rate or the recruitment rate into the breeding population.

Breeding season	Nests found	Successful nests	Total adults	No. chicks fledged	Total individuals
2013	2	1	4	1	5
2014	4	3	8	4	12
2015	11	6	22	6	28
2016	9	9	18	16	34
2017	15	13	30	19	49
2018	16	12	32	16	48
2019	11	7	22	11	33
2020	10	7	20	10	30
Total	78	58	156	83	239

Table 4: Giant Ibis nest success in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary 2013-2020.

Assumption 4.2: That there is no destruction of nest and roost trees.

Comment: During the reporting period there were no reported cases of nest and root tree destruction at SPWS.

Assumption 4.3: That there is no poisoning of vultures.

Comment: There was no reported case of vulture poisoning during the reporting period.

3.5 Impact: Achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation

In Year 1 of the project, we saw no net negative impact on the species monitored at SPWS compared to the baseline.

The IBIS Rice scheme provides the opportunity for households to significantly increase household income through growing and selling a premium organic jasmine rice. In 2020, at the seven participating villages at SPWS 441 households sold their IBIS Rice to SMP at a 51% premium price and received US\$ [REDACTED] cash income or [REDACTED] per household. This is income that would have not been otherwise earned.

4. Contribution to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

The project contributed to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development 1, 2, 5, and 15. This project worked directly at reducing poverty (Goal 1) at nine villages surrounding SPWS and LWS with income generating activities improving people's well-being. The IBIS Rice scheme directly contributes to helping people reach all year-round food security (Goal 2). The project includes both genders and a gender framework will be developed to help the project promote opportunities for all (Goal 5), contribute to the sustainable management of both sanctuaries (Goal 15), with all project beneficiaries signing and abiding by conservation agreements, which will have them forego illegal activities.

5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project supports CBD Aichi biodiversity targets 12 and 14. A meaningful contribution will be made towards target 12 as both project sites supports the protection of globally significant populations of five Critically Endangered bird species and mammal species that are found at SPWS and LWS, and are now at high risk of extinction. The five Critically Endangered birds' species our work will support are: Giant Ibis *Thaumatibis gigantea*, White-shouldered Ibis *Pseudibis davisoni*, White-rumped Vultures *Gyps bengalensis*, Slender-billed Vultures *Gyps tenuirostris*, and Red-headed Vultures *Sarcogyps calvus*. The Critically Endangered and Endangered mammal species our work will address are Sunda pangolin *Manis javanica*, Germain's langur *Trachypithecus germaini*, Red-shanked douc *Pygathrix nemaeus*, Northern yellow-cheeked crested gibbon *Nomascus annamensis*, Dhole *Cuon alpinus*, Large-spotted

civet *Viverra zibetha*, Asian elephant *Elephas maximus*, Eld's deer *Rucervus eldii* and Banteng *Bos javanicus*.

The project contributes to CBD Aichi target 14 by safeguarding the access of poor and vulnerable rural communities to essential ecosystem services. This project aims to support 2,250 rural people through its interventions, which is a third of the total population of the nine target villages, seven in SPWS and two in LWS. Lessons learned will be shared at the national level with the Government and other NGOs for potential replication in other provinces.

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

The IBIS Rice scheme provides the opportunity for households to significantly increase household income through growing and selling a premium organic jasmine rice. In 2020, at the seven participating villages at SPWS 441 households sold their Ibis Rice to SMP at a 51% premium price and received US\$ [REDACTED] as cash income or US\$ [REDACTED] per household. This is income that would have not been otherwise earned. During Year 1, the project helped secure the customary land-use rights by mapping a total of 327 land parcels belonging to 214 households.

Consideration of gender equality issues

When working with local communities, we build relationships at the family level. In this project both men and women continue to be engaged in project activities. In 2020 the Ibis Rice project at both wildlife sanctuaries involved a total of 3,393 people including 1,612 females (48%).

7. Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation framework

We have continued to use the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework developed under the previous Darwin project. We need to update this framework to take account of the logical framework of this new Darwin project.

Biodiversity monitoring

Biodiversity indicators focus on the combination of key habitat features notably forest cover and species monitoring. The project Field Monitoring Team are responsible for the monitoring of the five Critically Endangered bird species occurring at the site; White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*, Slender-billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris*, Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus*, Giant Ibis *Thaumatibis gigantea* and White-shouldered Ibis *Pseudibis davisoni*. Monitoring of these species was conducted throughout Year 1 and will be continued during Years 2 and 3, with the three vulture species counted at the four 'vulture restaurants' provided each month, and Giant and White-shouldered Ibis are monitored at their roosting and nesting sites.

Monitoring of the Endangered Eld's deer will be carried out by the BirdLife field monitoring team. Ibis nests and roosts and in addition vultures are monitored at restaurants where cow carcasses four times per month. BirdLife staff have routinely collected such data for more than ten years already, so baseline data already exists.

Monitoring conservation agreement compliance

During Year 1, the project measured and registered rice fields in six villages. The project Data Management Officer is responsible for monitoring rice field expansion and checking reports of law enforcement (SMART) to find the rule breakers among the IBIS Rice members. A report on "Forest cover changes at SPWS between 2010 and 2020" was compiled by a consultant and will provide as baseline for monitoring of future changes in forest cover.

The Data Management Officer will use the existing compliance database to monitor the participants' respect of the rules. This compliance system crosschecks information provided by staff on the ground, biodiversity reports, and law enforcement reports (SMART), to create twice a year a list of rule breakers.

Poverty reduction monitoring

The Livelihoods Project Manager is responsible for monitoring and evaluation. He is designing a complete monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system for the work of the livelihoods team. It

entails a project monitoring framework, monitoring protocols, and a risks and assumptions template. These will guide project implementation. Staff will draw their outputs from the framework and know what tools and methodology should be used to meet their targets.

Activities templates, and pre/posts tests have been designed to help staff having a clear understanding of their work and data collection. The data is recorded in our beneficiary's database by our Data Management Officer.

Staff prepare a monthly workplan, reporting on their achievements from the previous month, and drawing their activities from their annual workplan and objectives set at the beginning of the project. With the information from their workplan, the Project Officers prepare a monthly tracking report, aimed at showing progression towards the project's targets. At a monthly meeting the team discusses components of project progress. Any issues are discussed along with ideas for adaptive management.

The Livelihoods Project Manager will prepare the methodology for the end of project evaluation, including staff training, field visits and co-ordination of the work. He will then produce the evaluation report.

8. Lessons learnt

The unforeseen sometimes happens and in 2020 the decision by the Prime Minister to call for a review of land claims in protected areas was one such instance. This resulted in some adaptive management and adjustments to one Outcome as reported above. We remain vigilant.

9. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

N/A

10. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

N/A

11. Sustainability and legacy

The IBIS Rice scheme at SPWS is not currently sustainable and we have a commitment to making it so to enable some project staff can be financed directly, not from donor support.

The Darwin project is part of a much larger and wider intervention at SPWS by BirdLife International and Rising Phoenix. As has been planned for some time BirdLife International is handing over its work in Cambodia to its NGO Partners in Cambodia. Currently we are in a transition phase where BirdLife International is withdrawing from Cambodia and will do so completely by mid 2022. Project assets at SPWS will transfer to Rising Phoenix and at LWS to NatureLife Cambodia, both organisations that BirdLife has worked with and supported over many years. Currently a new local NGO entity, Siem Pang Conservation created by Rising Phoenix is negotiating an agreement with the Government of Cambodia that would see management responsibility for the site under a private public partnership for 50 years.

BirdLife International has already contacted LTSI to seek their advice with regards to the continued management of this project taking account this transition. LTSI have indicated that it would be acceptable for BirdLife to remain the grant holder for this Darwin Initiative project and to sub contract to Rising Phoenix and NatureLife Cambodia as the staffing and management of this project remain the same. NatureLife Cambodia is now recognised as BirdLife's new NGO Partner in Cambodia and BirdLife will continue to work closely with Rising Phoenix and NatureLife Cambodia beyond the lifetime of this project as part of its long term commitment to protecting key ecosystems and biodiversity of Cambodia.

12. Darwin identity

Darwin Initiative support has been acknowledged (using the Darwin logo) at workshops, meetings, and signboards held by the project, which has been profiled as a distinct project. This support will also be recognised using the Darwin logo in official project reports and other outputs. This has raised the profile of the Darwin Initiative within government departments in Cambodia, as well as the project partner organisations and other stakeholders.

13. Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery

Due to government imposed COVID-19 restrictions, meetings and gathering were not allowed from March until July 2020. This situation resulted in delayed implementation of project activities at LWS. This included holding only a limited number of awareness raising meetings in villages and the financial management literacy training was late and completed only six villages among seven. However, as will be clear from the content of the report good progress has still been made on the project to date.

14. Safeguarding

Please tick this box if any safeguarding or human rights violations have occurred during this financial year.

If you have ticked the box, please ensure these are reported to ODA.safeguarding@defra.gov.uk as indicated in the T&Cs.

BirdLife believes that everyone we come into contact with, regardless of age, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation or ethnic origin has the right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. BirdLife will not tolerate abuse and exploitation by staff or associated personnel, or by our Partners or other organisations with whom we work. BirdLife commits to addressing safeguarding throughout its work, through the three pillars of prevention, reporting and response.

We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of our commitment to safeguarding and a zero-tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse (Annex 24).

We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised (Annex 25).

We have a Code of Conduct in place for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours -- inside and outside the work-place – and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards (Annex 26).

During the reporting period, BirdLife conducted three village forums meetings and four stakeholder forums meetings and we provided opportunities for the communities and project stakeholders to discuss any grievances from their communities. No grievance was reported during the reporting period.

15. Project expenditure

Table 5: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2020/21 Grant (£)	2020/21 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL				

Note:

1. Travel and subsistence: This is the travel cost for BirdLife and our partners staff. The cost is lower than estimated due to some expenditures were charged to other projects and staff travel was limited because of the Covid-19 restrictions.

2. Others: This is BirdLife travel costs. The cost is lower than estimated due to some expenditures were charged to other projects and staff travel was limited because of the Covid-19 restrictions.

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2020-2021

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>Two globally important but degraded protected areas in a landscape of poverty will be transformed to productive and flourishing havens for Cambodia's wildlife, generating benefits for local communities.</p>		<p>During Year 1, the project focussed on putting in place the structures required for the positive changes in the livelihoods and biodiversity.</p>	
<p>Outcome 2,750 rural people achieve improved food security through wildlife friendly practices, and with the support of local authorities, commit to the sustainable use of SPWS and LWS increasing endemic biodiversity.</p>	<p>1. The IBIS Rice scheme will be expanded to an additional 2,250 rural people by March 2023. Comprising 1,000 additional rural people in the four villages at SPWS that are currently participating, 750 rural people at three new villages at SPWS and 500 rural people at two new villages at LWS.</p> <p>2. Across nine villages (7 at SPWS and 2 at LWS) 2,250 rural people (1,750 at SPWS and 500 at LWS) will receive organic certification for their rice production.</p> <p>3. By March 2023, 500 additional rural people (50% women) will have sustained access to ecosystem services from the establishment/strengthening of two Community Protected Areas (CPAs) and no longer engage in the illegal activities in SPWS and LWS.</p> <p>4. By March 2023, the populations of five Critically Endangered bird species and one Endangered mammal species (Eld's deer) within SPWS and two bird species at LWS will remain stable compared to the project baseline.</p>	<p>1.1 In 2020, the IBIS Rice scheme was expanded to nine villages (seven in SPWS and 2 at LWS) with 3,393 people (1,848 additional). The 640 households registered in the scheme, and 530 households grew and sold IBIS Rice successfully.</p> <p>1.2 At LWS two village were selected for piloting IBIS Rice and 68 households have registered.</p> <p>2. Across seven villages in SPWS, 3,029 people received organic certification for IBIS Rice production and sold 357 metric tonnes of rice with a value of US\$148,605.</p> <p>3. Outcome will be achieved in Years 2 and 3</p> <p>4. Five Critically Endangered bird species and one Endangered mammal species (Eld's deer) with SPWS and two bird species at LWS were monitored monthly. The monthly and annual biodiversity reports indicated no change in status at SPWS compared with 2019 baseline</p>	<p>1. Expand the IBIS Rice scheme in nine village (seven in SPWS and two in LWS and increase the number of people up to 3,000 people</p> <p>2. 2250 people receive organic certification</p>

	5. Forest cover inside SPWS and LWS does not decline by more than 2% over the lifetime of the project.	5. The annual forest cover change report of SPWS using remotely sensed data was produced, resulting the change between 2019-2020 of 0.68%	
Output 1 The Ibis Rice scheme will be expanded to an additional 2,250 rural people (50% women)	<p>1.1 90% of participating farmers have gained a minimum 10% income premium on Ibis Rice sales by project end.</p> <p>1.2 Over 50% of participating farmers have obtained a provincially-recognized land certificate by the end of project.</p> <p>1.3 90% of participating farmers have not broken the contract's rules within the project lifetime.</p> <p>1.4 90% of participants pass the financial literacy test BEOP</p> <p>1.5. Establish pilot IBIS Rice schemes at two villages at LWS by the end of project</p> <p>1.6 Lessons learnt and best practice shared at village level and a national workshop for central government and civil society.</p>	<p>1.1 530 households participated and grew IBIS Rice. 441 households from seven villages in SPWS sold a total of 357 metric tonnes at a 51% premium price and they received a total income of US\$148,604. This result did not include the rice which farmers kept for their own consumption for the year. (Annex 6).</p> <p>1.2 19% of participating famrers received land-use certificates.</p> <p>1.3 In 2020, only 1% of households violated the contract, relating to snaring, poaching, and land encroachment.</p> <p>1.4 75% of participants have passed the test.</p> <p>1.5 Sre Porkthom and Sre chrey villages were selected.</p> <p>1.6 This will be implemented during Year 3 of the project</p>	
Activity 1.1 Establish M & E framework and baseline surveys for rice production, rice sales, financial literacy and land certification and compliance of all new participants at start of project		The M&E framework from the previous Darwin project is being used and adapted on this new project. The monitoring workflow has been established, the base line survey of rice production and sales were established by reviewing the New Villages Assessment Report 2019, the Rice production Assessment report SP 2016, the IBIS Rice report in 2019. The survey through pre-test and post-test of financial management literacy training was established. The land	Update the M&E framework and baseline data

	certification and compliance of all participants at start of the project was produced.	
Activity 1.2. Sales of IBIS Rice are made at a minimum 10% premium price at SPWS and LWS	The IBIS Rice scheme was expanded to seven villages in SPWS with 530 participant households who grew IBIS Rice and 441 households sold their rice for 357 metric tonnes at 51% premium price and received US\$148,605 cash in come.	The plan for Year 2 is to increase from 530 to 750 households in the nine villages
Activity 1.3 Rice field mapping and registration for 260 households with the Department of Land Management (SPWS & LWS)	During Year 1 at SPWS, 146 households in six villages had mapped their rice fields comprising 164 land parcels. 160 land certificates were provided to farmers registered at provincial level.	Map the rice fields for new Ibis Rice members internally by project team for Ibis Rice implementation.
Activity 1.4 Quarterly Village Forum meetings	At SPWS, three quarterly Village Forum meetings were conducted in Preak Meas and Thmor Keo communes in May, August, and November 2020. And four stakeholder forums conducted in June, September, December 2020 and February 2021. At LWS, we conducted a district forum in May 2020, a quarterly CPA meeting in February 2021 with commune authority, and two VMN meetings to promote IBIS Rice.	To conduct four quarterly Village Forum and four stakeholder forum meetings in 2021 at SPWS. To conduct two district forum meetings, 3 quarterly meeting of CPA combined with Village Marketing Network committees at LWS.
Activity 1.5 Financial literacy skills training sessions	Completed in 6 villages for Year 1 with 307 (156 females) participants and 75% passed the score after the training.	To be repeated in Year 2 in SPWS.
Activity 1.6 Select two villages in LWS and pilot IBIS Rice scheme at LWS	Two village were selected at LWS. By March, 2021, 68 households (37 households from Sre Porkthom and 31 households for Sre Chrey) joined the IBIS Rice pilot project. Totally, these both villages have 364 people including 164 women who will become the project beneficiaries.	Continue expansion to new members in the two villages at LWS to 500 rural people
Activity 1.7 Conduct national and local workshops to disseminate lessons learnt and best practice	Workshop will be held in Year 3	
Activity 1.8 Monitoring, evaluation of IBIS Rice related and compliance activities and results at SPWS & LWS	Reported in monthly and annual reports.	

<p>Output 2. Two Community Protected Areas are established/strengthened (one at SPWS and one at LWS)</p>	<p>2.1 500 rural people at two villages (one at SPWS and one at LWS) have participated in the design and implementation of CPA management plans BEOP.</p> <p>2.2 Both CPAs (one in LWS and another one in SPWS) are gazetted by government BEOP.</p> <p>2.3 85% of participating households do not break the CPA rules within the new CPAs within the lifetime of the project.</p> <p>2.4 Both CPAs support at least one of the five Critically Endangered bird species and BEOP.</p>	<p>At SPWS we were not able to make progress with formal CPA establishment, for the reasons given but via adaptive management we have still made progress with informal CPA development.</p> <p>In July 2020 a prime ministerial decree initiated a nationwide review of land claims in all protected areas (Annex 17). The process appears open-ended and astonishingly no guidelines have been issued by the Ministry of Environment. Thus, the capacity and integrity of the government as well as its motives in wishing to undertake the exercise must be questioned. The outcome at SPWS is therefore far from clear.</p> <p>In addition, the MoE has now decided to proceed with demarcation of the SPWS boundary and project staff participated in an MoE led mission in February 2021. BirdLife believes that boundary demarcation is a priority and we have an interest in a resolution of the issue.</p> <p>To mitigate the possible impacts of these developments we have re-interpreted Output 2 to include community protected area in a non-formal sense – a de facto community protected area but without formal designation and undertaken the following activities. Kam Phouk is the only village within the SPWS boundary. It has an extensive Sustainable-Use Zone which includes part of the O'Khampa River which is used for fishing. Via our village forum we have consulted villagers about livelihood improvement (in addition to IBIS Rice) and we have agreed to establish a community managed fish no-take zone on the O'Khampa River, compensated by the provision of one large fish pond and three wells and the provision of fisheries extension training to participating households.</p> <p>During the reporting period we therefore restored one large fish pond at Kham Pouk. Additionally, at least three bore wells were also dug to provide water to the fish ponds. The well pumps will be solar powered.</p> <p>At LWS, we strengthened a previously established CPA at O Koki in Sre Angering commune. This CPA has been established previously by Save Cambodia's Wildlife but had not functioned for two years. Baseline information including numbers of participating villagers and biography of the three target villages have been reviewed and updated in the CPA by-law (Annex 18).</p>	
<p>Output 3: By March 2023, seven Village Forums in SPWS are strengthened and two Village Forums in LWS are established.</p>	<p>3.1 Five new Village Forums (3SPWS and 2LWS) reject illegal activities in their respective villages BEOP.</p> <p>3.2 Seven Village Forums (five new and two already established) raise awareness amongst people from their villages on the importance of SPWS and LWS and the illegality of hunting/snaring BEOP.</p>	<p>3.1 Three village forum meetings in seven villages and four stakeholder forum meetings were conducted to discuss about issues and challenges across livelihoods, conservations, and illegal activities in the wildlife sanctuary. Conservation agreement and by-law were reviewed.</p> <p>3.2 BirdLife raised the awareness on the importance of SPWS and LWS and the illegality of hunting/snaring through the seven village forums meetings and the district stakeholder forum meetings.</p>	
<p>Activity 3.1 Establish M & E framework and baseline surveys for numbers of village forums established and effective, awareness raising amongst village beneficiaries, compliance and forest cover within SPWS and LSW.</p>	<p>M&E framework List of updated members of seven village forums in seven villages in SPWS was established</p>	<p>To modify and update.</p>	

		Compliant system and forest cover change report were prepared	
Activity 3.2 Village Forum Declarations made by newly established Village Forums		Seven village forums in SPWS were established and fully functioned since 2018. During Year 1 of the project, we strengthened the capacity the seven village forums monitor three quarterly meetings. In LWS, we renewed one CPA committee with an approval from DoE at Ratanakiri. We created two Village Marketing Networks in two new pilot villages.	Awareness raising on the new established forums in meetings.
Activity 3.3 Village Forum Conservation Agreements Signed		In SPWS, we continue the existing agreements with seven village forums and we are monitoring these and we made sure the quarterly meetings are conducted effectively following the agreement. At LWS, one CPA by-lay was reviewed and endorsed by the District Governor.	To continue monitoring to make sure the meetings follow the agreements.
Activity 3.4 Quarterly Village Forum meetings at commune level		At SPWS, three village forum meetings were conducted in May, Aug, and Nov 2020. Four stakeholder forum meetings were conducted in Jun, Sep, Dec 2020, and Feb 2021 At LWS, a district forum was held in May 2020, a CPA quarterly meeting in February 2020.	To be repeated in Year 2 in both sites.
Activity 3.5 Awareness raising on the importance of SPWS and LWS and the illegality of hunting/snaring conducted in nine villages by Village Forum committees		BirdLife conducted the awareness raising through three quarterly village forums and four stakeholder forums meetings in SPWS. And through district forum meeting and CPA meeting at LWS.	To be repeated in Year 2 in both sites.
Activity 3.6 Awareness raising on the importance of SPWS and LWS and illegality of hunting/snaring/logging conducted in two CPAs		This activity will be held in Year 2	Conduct the awareness raising meetings in both sites.
Activity 3.7 Baseline data collection and monitoring and evaluation of forest cover within the new CPAs and other areas within SPWS and LWS		This activity will be held in Year 2	Baseline data collection and monitoring and evaluation through sufficient tools
Output 4: The five Critically Endangered bird species and one mammal species (Elds deer) within SPWS and LWS are regularly monitored and maintained.	4.1 The numbers of nests of White-shouldered Ibis, Giant Ibis and three vulture species remains stable compared to baseline at project start SPWS and LWS, during the project period.	4.1. In 2019/ 2020 at SPWS we found 24 White-shouldered Ibis nests, of which 21 nests successfully fledged 41 chicks, and three nests failed. By March 2021 we had found 30 nests of which 17 nests successfully fledged 35 chicks, six nests were actively feeding 12 chicks, two nests were incubating and five nests had failed. By March 2021, the LWS team had found nine White-shouldered Ibis nests and five successfully fledged eight chicks. Four nests failed. At SPWS we undertook Giant Ibis nest	

	<p>4.2 The numbers of vultures recorded at the SPWS vulture restaurant remains stable compared to baseline, during the project period.</p> <p>4.3 The numbers of White-shouldered Ibis recorded at communal roosts at SPWS and LWS remains stable compared to baseline, during the project period.</p> <p>4.4 Giant and White-shouldered Ibis are recorded at both new CPAs.</p> <p>4.5 Elds deer population at SPWS remains stable compared to baseline at start of the project.</p> <p>4.6 National and international awareness raised of status of focal species at SPWS & LWS.</p>	<p>searching from June to October 2020 and found 10 nests, similar to 2019 which 11 nests were counted. At LWS we conducted Giant Ibis nest searching from June to November 2020 and found 8 nests.</p> <p>We found eight Giant Ibis nests and five nests fledged eight chicks. Three nests failed. Vulture nests are not monitored at LWS because they became extinct prior to the start of this project.</p> <p>4.2. Forty-three vulture restaurants were provided in 2020. The maximum count was 97 individuals on 21 September 2020, six Red-headed Vultures, 34 Slender-billed Vultures and 57 White-rumped Vultures.</p> <p>4.3. Eight White-shouldered Ibis roost sites were counted at SPWS. Five were in active use. We conducted roost counts on 15 and 16 July, August, September and October at both sites. The maximum count was 385 on 15 September and the minimum number was 156 birds on July. The count of this species increased compare 2019 which recorded 344 individuals. At LWS, we checked and counted 13 roosts on the same day and date. the highest count was 12 birds. The count trend at LWS shows a continuous decline.</p> <p>4.4. Not yet recorded in the CPAs</p> <p>4.5. The sixth annual rapid survey for Eld's deer was undertaken in SPWS over three days between 13 and 15 April 2020. The total number of Eld's deer sightings was 41 and the number of unique individuals was 32. The largest number of Eld's deer counted on any single day was 17 different animals on 13 April, 13 different animals on 14 April and two different animals on 15 of April. This result was greater than the rapid survey in 2019 which was counted 10 different individuals.</p> <p>4.6. We did not conduct awareness raising of the status of focal species in SPWS due to COVID-19 restrictions. The BBC have commissioned a local film producer to produce a three feature on vultures for broadcast in 2021.</p>
<p>Activity 4.1 Compile all baseline data for the 5 CR bird species and establish baseline data for Eld's deer and establish M & E framework for the same</p>	<p>The monthly monitoring reports and annual report from previous years were produced</p>	<p>Ongoing in Years 2 and 3</p>
<p>Activity 4.2 Searching and monitoring nests of White shouldered Ibis in LWS and SPWS (monthly census during the breeding period)</p>	<p>White-shouldered Ibis nest searching and monitoring is conducted annually from November to April.</p>	<p>Ongoing in Years 2 and 3</p>
<p>Activity 4.3 Searching and monitoring Giant Ibis nests in LWS and SPWS (monthly census during the breeding period)</p>	<p>Giant Ibis searching and monitoring is conducted rom July to October annually.</p>	<p>Ongoing in Years 2 and 3</p>

Activity 4.4 Searching and monitoring vulture nests in LWS and SPWS (monthly census during the breeding period)	Vulture nest searching is conducted November to July annually.	Ongoing in Years 2 and 3
Activity 4.5 Conducting monitoring of three vulture species at vulture restaurants at SPWS (monthly census)	Vultures are monitored weekly at vulture restaurants. Team of two were assigned to stay overnight to guard the carcass and count the vultures. Five national census counts were conducted every three months; one in March, two in June, one in September and one in December. The date of the census was coordinated by Cambodia Vulture Coordinator and agreed with other organizations.	Forty-eight vulture restaurants will be provided to three vulture species in SPWS from April 2021 to May 2022.
Activity 4.6 Conducting White-shouldered Ibis (WSI) roost census in LWS and SPWS (monthly and annual census)	White-shouldered Ibis roost counts are conducted annually from July to October 2021. The previous roost location was checked by Field Monitoring Team before the counting date, which was coordinated and agreed from all sites. In each month, we counted twice, every evening of 15th and morning of 16th. Most roosting trees were counted by our staff and some roosts were counted by hired farmers who located close to the roosting site. The number white-shouldered Ibis from each roost were verified and entered to the data base.	The next roost count will be on July to October 2021.
Activity 4.7 Survey to establish baseline and monitoring White-shouldered Ibis and Giant Ibis at two new CPAs (year 1 only)	Routine monitoring has not yet detected the presence of these species.	Scheduled for Years 2 and 3
Activity 4.8 Searching and monitoring Eld's deer in SPWS (monthly census)	We have never conducted a monthly census for Eld's deer. We have conducted an annual survey since 2015. Additionally, we conducted camera trap survey at twelve waterholes, six at waterholes with wells and solar pumps supplying water, and six control waterholes.	Results of the Eld's survey camera trap survey will be published.
Activity 4.9 Awareness raised via BirdLife website, e-newsletters, journal publications and events held throughout the project's lifetime	Not done in Year 1.	Scheduled for Year 2 and 3

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact:</p> <p>Two globally important but degraded protected areas in a landscape of poverty will be transformed to productive and flourishing havens for Cambodia's wildlife, generating benefits for local communities.</p> <p>(Max 30 words) - 28 words</p>			
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>2,750 rural people achieve improved food security through wildlife friendly practices, and with the support of local authorities, commit to the sustainable use of SPWS and LWS increasing endemic biodiversity.</p> <p>(Max 30 words)</p>	<p>1.The Ibis Rice scheme will be expanded to an additional 2,250 rural people by March 2023. Comprising 1,000 additional rural people in the four villages at SPWS that are currently participating, 750 rural people at three new villages at SPWS and 500 rural people at two new villages at LWS.</p> <p>2.Across nine villages (7 at SPWS and 2 at LWS) 2,250 rural people (1,750 at SPWS and 500 at LWS) will receive organic certification for their rice production.</p> <p>3.By March 2023, 500 additional rural people (50% women) will have sustained access to ecosystem services from the establishment/strengthening of two Community Protected Areas (CPAs) and no longer engage in the illegal activities in SPWS and LWS.</p> <p>4. By March 2023, the populations of five Critically Endangered bird species and one Endangered mammal species (Eld's deer) within SPWS and two bird species at LWS will remain stable compared to the project baseline.</p> <p>5. Forest cover inside SPWS and LWS does not decline by more than 2% over the lifetime of the project.</p>	<p>1.0 Sales receipts in participating villages between village households and Ibis Rice Conservation Co. Ltd.</p> <p>2.1 Ibis rice certification certificates in participating villages in Y1 and Y3 of the project</p> <p>3.1 Community Protected Area management plans</p> <p>3.2 Baseline and end of project assessment reports assessing rural people's access to ecosystem services and natural resources within the new CPAs.</p> <p>3.3 SMART patrol reports</p> <p>4.1 BirdLife biodiversity team led species census and results compared with 2019 baseline for the five Critically Endangered bird species and one Endangered mammal species – Eld's deer.</p> <p>5.1 Annual forest cover change report using remotely sensed data.</p>	<p>Government support and socio-economic conditions nationally remain favourable to implementation.</p> <p>Rate of community compliance with conservation agreements remain high.</p> <p>Community compliance with conservation agreements reduces rate of habitat degradation.</p> <p>Land speculation outside the protected areas does not force villagers to clear land inside the protected areas.</p> <p>Rates of inward migration to villages around the protected areas remains low.</p> <p>Rainfall patterns remain stable and there are no prolonged dry seasons caused by El Nino events.</p> <p>The premiums paid by IBIS Rice continue to make it profitable for villagers to participate in the scheme.</p>

<p>Outputs 1: The IBIS Rice scheme will be expanded to an additional 2,250 rural people (50% women)</p>	<p>1.1 90% of participating farmers have gained a minimum 10% income premium on IBIS Rice sales by project end.</p> <p>1.2 Over 50% of participating farmers have obtained a provincially-recognized land certificate by the end of project.</p> <p>1.3 90% of participating farmers have not broken the contract's rules within the project lifetime.</p> <p>1.4 90% of participants pass the financial literacy test BEOP</p> <p>1.5 Establish pilot Ibis Rice schemes at two villages at LWS by the end of project</p> <p>1.6 Lessons learnt and best practice shared at village level and a national workshop for central government and civil society.</p>	<p>1.1 Farmers' contracts; sales agreements.</p> <p>1.2 Farmers' database; land certificate; shape files.</p> <p>1.3 Farmers' contracts; SMART reports; compliance system database.</p> <p>1.4 Attendance list; training curriculum; pre/post-test.</p> <p>1.5 Farmers contracts at LWS</p> <p>1.6 Attendance lists for participating village workshops and national workshop.</p>	<p>Villagers voluntarily report infringements. Community compliance with conservation agreements reduces rate of habitat degradation. Communities remain engaged in organic, wildlife-friendly rice certification scheme for the duration of the project. A close partnership is created with SMP and IBIS Rice commit to continue purchasing the IBIS Rice produced in the villages even after project end.</p>
<p>Output 2: Two Community Protected Areas are established/strengthened (one at SPWS and one at LWS)</p>	<p>1.1 500 rural people at two villages (one at SPWS and one at LWS) have participated in the design and implementation of CPA management plans BEOP.</p> <p>1.2 Both CPAs (one in LWS and another one in SPWS) are gazetted by government BEOP.</p> <p>1.3 85% of participating households do not break the CPA rules within the new CPAs within the lifetime of the project.</p>	<p>2.1 Minutes of village meetings</p> <p>2.2 Government notice of gazetteement for CPAs and management plans.</p> <p>2.3 Pre and post project assessments of rural people from the two new CPAs assessing their access to natural resources and ecosystem services</p>	<p>Villagers understand what a Sustainable use zone means in the context of protected areas management. Villagers wish to become engaged in CPA development and management. Villagers will abide by the protected area zonation plan. Villagers will abide by the rules of the CPA that they establish and not log within the protected areas.</p>

	1.4 Both CPAs support at least one of the five Critically Endangered bird species and BEOP.	2.4 SMART reports. official list of Prosecutions. 2.5 Monthly biodiversity reports compared to baseline data already collected.	
Output 3: By March 2023, seven Village Forums in SPWS are strengthened and two Village Forums in LWS are established.	1.1 Five new Village Forums (3SPWS and 2LWS) reject illegal activities in their respective villages BEOP. 1.2 Seven Village Forums (five new and two already established) raise awareness amongst people from their villages on the importance of SPWS and LWS and the illegality of hunting/snaring BEOP.	3.1 Conservation agreements signed; Village Forums by-laws; Village Forums declaration. 3.2 Attendance list; agenda; events minutes; Pre and post awareness tests.	Local authorities perceive the value of the project and start preventing poachers and middlemen from conducting illegal activities in their villages. Local communities and local authorities continue to be interested in engaging and contributing to these forums. Close relationship with Government at District and Provincial level ensures a reduction in encroachment from the Army and private companies.
Output 4: The five Critically Endangered bird species and one mammal species (Elds deer) within SPWS and LWS are regularly monitored and maintained.	4.1 The numbers of nests of White-shouldered Ibis, Giant Ibis and three vulture species remains stable compared to baseline at project start SPWS and LWS, during the project period. 4.2 The numbers of vultures recorded at the SPWS vulture restaurant remains stable compared to baseline, during the project period. 4.3 The numbers of White-shouldered Ibis recorded at communal roosts at SPWS and LWS remains stable compared to baseline, during the project period. 4.4 Giant and White-shouldered Ibis are recorded at both new CPAs. 4.5 Elds deer population at SPWS remains stable compared to baseline at start of the project.	4.1 Monthly biodiversity reports produced by the BirdLife field monitoring teams. These data have been collected monthly for > ten years so baseline already exists. 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, (as above) 4.5 Annual surveys of Eld's deer population at SP 4.6.1 Journal papers. At least one journal paper produced by project staff published reporting population trend of Ibis, vultures or Eld's deer BEOP. 4.6.2 News stories on BirdLife website, e-newsletters and magazines 4.6.3 Reports shared with key stakeholders	That nesting success, roost counts and restaurant counts reflect overall species trends. That there is no destruction of nest and roost trees. That there is no poisoning of vultures.

	4.6 National and international awareness raised of status of focal species at SPWS & LWS.		
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Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

Outputs 1: The IBIS Rice scheme will be expanded to an additional 2,250 rural people (50% women)

- 1.1 Establish M & E framework and baseline surveys for rice production, rice sales, financial literacy and land certification and compliance of all new participants at start of project
- 1.2. Sales of IBIS Rice are made at a minimum 10% premium price at SPWS and LWS
- 1.3 Rice field mapping and registration for 260 households with the Department of Land Management (SPWS & LWS)
- 1.4 Quarterly Village Forum meetings
- 1.5 Financial literacy skills training sessions
- 1.6 Select two villages in LWS and pilot IBIS Rice scheme at LWS
- 1.7 Conduct national and local workshops to disseminate lessons learnt and best practice
- 1.8 Monitoring, evaluation of IBIS Rice related and compliance activities and results at SPWS & LWS

Output 2: Two Community Protected Areas are established (one at SPWS and one at LWS)

- 2.1. Establishing M & E framework and baseline for newly established Protected Areas, including numbers of participating villagers, access to ecosystems services, compliance and forest cover within CPA
- 2.2. Establishment of Protected Area working groups at SPWS and LWS
- 2.3 Participatory assessment and consultation with relevant communities at SPWS and LWS
- 2.4 CPA establishment application
- 2.5 Develop bylaw and organizing of CPA structure
- 2.6. Boundary demarcation
- 2.7 Development of CPA management agreement
- 2.8 Baseline data collection and monitoring and evaluation of natural resource use and forest cover within the new CPAs at SPWS and LWS
- 2.9 Biodiversity surveys.

Output 3: Village Forums, with local authority support IBIS Rice and CPA initiatives and commit to SPWS and LWS protection.

- 3.1 Establish M & E framework and baseline surveys for numbers of village forums established and effective, awareness raising amongst village beneficiaries, compliance and forest cover within SPWS and LWS.
- 3.2 Village Forum Declarations made by newly established Village Forums
- 3.3 Village Forum Conservation Agreements Signed
- 3.4 Quarterly Village Forum meetings at commune level
- 3.5 Awareness raising on the importance of SPWS and LWS and the illegality of hunting/snaring conducted in nine villages by Village Forum committees
- 3.6 Awareness raising on the importance of SPWS and LWS and illegality of hunting/snaring/logging conducted in two CPAs

3.7 Baseline data collection and monitoring and evaluation of forest cover within the new CPAs and other areas within SPWS and LWS

Output 4: Stable populations of five Critically Endangered bird species and one mammal species (Eld's deer) within SPWS and LWS

4.1 Compile all baseline data for the 5 CR bird species and establish baseline data for Eld's deer and establish M & E framework for the same

4.2 Searching and monitoring nests of White shouldered IBIS in LWS and SPWS (monthly census during the breeding period)

4.3 Searching and monitoring Giant Ibis nests in LWS and SPWS (monthly census during the breeding period)

4.4 Searching and monitoring vulture nests in LWS and SPWS (monthly census during the breeding period)

4.5 Conducting monitoring of three vulture species at vulture restaurants at SPWS (monthly census)

4.6 Conducting White-shouldered Ibis (WSI) roost census in LWS and SPWS (monthly and annual census)

4.7 Survey to establish baseline and monitoring White-shouldered Ibis and Giant Ibis at two new CPAs (year one only)

4.8 Searching and monitoring Eld's deer in SPWS (monthly census)

4.9 Awareness raised via BirdLife website, e-newsletters, journal publications and events held throughout the project's lifetime

Annex 3: Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Gender of people (if relevant)	Nationality of people (if relevant)	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
6A	Training on basic financial management literacy	50% female	Cambodia	300	100	100	307	500 people
9	Regular monitoring and maintaining the five Critically Endangered bird species and one mammal species (Elds deer) within SPWS and LWS.	80% male 20% female	Cambodian and Australian					1
14A	Conduct national and local workshops to disseminate lessons learnt and best practice							1
23	Match funding (co-finance)							£ [REDACTED]

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
The first population assessment of the Critically Endangered giant ibis <i>Thaumatibis gigantea</i> in Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary, Cambodia.	<i>Cambodian Journal of Natural History</i> , 2020, 7–14.	Pin C., Bou V., Eames, J.C. , Samorn V. & Thol S. (2020)	Male	Cambodian	<i>Cambodian Journal of Natural History</i> , Phnom Penh	https://www.fauna-flora.org/publications/cambodian-journal-natural-history .

Annex 4 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

List of Annexes:

Annex 5: The impact of conservation in Northern Cambodia. Dr. H Travers
Annex 6: The IBIS Rice summary report for 2020
Annex 7: Financial management literacy training report
Annex 8: Farmer conservation contract and sale agreement
Annex 9: List of IBIS Rice members in 2020
Annex 10: The Organic Certification by ECOCERT 2020
Annex 11: Sample Sale receipt
Annex 12: Rice field mapping database 2020
Annex 13: Shapefile of rice field mapping
Annex 14: Minutes of quarterly Village Forums 2020
Annex 15: Summary activity progress report for Okoki_Khmer version
Annex 16: Three village assessment report on Organic Rice in LWS
Annex 17: Prakas of land claims in all protected areas in Cambodia
Annex 18: O’Koki CPA by-laws
Annex 19: Minutes of quarterly Stakeholder Forum
Annex 20: Biodiversity monitoring reports at SPWS and LWS
Annex 21: BirdLife Annual report 2020
Annex 22: IBIS Rice Compliance Report 2020
Annex 23: Forest cover change report 2010-2021
Annex 24: BirdLife safeguarding policy
Annex 25: BirdLife whistleblowing policy
Annex 26: BirdLife staff code of conduct

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Figure 2: Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary Zonation map
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Figure 4: Annual White-shouldered Ibis roost count at LWS
Figure 5: The total sightings and minimum count of Eld’s deer during rapid vehicle surveys in SPWS

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	✓
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	✓
Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	N/A
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	✓
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	✓
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	