





Keo Seima Forest Conservation in Cambodia

Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary covers over 290 thousand hectares in the east of Cambodia. The area, characterised by beautiful landscapes and forest types, is home to indigenous peoples and a rich diversity of wildlife. Deforestation and illegal land clearance are harmful to the environment, as forests sequester great amounts of carbon. Cambodia has one of the highest rates of deforestation in the world. The Keo Seima REDD+ project halts deforestation and protects the rich biodiversity. On top of that it is one of Cambodia's largest and most successful conservation programmes.

About the project

Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KSWS) is a uniquely diverse rainforest protected area under advancing threat of illegal land clearance. Since 2000, Cambodia's tree coverage had decreased by 28% (measured in 2020). Luckily, a large part of the Cambodian forests in this region can be protected with the help of carbon finance.

The KSWS protects roughly 166,983 hectares of Cambodian (rain)forests. The project plays a fundamental role in minimising deforestation and curbing invasions, bringing benefits for climate and biodiversity. Many species are being protected, including 350 bird species, the endangered Asian elephant and the critically endangered lack-shanked douc langur, a beautiful monkey with orange eye patches and a blue face. Also the endangered southern yellow-cheeked gibbon is being protected, whose whale-like calls carry for kilometers across the forest in the early mornings.

The Bunong ethnic group are one of the areas local inhabitants. The forest forms a deep and indivisible part of their culture, community and identity.

Collaboration

Climate Neutral Group (CNG) works with the project by supporting and financially sponsoring it. We enable the reduction of greenhouse gasses and various initiatives in the social, environmental, and economic scope. The project is VCS & CCB certified. VCS certification guarantees that the effects, monitoring, and auditing of emission-reducing projects are done properly. Social and economic benefits for the local community are ensured by the Social Carbon Standard. In addition, CNG is a founding member of ICROA, which monitors our working methods annually, and guarantees reliable climate compensation.





Advantages

Climate and environment





- Protects the rich biodiversity and endangered species.
- Protects the forest from deforestation and keeps the CO₂ captured.
- · Avoided carbon emissions.

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Social and economic











- Jobs created through the project: 1,280 fulltime employees.
- There have been 4,162 people who experienced increased quality of and access to water.
- Quality of education was improved as a result of project activities: 165 people got better education.

