



Commitment to Excellence



**ADB Regional Capacity Development Technical Assistance
Strengthening Capacity for Environmental Law in the Asia-Pacific:
Developing Environmental Law Champions
Train-the-Trainers Program
November 27- December 1, 2017
Siem Reap, Cambodia**

SESSION 15 & 16: FIELD TRIP

Angkor Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity

BACKGROUND¹

The Angkor Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity (ACCB) was founded in association with the Münster Zoo and the Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations (ZGAP) in the year 2003. ACCB is one of two wildlife rehabilitation programs in Cambodia. The ACCB is located on 25 hectares of land in a rural location 40 kilometers outside of Siem Reap in north-western Cambodia. ACCB's land sits at the base of the Kbal Spean Mountain within Phnom Kulen National Park. It is a tropical climate in a semi-evergreen forest with many dipterocarp trees and serves as habitat for a diverse range of species.

The ACCB's aims and objectives are:

- To promote the rescue of selected native Cambodian wildlife and to provide adequate rehabilitation and release facilities while ensuring the maintenance of internationally recognized standards.
- To provide facilities and technical expertise for the conservation breeding of selected threatened species, and to initiate and carry out appropriate reintroduction and restocking programs.
- To serve as an education and training centre for communities, wildlife officials and visitors to the centre in order to increase awareness of and build capacity for conservation and environmental protection and management, and to promote the sustainable use of natural resources while linking international to local environmental issues.
- To initiate and participate in wildlife conservation and research activities in Cambodia, including in situ conservation activities, species recovery efforts, biodiversity inventories and natural resource-use assessment, and to provide information to support management recommendations for protected areas.

¹ The following background information draws upon work by three students, Sidney Williams, Camille Morales and Anna Chahuneau, from The School for Field Studies, Center for Conservation and Development Studies.

The area directly around ACCB and Cambodia more broadly is experiencing growing environmental pressures from both illegal deforestation and wildlife poaching². In addition to threats from individual activity, the growing pet trade and timber industries result in amplified damage on the natural ecosystems of Cambodia. As deforestation and poaching become increasing problems, ACCB is receiving more animals for rehabilitation each year. Most animals arriving at ACCB have been rescued from the illegal wildlife trade. Whenever appropriate, ACCB releases rehabilitated animals into their native ecosystems. It is therefore also essential that the natural surroundings of ACCB are protected and poaching is eliminated.

The following list outlines some key species currently at ACCB and their IUCN 2017³ and CITES 2017⁴ status:

- Sunda Pangolin (*Manis Javanica*) : CRITICALLY ENDANGERED, Appendix I;
- Northern Slow Loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*) : VULNERABLE, Appendix I;
- Pileated Gibbon (*Hylobates pileatus*) : ENDANGERED, Appendix I;
- Silvered Langur (*Trachypithecus germaini*) : ENDANGERED, Appendix II;
- Leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) : LEAST CONCERN, Appendix II (Appendix I Thailand);
- Greater Adjutant (*Leptoptilos dubius*) : ENDANGERED;
- Green Peafowl (*Pavo muticus*) : ENDANGERED, Appendix II.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Two areas of environmental law are particularly pertinent to the work of ACCB; wildlife trafficking and poaching and habitat destruction (particularly from logging). Please consider the following questions:

1. Based on information received during the field trip, what is the current status of wildlife trade in Cambodia?
2. What regulations exist to control the illegal trade in wildlife? What could be done to improve implementation?
3. What is the best legal approach to interrupt the illegal trade in wildlife?
4. ACCB participates in *ex situ* conservation breeding programs. ACCB states that; “the general aim of *ex situ* conservation breeding is to give added value to complementary *in situ* conservation measures, e.g. through the establishment of captive safety populations of species that are at risk of extinction in the wild, or to produce offspring for future

² Gaughan, A. E., Binford, M.W., & J. Southworth. 2008. Tourism, forest conversion, and land transformations in the Angkor basin, Cambodia. *Applied Geography*, 29 (2), 212-223

³ The IUCN Red List of Species, 2017-2. <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>. Viewed 30 October 2017. Definitions of status are based 2001 IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. Version 3.1. CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR) - considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild; ENDANGERED (EN) - considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild; VULNERABLE (VU) - considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. LEAST CONCERN (LC) - Widespread and abundant taxa are included in this category.

⁴ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), 2017. <https://cites.org/eng/app/index.php>. Viewed 24 October 2017. “Appendix I lists species that are the most endangered among CITES-listed animals and plants. They are threatened with extinction and CITES prohibits international trade in specimens of these species except when the purpose of the import is not commercial, for instance for scientific research.... Appendix II lists species that are not necessarily now threatened with extinction but that may become so unless trade is closely controlled... International trade in specimens of Appendix-II species may be authorized by the granting of an export permit or re-export certificate.”

reintroduction and restocking programmes to aid in the recovery of depleted or locally extinct wild populations”⁵.

Based on information obtained during the field trip, what are some of the challenges to the success of these programs? What are some legal measures that could be put in place to enhance the protection of release sites particularly in relation to illegal logging and habitat destruction?

⁵ Angkor Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity. 2017. *Wildlife rescue and conservation breeding of endangered species*. <http://www.accb-cambodia.org/en/activities.php>. Viewed 26 October 2017.