

Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Main & Extra: Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note":
(<https://iwt.challengefund.org.uk/resources/information-notes/>)

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

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2025

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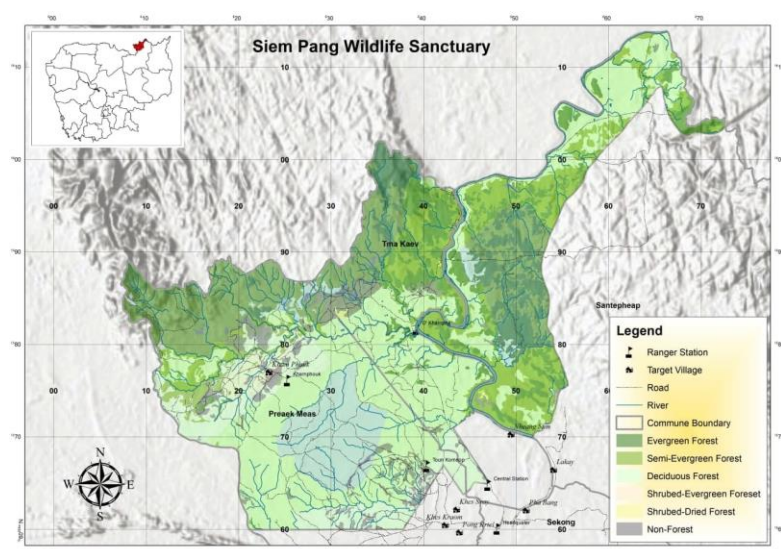
IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Scheme (Main or Extra)	Main
Project reference	IWT119
Project title	Reduced illegal wildlife trade and strengthened rural communities
Country/ies	Cambodia, Laos
Lead Organisation	Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd.
Project partner(s)	1. Stung Treng Provincial Authority (STPA), Ad-hoc Committee for IBIS Rice and Siem Pang PATROL. 2. Siem Pang District Administration (SPDA), Siem Pang PATROL Operational Working Group. 3. Border Liaison Office 4. Stung Treng Department of Environment
IWTCF grant value	£337,596.00
Start/end dates of project	01/07/2022 to 30/06/2025
Reporting period (e.g. April 2024-Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2024 to March 2025. Annual Report 3 (AR3)
Project Leader name	Mark Bowman
Project website/blog/social media	n/a
Report author(s) and date	Jonathan C Eames OBE – 24&29/04/2025 Mark Bowman – 21-29/04/2025 Mak Sopheap – 18-20/04/2025 Mang Tukla – 22/04/2025 Say Ratanak – 23/04/2025 Phan Bunthi – 23/04/2025

1. Project summary

Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary (SPWS) is a trans-frontier protected area contiguous with Xe Pian National Park in Laos with a shared 120 km porous border, across which wildlife, timber, drugs, and people are trafficked unregulated. These activities weaken social cohesion, undermine governance structures and contribute to poverty. The project aims to reduce poverty and illegal wildlife poaching and trade through a scalable programme in sustainable livelihoods using a proven approach, increased gender-neutral career opportunities and strengthened law enforcement.

Figure 1 Map of Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary



The project addresses hunting and cross-border trade in wildlife and their drivers, poverty and weak law enforcement. Siem Pang is a remote border district where communities are self-reliant, there are few economic opportunities in the formal economy and governance is weak. Local communities engage in subsistence agriculture. Since opportunities in the wider economy are limited, many individuals engage in commercial hunting.

The project increases household income by promoting the cultivation and sale of organic rice, which households sell at a premium considerably above market price in return for signing conservation agreements abstaining from hunting, encroachment and logging. Although the IBIS Rice scheme is itself not new, we seek to empower villagers using existing and new modalities to make the system sustainable.

The project addresses the illegal hunting and trade of Critically Endangered, Endangered and selected Vulnerable species as listed by IUCN and CITES Appendix I and II including Sunda Pangolin, Gaur, Banteng, Eld's Deer, Asian Black and Malay Sun Bears and Siamese rosewood a CITES Appendix II species. These species all occur within Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary and are traded across the international frontier with Laos as well as domestically. Hunting is undertaken widely in the community but especially within the economically marginalized Kavet tribal, community. The use of snares to trap terrestrial wildlife has increased dramatically over recent years. This combined with under employment amongst females presents new opportunities to address poaching whilst providing permanent employment opportunities that can also address poverty.

Illegal wildlife trade is often conducted with impunity and openly because of a lack of capacity and coordination amongst law enforcement agencies. For example, currently there are only seven enforcement rangers deployed by the Department of Environment (DoE) in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, when regional norms indicate there should be one ranger per thousand hectares giving a ranger force of 135 rangers. In short, no meaningful impact to reduce wildlife trade can be expected when the ranger force is at less than 10% of the required level.

The DoE do not exist and operate in isolation as there are other law enforcement agencies operating in and around the protected area under different jurisdictions including the Border Police and Army, but their actions are not coordinated and there is no cooperation across the border. Therefore, criminal syndicates conducting international wildlife trade escape prosecution, whereas the small-time subsistence poacher working for middlemen are detained and fined placing them and their families in more debt. This project will ensure coordination is established through already existing mandates, statutes and multilateral agreements and the gaps in the capability of law enforcement is improved through replicable capacity development.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

1. Stung Treng Provincial Authority (STPA), Ad-hoc Committee for IBIS Rice and Siem Pang PATROL.

The Stung Treng Provincial Authority has the authority to direct all government agencies and departments operating in the province, to improve the safety, security, welfare and development. The Deputy Governor chairs and implement the Ad-hoc Committee on IBIS Rice and Siem Pang PATROL.

An ad-hoc committee meeting on IBIS Rice and Siem Pang PATROL was held on 31 May 2024. A second meeting was held on 18 October 2024 and the third meeting on 13 January 2025 (refer to Annex A0 - Minute of Stakeholder Forum).

2. Siem Pang District Administration (SPDA), Siem Pang PATROL Operational Working Group.

The Siem Pang District Administration led by the District Governor also established the Siem Pang PATROL Operational Working Group (SPPOWG), under the direction of the Stung Treng Provincial directive. The SPPOWG is responsible to: Direct, control and coordinate with; Border Police Battalion 701, District Police, District Royal Gendarmerie Khmer, District Military Division, other military units assigned to Siem Pang District and other required law enforcement agencies; Chair the Siem Pang PATROL Operational Working Group quarterly and special meetings and develop inter-agency cooperation; Direct agencies as per the Siem Pang District Administration's mandate and the SPPOWG for collaborative operations and tasks in the countering of illegal activity; Lead and attend awareness raising meetings and events in the promotion of the SPPOWG aims and activities; share information among the SPPOWG on illegal activity and determine solutions to the problems.

The Director of Stung Treng Provincial Department of Environment, assigned both the Director and Deputy Director of Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary to work permanently from the Siem Pang PATROL Unit office, to ensure closer cooperation and planning in leading law enforcement operation and receive on-the-job training from Rising Phoenix's SPPU members on correct legal procedures, patrol planning and management.

3. Border Liaison Office

Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) facilitate communication and cooperation among national law enforcement agencies along international borders, promoting real-time intelligence sharing on drug, wildlife, timber, and human traffickers for swift intervention. BLO counterparts meet regularly, formally and informally, to exchange intelligence, while regional workshops periodically provide updates on traffickers' methods and routes. The Cambodian-Lao BLO supports Output 3 of the Siem Pang PATROL Programme by enabling multi-agency investigations, intelligence sharing, transboundary dialogues, and ad-hoc operations along the Lao PDR border.

Recognising challenges in organising multi-agency meetings within Cambodia and Laos, in November 2024, the Provincial Governor officially appointed, the Deputy Governor overseeing border security to coordinate meetings in collaboration with the Siem Pang PATROL Programme. The programme also works closely with the Stung Treng Provincial Authority's Department of Foreign Affairs to organise meetings and communications with Champasak Province, Laos.

4. Stung Treng Department of Environment

The Provincial Department of Environment (PDoE) oversees Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, implementing protection and natural resource management in line with the national strategic plan, policies, and the new environmental code (law). Rising Phoenix collaborates daily with PDoE to develop and approve patrol orders for officers under the Siem Pang PATROL programme. Rangers from Stung Treng Department of Environment participate in regular scout snare clearance patrols and attend ad-hoc Committee meetings for IBIS Rice and Siem Pang PATROL.

The PDoE Director appointed Mr. Soem Polin as head of law enforcement for Siem Pang District, enhancing operations with rangers from protected areas and Ramsar sites. Eight RGK officers were assigned following provincial approval, strengthening patrols, protecting Banteng, and boosting law enforcement capacity within Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary and the surrounding district. (refer to all Annexes labelled AO3 – SPPU Report)

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1: Expansion of IBIS Rice Programme at villages surrounding Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, increasing household income.

1.1 Expand the IBIS Rice scheme and sell the IBIS Rice at a minimum 10% premium price

During the 2024 rice-growing season, 1,234 households (representing 6,170 rural villagers across 19 villages) cultivated IBIS Rice and achieved organic certification from ECOCERT in November 2024. This included 537 new households (baseline of 697 households in 2022), comprising 2,685 rural villagers who joined the scheme in 2024. Of these, 1,025 households (5,125 people) sold 2,018 tonnes of IBIS Rice, earning a 70% premium (or 80% with a bonus of 100 Riel per kilogram) and generating a total income of US\$933,738—an average of US\$910 per household ([refer to Annex AO1.1 - IBIS Rice 2024 Annual Report for Siem Pang District](#)).

In comparison, the 2023 rice-growing season saw 949 households (from 15 villages) cultivate IBIS Rice and secure organic certification from ECOCERT in November 2023. Of these, 807 households (4,035 people) sold 1,348 tonnes of IBIS Rice, earning an 85% premium (or 95% with the bonus) and generating US\$530,505 in income—an average of US\$657 per household.

1.2 Capacity building to Village Marketing Network committees (VMN) to become Village Agents

Note: As previously reported in IWT119 AR2 Village Marketing Network committees (VMN) were redesignated as Producer Groups (PG).

In May 2024, the establishment of the fourth Producer Group (PG) for IBIS Rice in Sekong Commune brought the total to four PGs across Siem Pang District. These PGs were registered at the commune level, aligning with updated EU organic certification requirements. Their structures and by-laws were approved by commune councils, laying the foundation for long-term sustainability.

The PGs aim to become legal entities, enabling standard certification and securing financial support to improve technical capacity, rice yield, and quality. By fostering partnerships with market actors, mobilising donor support, and adhering to wildlife-friendly standards, they will enhance financial sustainability while serving as hubs for information-sharing among members.

From 10–12 July 2024, Sansom Mlup Prey (SMP) trained 33 Village Marketing Network (VMN) Committee members on the Internal Control System (ICS), farm diary records, and threshing record ICS. On 21–22 October, 38 VMN members attended a session on PG by-law reflection, boosting understanding from 60% to 83%.

In October and November, 48 VMN members received financial literacy training, covering income and expense management, financial risks, saving, and loans. These developments underscore efforts to empower PG members and ensure the sustainability of IBIS Rice in Siem Pang.

1.3 Rice field mapping and registration for 300 households with the Department of Land Management

Between April and May 2024, land mapping was conducted in collaboration with the Department of Land Management (DoL), covering 300 parcels belonging to 222 households across 827 hectares in 14 villages within Prek Meas, Tmor Keo, and Srae Sambor Communes. All maps were registered at the provincial level, and the shapefiles are stored at the Rising Phoenix office for IBIS Rice purposes ([refer to Annex AO1.2 – IBIS Rice Land Mapping](#)).

However, the mapping conducted by the DoL was insufficient, as more farmers expressed interest in joining the IBIS Rice scheme. The IBIS Rice section team therefore carried out additional internal mapping, working with village chiefs, Village Marketing Networks (VMN), and landowners. While these maps were not registered, they were created to support IBIS Rice planting and monitor land encroachment.

From June to September 2024, the team mapped an additional 213 land parcels belonging to 192 households, covering 582 hectares. In total, the project mapped 513 land parcels belonging to 414 households across 1,413 hectares.

1.4 Financial management literacy training to IBIS Rice participants

Financial management literacy training was conducted in October and November 2024, involving 519 participants (250 women), including 457 farmers, 48 Village Marketing Network (VMN) members, and 14 village chiefs across 17 villages. The training focused on providing a general understanding of income and expense management, financial risks and their management, family planning and saving, as well as household loan management (refer to [Annex AO1.3 November 2024 CDU monthly report](#)).

1.5 IBIS Rice compliance monitoring and forest cover change assessment of SPWS

Between October 2023 and May 2024, the Rising Phoenix compliance team reviewed law enforcement reports, monitored satellite imagery, and conducted ground truth checks to detect violations by IBIS Rice members and identify land encroachment around rice fields. One farmer breached IBIS Rice rules, resulting in a three-year suspension of rice purchases (refer to [Annex AO1.4 - First Half-Year Compliance Report](#)). Between May and November 2024, 22 farmers violated rules and faced the same penalty (refer to [Annex AO1.5 - Second Half-Year Compliance Report](#)).

From May to November 2024, the second annual village compliance meeting took place in Khes Kroam, Khes Svay, and Nheang Sum. Ground truth checks and field monitoring over 47 days revealed 426 encroachment cases, including 58 newly confirmed locations. Of these, 45 were linked to 39 families, with 19 IBIS Rice members involved. Compliance updates showed 36 locations adhered to warning contracts; others remained active or unchanged.

In October 2024, satellite imagery identified 44 suspected encroachment locations across various zones, cross-verified with ground truth checks. Twenty IBIS Rice members were confirmed to have breached contracts, leading to rice purchase suspensions. Additional cases are under review.

The Forest Cover Change Assessment Report (2022–2024), completed in September 2024 (refer to [Annex AO1.6 - Forest Change Cover Report 22-24](#)), analysed SPWS forest cover changes using a 2021 baseline. Forest cover declined from 91.3% in January 2022 to 90.8% in January 2024, with 686 hectares lost during the reporting period. Net forest loss decreased from 1,841 hectares (2021–2022) to 686 hectares (2022–2024), indicating a slowing trend. Trends across focal areas varied: higher loss in Khampouk due to cultivation, lower loss in the southern boundary due to reduced encroachment from IBIS Rice efforts, and increased loss along the Sekong River corridor due to high-biodiversity forest vulnerabilities.

1.6 Conduct Farmers' Day for sharing lesson learnt and best practice to local farmers and authorities

A Farmer's Day event was held on the afternoon of 13th January 2025 at Siem Pang District Hall, Stung Treng Province. The event aimed to showcase the IBIS Rice project's achievements across 19 target villages, outline expansion plans, encourage community involvement and stakeholder support, share past experiences, and gather participant feedback for discussion. The ceremony was chaired by Mr. Sen Vansim, Stung Treng Deputy Provincial Governor; Mr. Yen Run, Stung Treng PDoE Deputy; Mr. Prum Udom, Siem Pang District Deputy; representatives from UMB, NGO partners, local authorities; four Producer Group Committees; and farmers. A total of 340 participants attended, including 112 women (refer to [Annex AO1.7 - Farmer Day Report 13-01-25](#)).

During the event, certificates and gifts were presented to outstanding VMNs and farmers from 2024 as motivational souvenirs. Awards included:

1. Incentives for the top-selling farmer in each village (19 farmers from 19 villages).
2. Incentives for the second top-selling farmers (3 farmers).
3. Incentives for the best IBIS Rice Producer Group in Thmor Keo Commune.
4. Incentives for exemplary field demonstrations (3 farmers from 3 villages).

Output 2: A diverse and gender inclusive scout teams are established and operational.

2.1 Notification.

Completed, reported on in IWT119 AR1

2.2 Selection Course.

Completed, reported on in IWT119 AR1

2.3 Equipment.

Completed, reported on in IWT119 AR1

2.4 Training.

Completed, reported on in IWT119 AR1

2.5 Deploy.

Completed, reported on in IWT119 AR1

2.6 Monthly reporting – produce monthly reports on activities using smart data, earth ranger and field reports.

During the reporting period, scout teams conducted snare removal activities in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, successfully removing 1,267 snares. The scout teams supporting the government rangers of SPWS patrolled a total of 19,316 km, which equates to a total area coverage of 1,590 km². Tables 1 and 2 provide detailed summaries of the various patrols undertaken by the scout teams to mitigate snaring threats within the sanctuary ([refer to Annex AO2.1 - Scout Reports x 12](#)).

Output 3: Siem Pang PATROL Programme fully operational with multi-agency, patrols and investigations, transboundary dialog and ad-hoc investigations with Lao PDR occurring along the border

3.1 Development of Advance Investigation Training

This was completed, reported on and all evidence provided in the IWT119 AR2

3.2 Study Tour – working with the Siem Pang PATROL Operational Working Group (SPPOWG) and the Border Liaison Office (BLO) organize the approvals, schedule and selection of personnel from Lao PDR to attend a 5-day study tour to the Siem Pang PATROL Coordination Center, Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary and Border Area.

A study tour from Cambodia by PDoE Director to Thailand was completed and reported in IWT119 HYR2 and AR2.

From 7–10 April 2024, Freeland's Director of Thailand's Surviving Together Programme led a study tour to the Siem Pang PATROL Unit. Participants included Thai government officials, and Freeland staff members. The tour focused on technology exchange, shared challenges, and exploring future collaboration, training, and cross-border initiatives ([refer to Annex AO3.1 - 2024-04-05 SPPU Report](#)).

From 22–23 January 2025, the Border Crime Workshop at the Cambodia-Laos border brought together senior officials and law enforcement from both nations to address transboundary crimes, including poaching, drug trafficking, and yellow vine extraction. Key outcomes included proposals for joint task forces, improved collaboration, and enhanced law enforcement. The event highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts to tackle cross-border crime and strengthen security. A total of 36 Cambodian participants, including 3 women, and 11 Lao delegates, comprising 10 men and 1 woman. Additionally, 17 members of the Siem Pang PATROL Operational Working Group ([refer to Annex AO3.2 - UK IWT119 RP - Border Crime Workshop 22-23 Jan 2025](#), [Annex AO3.3 - IWT119 Border Crime Workshop Meeting Minutes Khmer & Lao](#)).

3.3 Approval.

This activity was completed in January-February 2023 and reported on in the IWT119 AR2

3.4 Advanced Investigation Training.

This activity was completed in January-February 2023 and reported on in the IWT119 AR2

3.5 Patrol Refresher Training – Conduct refresher training for already existing Patrolling Officers under the Siem Pang PATROL programme, to update on any new tactical procedures to counter any threats utilized by poachers and violators.

Previous activities reported in the IWT119 HYR2 and AR2

Rangers and RGK (10 officers) conducted refresher training at the end of each month for 2-3 days. The refresher training includes, tactics, navigation and law. (refer to Annex AO3.4 - 2024-06-07 SPPU Report)

Continued legal training is being provided by Say Ratanak, SPPU Senior Law Enforcement Advisor, who is a previous RGK Judicial Police Officer (JPO) and has a master's degree in Cambodian law specializing in protected-area law. On-the-job training for all rangers in the preparation of cases for court is continuous on each ongoing and new case.

3.6 Patrolling and Investigation Meetings, Monitoring and Reporting – Through the Siem Pang PATROL Coordination Center, the Border Liaison Meetings, and the Siem Pang PATROL Operational Group meetings, feed information into agencies for investigation and monitor and report on successes and lessons learnt, utilizing operational meetings minutes and data provided.

On 24 April 2024, Rising Phoenix and the Director of the Provincial Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (PDAFF) collaborated to strengthen wildlife protection and combat illegal trade outside protected areas by integrating the Forestry Administration into the Siem Pang PATROL Unit. Two Forestry Administration officers were assigned to the unit (refer to Annex AO3.1 - 2024-04-05 SPPU Report).

On 1 May 2024, four Royal Gendarmerie Khmer (RGK) officers joined the Forestry Administration and Siem Pang PATROL Unit to safeguard a herd of banteng. Plans to establish a mobile unit to interdict wildlife trade in Stung Treng province targeting markets, shops, and vehicle transport were initiated (refer to Annex AO3.4 - 2024-06-07 SPPU Report). Patrols on 5 May resulted in confiscations, including a chainsaw and air rifle, while on 6 May, two villagers clearing state land were detained under court order in prison pending trial.

On 15 May 2024, a patrol team responded to gunfire, apprehending a poacher armed with a homemade gun. The suspect was sentenced to one-year imprisonment. By 7 July 2024, RGK increased its operational capacity by assigning eight officers to address high-threat crimes, including illegal weapons possession and Lao poaching gangs. Rangers and RGK officers established two specialised teams with the authority to arrest civilians, military, and law enforcement personnel (refer to Annex AO3.4 - 2024-06-07 SPPU Report).

Significant legal actions were taken, including the sentencing of an individual to five years' imprisonment and a fine of £2,839.50 for land encroachment, with the land reclaimed by the state (refer to Annex AO3.11 – Court Case Tracking-CONFIDENTIAL). On 28 June 2024, a stricter environment code came into effect. Awareness campaigns were conducted, with 89 participants attending a district meeting to discuss the new code. Further outreach reached 407 villagers from seven communities surrounding SPWS (refer to Annex AO3.4 and AO3.5 - 2024-06-07 and 2024-08-09 SPPU Reports).

In September 2024, the newly appointed Deputy Governor for border security in Stung Treng Province met with the PATROL Unit to discuss the IWT119 project and resumed cross-border meetings with Lao counterparts in January 2025. Cross-border incidents involving Chinese nationals were reported in November 2024. Evidence such as cigarette packages confirmed illegal crossings, and a suspect was apprehended while others escaped. Investigations linked the suspects to potential sex trafficking (refer to Annex AO3.6 - 2024-10-11 SPPU Report).

In December 2024, an illegal wildlife trade network was arrested, this involved the interception by RGK officers of Sun Bear parts being transported along National Road 7, leading to the arrest of suspects and a search warrants issued for Siem Pang revealing additional

contraband. Four individuals were remanded for trial, included a corrupt district police officer (refer to Annex AO3.7 - 2024-12 SPPU Report & Annex AO3.8 RP-SPPU-IWT Smuggling Network Arrested). On 14 February 2025, a multi-agency patrol arrested two-suspects in SPWS for possession of a weapon, both are now under court order detained in prison awaiting trial. All these joint operations have highlighted the importance of inter-agency collaboration, which reduces corruption (refer to Annex AO3.9 - 2025-01-03-03 SPPU Report).

In total, 36 cases of land encroachment, wildlife poaching, illegal fishing, and wildlife trade were documented during the reporting period. The majority lacked suspect identification, specifically encroachment cases. Additionally, 108 historic encroachment cases were recorded for relocation planning by PDoE, District, and Provincial Administrations. None of the latter involved ethnic minorities (refer to Annex AO3.11 – Court Case Tracking-CONFIDENTIAL).

Detailed patrol data, including patrol hours, distance covered, items seized, and arrests, are available in Annex AO3.10 - Data Annual Report 240401-250331. Comprehensive patrol reports and lessons learned are provided in Annexes labelled AO3 – SPPU Reports.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1. Expansion of IBIS Rice Programme at villages surrounding Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, increasing household income.

1.1 By 2025 IBIS Rice expands from 783 (2021 baseline) to 1,200 Households.

Exceeds output by 34 households, at 1,234 households. In August 2024, the IBIS Rice scheme expanded to three additional villages, Donlong, O'chay, and Teteam, bringing the total to 1,258 registered households across 19 villages in Siem Pang District. Of these, 1,234 households passed the Internal Control System (ICS) inspection in September and were authorised to sell paddy to the IBIS Rice Conservation Co. Ltd (refer to Annex AO1.1 - IBIS Rice Annual Report 2024). This marks a significant increase compared to the 2023 rice season, during which 949 households passed the ICS inspection. The Year 3 progress exceeded the target of 1,200 households.

1.2 By 2025, 85% of participating households sell their paddy crop to IBIS Rice, as compared to the 2021 baseline of 76%

At 83%, below output by 2%. IBIS Rice Conservation Co. Ltd. purchased paddy rice from Siem Pang District between 1 and 31 December 2024, with 83% of approved households (1,025 out of 1,234) selling their paddy. This target was successfully achieved in the third year of the project. Comparatively, the approval rates were 76% in 2021, 74% in 2022, and 85% in 2023. The volume of rice sold increased from 670 tonnes in 2022 to 1,348 tonnes in 2023 and 2,018 tonnes in 2024. Correspondingly, cash income rose from \$308,257 in 2022 to \$530,505 in 2023 and \$933,701 in 2024 (refer to Annex AO1.1 - IBIS Rice Annual Report 2024).

1.3 By 2025, at least 90% of participating households have followed the conservation contract, continuing from the achieved 2021 baseline.

Exceeds output, at 97%. By the end of 2024, 23 households were non-compliant with conservation contracts (refer to Annex AO1.5 - Second Half-Year Compliance Report). Violations included land encroachment, transporting wood, and taking dogs within Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary (SPWS). Overall, 98% of participating households (1,211 out of 1,234) adhered to their contracts in 2024, an improvement compared to 97% (921 out of 949) in 2023 but slightly lower than 99% (688 out of 697) in 2022. However, some violators may not have been identified during the period of 2022.

1.4 By 2025 at least one village marketing networks is self-financing, as compared to the 2021 baseline of 0.

In Year 3, significant progress was made towards self-financing the IBIS Rice project. Village Marketing Networks (VMNs) evolved into Producer Group (PG) committees, registered to meet EU organic certification requirements. PGs finalised by-laws, gained legal status, and secured funding to enhance rice quality and yields. They built market partnerships, mobilised donor support, and strengthened sustainability. Training covered leadership, communication, and

financial skills. By 2024, eight VMNs managed contracts and records independently, and Thmar Keo PG earned \$138,393 for 195 farmers. By March 2025, four PGs established bank accounts, distributing \$50,462 in rice sale incentives, ensuring future financial independence.

2.1. Ten males with 50% representation from Lao and Kavet ethnic minorities are recruited into a scout team, trained and equipped by the end of year 1.

Exceeds output at 66% minorities. Currently there are 12 male scouts including 4 Kavet, 4 Laos and 4 Khmer, therefore a total of around 66% of male scouts are from ethnic minorities. (refer to Annex AO2.2 - Scout Member List)

2.2. Ten female snare removal scouts 50% with representation from Lao and Kavet ethnic minorities are recruited, trained and equipped by the end of Year 1.

Exceeds Output at 62% minorities, but are less 2 on sex. There was 1 Kavet female scout resigned from the job in March 2025. Currently, there are 8 female scouts from which 1 is Kavet, 4 are Laos and 3 are Khmer. Therefore, a total of 62% of female scouts are from ethnic minorities. (refer to Annex AO2.2 - Scout Member List)

2.3. Snare clearance along the O'Khampa River increases from 3 km² by end of year 1, and 30 km² by Year 3.

Scout patrol operation along the O'Khampa river as follows: Foot patrol covered a distance of 551 km equal to 165 km²; Boat patrol covered a distance of 2780 km equal to 417 km²; and Motorbike patrol covered a distance of 2372 km equal to 24 km²

Snare removal operation along the O'Khampa river was 606 km² in year 3 compared to 434 km² in year 2, and 18 km² in year 1 (only three months of operation). This has significantly exceeded the year 3 target (refer to Annex AO2.1 - Scout Reports x 12).

Output 3. Siem Pang PATROL Programme fully operational with multi-agency, patrols and investigations, transboundary dialog and ad-hoc investigations with Lao PDR occurring along the border

3.1 Increased patrol area coverage (km²) of Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary from 20% per month (2021 Baseline) to 70% per month by Year 2.

Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary spans 1,337.07 km². Between April 2023 and March 2024, patrol teams covered a total area of 1,401.47 km² using foot, boat, motorbike, and vehicle patrols. From April 2024 to March 2025, patrol coverage decreased to 533 km² due to the adoption of a more strategic approach based on previous years' data. This targeted known poaching hotspots, chokepoints for infiltration, and extraction routes, with specialised teams focused on encroachment documentation, case reporting, and targeting traders and routes outside SPWS. This refined strategy resulted in increased arrests and court submissions, proving more effective than in previous years [REDACTED]

3.2 Increase in investigations and prosecutions of illegal wildlife traders in Siem Pang District from 2021 baseline of 0 to 3 prosecution in year 2 and 5 prosecutions in Year 3 of the project.

Target will be met by the end of project. Presently two-violators successfully convicted, eight-suspects in prison awaiting trial. During the reporting period, there has been a significant rise in investigations, arrests and successful prosecutions. The importance of this development cannot be overstated, as it marks the first instance of successful legal action against individuals involved in the illegal wildlife trade of plants and animals in Siem Pang District. Therefore, from the base line of zero prosecutions in 2021, we are on target for the output to achieved eight prosecutions, by the end of project [REDACTED]

On 31 July 2024, a 27-year-old offender was sentenced to five years' imprisonment and fined 15,000,000 Riel (£2,811.70), with forest land confiscated and returned to state ownership; 6 May 2024, two illegal land encroachers were arrested and remain in prison awaiting trial; 15 May 2024, an armed poacher was arrested and sentenced on 30 October 2024 to one year in prison and fined 1,000,000 Riel (£187.49); 19–20 December 2024, Bear smuggling network

arrested, four smugglers, including a corrupt district police officer, were arrested. The smuggling network targeted Chinese customers in Sihanoukville and Vietnamese traders in northeastern Cambodia. All suspects remain in prison awaiting trial under the Investigating Judge [REDACTED] and 14 February 2025— two armed poachers arrested in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary presently in prison awaiting trial [REDACTED]

3.3 Prosecution of transboundary illegal wildlife traders increases from 2021 baseline of 0, to 1 case in year 2 and 1 case in year 3.

This output will be achieved by the end of the project. Under Output 3.2, related to the bear smuggling ring, although the crime group was arrested for a domestic illegal wildlife trade (IWT) case, it is strongly suspected that they were involved in the international trade of bear parts to Vietnam. Consequently, the two middlemen arrested can be included in this output ([REDACTED])

On 29 September 2024, an illegal yellow vine processing plant in Siem Pang District was shut down by order of the Provincial Governor, with Military Region support. Investigations resulted in the arrest of suspects, including foreign nationals. The project indirectly contributed by sharing information and advocating against yellow-vine extraction and illegal plant trade to Lao PDR. Further details will follow in the final report.

3.4 1 x Transboundary Advance Investigation training course conducted between Cambodia and Lao PDR, 1 x study tours to Siem Pang PATROL Coordination center by Lao PDR officers. 1 x Refresher Patrol Training. Involving 60 officers with a minimum of 20% female officers involved in working on border security and illegal wildlife trade patrolling and investigations by project end.

Progress towards project output 3.4 includes 114 participants (107 males and 7 females), exceeding the target of 60 officers by 54 individuals. Female participation remains low at 6.1%, reflecting cultural challenges in Cambodia and Laos, where women in frontline roles are often assigned or prefer administrative responsibilities due to limited interest in forest-based roles. Despite this, women held key leadership positions, such as the Lao delegation's female district governor (head of delegation) and Cambodia's Deputy Director of Stung Treng Administration and a deputy district governor.

Training activities included: Border Region Investigation Training (BRIT): 18 males, 2 females (reported in AR2); Study tour to Thailand: 4 males, 1 female (reported in AR2); Study tour of Thai Government and NGO staff to Siem Pang: 5 males [REDACTED]; Study tour of Lao and Cambodian officials to Siem Pang: 60 males, 4 females [REDACTED]

Refresher training in Thailand: 2 male rangers (reported in AR2); Refresher training in Siem Pang for Royal Gendarmerie Khmer and Rangers: 10 male officers [REDACTED] and On-the-job training in legal judicial police case documentation and protected area management: 2 male managers and 6 rangers [REDACTED]

3.5 Annual Border Liaison meetings involving select officers from Cambodia and Lao PDR, starting year 1 to end of project.

From 22–23 January 2025, the Border Crime Workshop at the Cambodia-Laos border brought together senior officials and law enforcement representatives to address transboundary crime. Discussions focused on border crossings, drug trafficking, yellow vine extraction, wildlife poaching, and hunting. The event highlighted coordinated efforts with 36 Cambodian and 11 Lao participants, alongside Siem Pang PATROL representatives [REDACTED]

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

0.1 By 2025 a minimum 2 sites one on the Cambodia-Thai Border and one on the Lao-Cambodian Border have requested to use the innovative scalable PATROL model.

This will be achieved by end of project. Freeland Foundation has already signed a letter of support dated: 21 March 2025 ([REDACTED]) and in May 2025 it is planned for Freeland Foundation (Thailand) and Rising Phoenix to discuss and sign an open letter of collaboration.

On 7 April 2025, Rising Phoenix, Conservation International, and Flora & Fauna will meet in Phnom Penh to address poaching, yellow-vine extraction, and mining. Discussions include ranger training, law enforcement, transboundary task forces, and PATROL concepts, alongside partnerships to improve monitoring, strengthen collaboration, and combat cross-border illegal wildlife trade effectively.

0.2 By 2025, the total sales income of Siem Pang IBIS rice members will reach \$300,000 as compared to the 2021 baseline of \$170,000.

This has been exceeded with US\$933,701 (\$633,000 over the expected indicator). The total income from sales of Siem Pang IBIS Rice members reached US\$ 933,701 in 2024 as compared to \$530,505 in 2023, 308,257 in 2022 and the 2021 baseline of \$170,976. The target has therefore been met and exceeded.

In 2024 Siem Pang maintained its position as the largest producer of IBIS Rice in Cambodia in 2024, producing over 70% of the total. This outcome indicator has successfully been achieved and was exceeded in third year of the project.

0.3 By 2025 at least one village marketing committee is self-financing, as compared to the 2021 baseline of 0.

In Year 3, key steps to be self-financing have been completed. VMNs have received additional training over the reporting period and several of them could do the IBIS rice field operation in 2024 independently. The combinations of leadership skill, the establishment of Producer Group approved by local authorities, the bank account establishment, the training capacity on management, the sale income and incentive received through their bank accounts we see key progress in their ability for future self-financing.

0.4. 20 local people are employed as scouts, in which 50% are ethnic minorities and 50% comprise a female snaring removal team by end of year 1, as compared to the 2021 baseline of 6 scouts with 33% female and 0% ethnic minorities.

These targets have been met. In March 2025, there was 1 female scout resigned. Therefore, currently we have 20 scouts from which 8 are females (40%) and 12 males (60%). Female Kavet and Lao are 5 which is 62% of female scouts. Males Kavet and Lao are 8 which round 66% of male scouts. Therefore, about 65% of scouts are from ethnic minorities. ([REDACTED])

0.5. By 2025, the total number of bushmeat, carcasses and alive animals confiscated within SPWS will be reduce by 50% as compared to the 2021 baseline of 58.

In 2024, there was a total of 33 incidents (table 6) of carcasses, bushmeat and alive animal (released). From the three main categories of incidents, we recorded 3 bushmeat of porcupines and 18 animal carcasses. There were 12 alive animals rescued and released. Comparing to 58 incidents of 2021 baseline, the number of incidents is reduced by 43% [REDACTED]

0.6 Working under the mandate of PATROL and the Border Liaison Office (BLO) local and transboundary investigations into illegal wildlife trade, prosecute more than 10 local and transboundary middlemen by end of project, as compared to 2021 baseline of 0.

This target will be met. As of 31 March 2025, two-persons involved in poaching and illegal wildlife trade have been convicted and sentenced to jail terms. Another eight persons are in prison being prosecuted and awaiting trial by the Stung Treng Provincial Courts, including one corrupt district police officer [REDACTED]

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Outcome level Assumptions

Assumption O.1: By 2023 COVID-19 Pandemic response allows the opening up of national and transnational travel and tourism with minimal restrictions.

Comment: This assumption has proved to be correct for Cambodia.

Assumption O.2: An increasing number of households view IBIS Rice as a saleable commodity rather than for household consumption.

Comment: This assumption has proved to be correct. The volume of rice sold increased from year to year. [REDACTED]

Assumption O.3: A sufficient number of females and Kavet people will engage in the wage economy.

Comment: This assumption has proved to be correct. [REDACTED]

Assumption O.4: Law enforcement agencies will cooperate.

Comment: This assumption proved correct, the project continually expands cooperation with law enforcement agencies including the PDoE, PDAFF, RGK, Border Police, District Military, Military Region, District and Provincial Police and Provincial Prosecutor [REDACTED]

Assumption O.5: The multiple law enforcement agency approach is more resistant to corruption. The Governments of Cambodia and Lao PDR will cooperate under the Border Liaison Mechanism to investigate illegal transboundary wildlife trade.

Comment: This has proved correct, multi-agency approach has seen a dramatic rise in prosecutions. The Government of Lao PDR has been slow on cooperation along the porous border but after the January 2025 Workshop and Study Tour, Laos has requested closer cooperation. [REDACTED]

Assumption O.6: Magistrates can be identified who will prosecute alleged offenders.

Comment: Prosecutors and investigating judges face no challenges in handling cases. However, Wildlife Sanctuary staff lacked knowledge to document illegal activities. On-the-job training resolved this, while provincial stakeholders rotated specialized rangers and law enforcement from outside Siem Pang to strengthen patrols, investigations, and leadership, addressing hesitancy and reducing corruption [REDACTED]

Output 1 Assumptions

Assumption 1.1: Households continue to join the IBIS Rice scheme.

Comment: In 2024 we expanded the IBIS Rice from 11 villages in 2022 to 19 villages across Siem Pang and 537 new additional members joined the scheme, making a total 1,234 households are members of the IBIS rice scheme in Year 3. [REDACTED]

Assumption 1.2: An increasing number of households sell their paddy crop to IBIS Rice.

Comment: The number of households sold increased from 74% in 2022 to 85% in 2023 (807 out of 949) and 83% in 2024 (1,025 out of 1,234). This was a 9% increase from the 2022 baseline while many new members joined during the three years. The volume sold per household increased from 1,313kg in 2022 to 1,969kg in 2024 (50% increased); although the volume of rice sold increased from 670 tonnes in 2022 to 2,018 tonnes in 2024. [REDACTED]

Assumption 1.3: Villagers voluntarily report infringements. Household compliance with conservation agreements reduces rate of habitat degradation and hunting.

Comment: 98% (1,211 out of 1,234) of IBIS Rice members in Siem Pang District were compliant with their conservation contract in 2024. Although households may have broken the contracts without being caught. [REDACTED]

Assumption 1.4: Villagers are prepared to manage the scheme responsibly.

Comment: VMN members were transformed to PG committees and received additional training over the reporting period and several of them could do the IBIS rice field operation in 2024 independently. The combinations of leadership skill, the establishment of the bank accounts and the payment received from the IBIS Rice Conservation Co., Ltd, through their bank accounts, we see the key steps to be self-financing and they are in proceeding the producer group operation and management of the IBIS rice scheme in Siem Pang district by themselves. [REDACTED]

Output 2 Assumptions

Assumption 2.1: A sufficient number of Kavet villagers are prepared to work and not use the job to continue illegal activities.

Comment: Seven Kavet villagers continue to serve conservation commitment within the Rising Phoenix, demonstrating their real loyalty and commitment to their responsibilities. Despite the challenges they face, these individuals always show their loyalties and commitment by keeping their positions away from unlawful activities. Through their continued involvement, they contribute significantly to Rising Phoenix by providing information on unlawful activities within SPWS. [REDACTED]

Assumption 2.2: A sufficient number of females are prepared to work as scouts. Female scouts are able to provide time away from family to conduct the tasks and are also not stigmatized by males and family in doing this type of work.

Comment: The female scouts of Rising Phoenix have shown exceptional resilience and adaptability. As community members, they work in forests for at least 20 days per month, surpassing expectations [REDACTED]

Assumption 2.3: The Rising Phoenix, Surveillance Intelligence and Reporting Unit will be able to monitor in detail through SMART applications the work conducted and anticipate and respond to any issues and safety concerns with village and family members through counter-intelligence.

Comment: Rising Phoenix's Surveillance and Intelligence Reporting unit prioritises field scouts' well-being. Technologies like SMART and Earth Ranger, supported by dedicated officers, improve responses to safety concerns. These advancements allow scouts to work confidently and remain committed, ensuring satisfaction in their vital conservation efforts [REDACTED]

Output 3 Assumptions

Assumption 3.1: Law enforcement agencies participate and cooperate.

Comment: There are still issues of various reporting lines amongst agencies and internal politics between commanders of the same agencies. To counter this the Provincial Governor issues directives to agencies to cooperate as per the requirements of the Royal Government of Cambodia [REDACTED]

Assumption 3.2: Multi-agency cooperation and monitoring leads to reduced levels of corruption.

Comment: There has been successful interventions and adaptive management in the project that has now led to the reduction in corruption through multi-agency cooperation. This can be seen with the arrest and imprisonment of a corrupt district police officer involved in the illegal wildlife trade. Working with law enforcement officers based outside of Siem Pang has also assisting in reducing corruption. [REDACTED]

Assumption 3.3: Core funding is maintained for patrol officers' supplements.

Comment: Rising Phoenix has maintained available core funding for the patrol officers' supplements for 2022, 2023, 2024 and for 2025 [REDACTED]

Assumption 3.4: Border Liaison Officers from Lao PDR remain active upon project commencement and committed to working on transboundary illegal wildlife trade.

Comment: Following the investigation of officers who facilitated drug transport from Lao to Cambodia, several border officers and a deputy governor were removed. Initially, cooperation at the border was hesitant. However, with the provincial governor's approval, a new deputy governor for border security, and the January 2025 Border Crime Workshop, collaboration has improved ([REDACTED])

Assumption 3.5: Transboundary multi-agency training is able to be conducted under the mandate of the Border Liaison Office by no later than year 2.

Comment: The transboundary multi-agency training was completed in Jan-Feb 2024

Assumption 3.6: The Cambodian Government is still committed to gender inclusive target of 20% of government staff in all agencies being females.

Comment: There was a lack of frontline female officers working on the border issues.

Assumption 3.7: Rising Phoenix, Surveillance Intelligence and Reporting Unit will be able to plan and monitor work conducted through SMART applications and other electronic and overt on-the-ground information collection processes.

Comment: As per assumption

3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on illegal wildlife trade and multidimensional poverty reduction

Project Impact Statement:

Reduction of poverty and illegal wildlife poaching and trade in Siem Pang District, through innovative and scalable programmes in sustainable livelihoods, increased gender-neutral career opportunities and law enforcement.

Comments

The project has established and operationalized a diverse and gender inclusive scout team, twenty scouts from which eight are females (40%) and twelve males (60%). Female Kavet and Lao are five, which is 62% of female scouts. Males Kavet and Lao are eight, which is 66% of male scouts. Therefore, 65% of scouts are from ethnic minorities. [REDACTED]

The IBIS Rice total income from sales for Siem Pang District increased to US\$ 933,701 in 2024 as compared to US\$ 530,505 in 2023, US\$ 308,257 in 2022 and the 2021 baseline of \$170,976. With total certified membership reaching 1,234 households from 19 villages [REDACTED]

The scout team has been operational since January 2022 removing a total of 6,917 snares from Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary (1,267 in 2024, 3,947 in 2023, 1,703 in 2022). They have also rescued a total of 65 live animals from snares (12 in 2024, 40 in 2023, 3 in 2022), most notable including a male gaur [REDACTED]

A multi-agency unit comprising 26 law enforcement officers from the Provincial Departments of Environment, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and the Royal Gendarmerie Khmer, in collaboration with the military, police, and prosecutor's office, has imprisoned 10 offenders for illegal wildlife trade (including one corrupt district police officer) and submitted 36 cases to court. This marks a significant milestone for a district that, prior to this project, had never submitted a single case for illegal wildlife trade offences ([REDACTED])

4. Thematic focus

Strengthening law enforcement

The project has improved law enforcement in Siem Pang District and the porous Cambodia-Laos border through the Siem Pang PATROL programme, facilitating collaboration among law

enforcement agencies in Stung Treng Province and conducting regular patrols in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. The scout team has made significant progress in reducing snares within the sanctuary.

Adaptive management led to the first arrests and prosecutions for illegal wildlife trade. On-the-job training improved court case preparation, resulting in 36 cases submitted, including land encroachment, wildlife killing, and illegal fishing. Eight suspects await trial, two are convicted, and a bear smuggling gang was dismantled. Strengthened law enforcement, multi-agency collaboration, and provincial intervention reduced corruption and improved enforcement effectiveness [REDACTED]

Developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT

The project has supported sustainable livelihoods in Siem Pang District, through the IBIS Rice programme which had total income of US\$ 933,701 in 2024 for 1,234 household, which is twenty percent of the population in Siem Pang District. Rising Phoenix has also supported a scout team of 20 members, which provide direct employment to 20 people, improving household income to 100 family members, from Siem Pang District, who would not have employment otherwise [REDACTED]

5. Impact on species in focus

The projects species in focus include: Sunda Pangolin *Manis javanica*, Asian Black Bear *Ursus thibetanus*, Malaysian Sun Bear *Helarctos malayanus*, Pygmy slow loris *Nycticebus pygmaeus*, Gaur *Bos gaurus*, Banteng *Bos javanicus*, Eld's Deer *Rucervus eldii* and Siamese rosewood *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*.

During a three-year project we cannot expect to see changes in the populations of the target species because the generation time for all target species is greater than three years. In the long term, we expect to see recovery in populations of species including Gaur, Banteng, Eld's Deer and Sambar, we will also see a considerable and sustainable reduction in large scale poaching, snaring and illegal logging.

Already the snare removal team have removed 6,917 snares and rescued sixty-five live animals from snares. In March 2023, a snare removal team found a snared male Gaur which was successfully darted by a vet and the snare removed and the animal released. These activities already will have achieved a positive impact for the focal species. As long the project can continue this trend it should create the enabling environment for the key focal species populations to recover.

6. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

At the end of the 2024 rice growing season 1,234 households from 19 villages, that border the protected-area, sold their paddy to IBIS Rice at 85% premium. A total of 2,018 tonnes was sold, which generated US\$933,701 providing an on average US\$757 additional income per household. This provided cash income and improved food security to 1,234 households, or 6,170 rural people, which is 20% of the population of Siem Pang District. Siem Pang District became the number one producer of IBIS rice in Cambodia in 2022, 2023 and 2024 it supplied 70% of the total IBIS rice grown in Cambodia. [REDACTED]

Rising Phoenix in collaboration with its partner IBIS Rice Conservation Co. Ltd. aim to continue the expansion of IBIS rice programme after the completion of this project into other villages, and to continue the expansion within existing villages to allow greater project support for multidimensional poverty reduction.

By the end of March 2025, twenty local people were still employed as scouts, comprising eight females (40%) and twelve males (60%). Of these, five female scouts (62%) and eight male scouts (66%) are Kavet and Lao ethnic minorities, making up 65% of the total scout team. These individuals, who previously had limited employment opportunities, now support twenty families (100 rural people) with their income. It is anticipated that these teams will continue to expand beyond the lifespan of the project [REDACTED]

7. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
Not yet sensitive	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
Sensitive	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	
Empowering	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	X
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

Rising Phoenix Co Ltd is a gender-neutral meritocracy and is cognizant that gender roles within Cambodia and especially within the remote rural areas are deeply divided into which women are traditionally seen as working within the household or store-shop orientated positions. At Rising Phoenix males and females train together and we promote staff on the basis of ability only. We are committed to equality of opportunity and this is reflected in our approach, including project design. This project will enable us to promote our core values to give opportunity to aspiring village women and empower them socially and economically, creating role models in society.

A notable achievement of the project is the successful establishment and operation of a diverse and gender inclusive scout team. This team incorporates twenty local people of Siem Pang District of which 65% are drawn from Lao and Kavet ethnic minorities and 40% female (8 scouts).

8. Monitoring and evaluation

M&E results of the project and the wider work of Rising Phoenix are presented at each ad-hoc Committee for IBIS Rice and Siem Pang PATROL. With project partners having the ability to provide feedback and recommendations on the project [REDACTED]

Rising Phoenix does not operate independently, but in close collaboration with the government and stakeholders. Within the SPPU, government law enforcement officers are assigned to share office space, assist in daily planning, and engage in discussions to review lessons learnt and adapt to situations cooperatively. The CDU works directly with the Siem Pang District Administration and the PDoE on all activities related to IBIS Rice, as well as village and commune meetings. All events are promptly reported via dedicated Telegram groups that include all Rising Phoenix staff and government stakeholders.

Results and activity monitoring for Output 1 is led by Mak Sopheap (Head of the CDU) and for Outputs 2 led by Mang Tukla (Head of SIRU), Output 3 led by Mark Bowman (Director of Enforcement), Financial Control is led by Phan Bunthi (Head of Administration and Finance) Oversight is provided by Jonathan C Eames OBE the CEO.

Rising Phoenix adopts adaptive management to achieve project outputs. Annual work plans are reviewed monthly in unit meetings, allowing adjustments for delays or issues. Monthly reports from key units track progress, while the monitoring approach evolved in year three, ensuring all indicators are met. A key adaptation involved engaging senior government stakeholders through frequent updates, provincial meetings, and Telegram groups for real-time reporting and feedback.

9. Lessons learnt

The IWT119 project has only three months remaining, concluding on 30 June 2025. The structured approach and indicators established through this initiative have been instrumental in enabling Rising Phoenix to develop a robust framework, resulting in exceptional achievements through adaptive management and GESI methodologies, which will continue to be used beyond the project life.

In 2024, IBIS Rice Conservation Co. Ltd. continued to encourage farmers to increase their paddy rice sales by offering a bonus of 100 Riels per kilogram to households participating in the project. This incentive resulted in a significant rise in average sales per household, from 1,313 kg in 2022 to 1,969 kg in 2024. Consequently, total rice sales increased from 670 tonnes in 2022 to 2,018 tonnes in 2024. Furthermore, over 650 households (53% of the 1,025 participants) sold more than 1,000 kilograms of rice each. This has proven to be a valuable lesson, and we are committed to implementing similar strategies in 2025 to further encourage farmers to boost both their sales volumes and incomes.

Joint training, involving qualified individuals or those with the potential to develop the necessary skills, including both project staff and vetted government personnel, should be prioritised during the initial establishment of programmes covering all aspects of the project. This training should centre on comprehensive processes for data collection, verification, and analysis to produce actionable information products, which can then be shared with relevant agencies. It is worth noting that, in Cambodia, the term “intelligence” is often associated with espionage; therefore, alternative terminology, such as “information verification” or similar phrasing, should be adopted.

At the outset of projects, a comprehensive background review should also be conducted to evaluate the knowledge, training, affiliations, and track record of government officers involved. This approach will significantly strengthen collaboration strategies, support the identification of capacity development and mentoring needs, and provide clarity regarding potential limitations or obstacles that could conflict with project objectives. Furthermore, such a review should include detailed mapping of relationships, authority, jurisdiction, and reporting lines to ensure a well-defined structure of roles and responsibilities.

Senior government officers must adopt greater leadership, responsibility, and accountability for the actions of their subordinates. Identifying champions to take on these leadership roles can prove challenging in remote border areas. Therefore, drawing on lessons successfully learned over the past three years, it is vital to require a multi-agency approach, incorporating teams of law enforcement personnel from outside the district. Achieving this will necessitate thorough mapping of details, as outlined in the preceding two paragraphs.

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

Responses and actions to the IWT119 AR2 review were provided in the IWT119 HYR3.

11. Risk Management

The most recent version of the project risk register has been attached as Annex B.

Over the three years of the project there has been ten risks added to the risk register. Out of these ten risks, three risks have been closed and seven risks are still open. Regular monitoring of the open risks is implemented by the named owners of the risk. No significant adaptation of the project has been required to date.

Out of the three issues added to the register in March of 2023, all three have been resolved

12. Scalability and durability

Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd, established in 2015 as a social enterprise, supports the conservation of Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. Funded by international donors, high-net-worth individuals, and its board, the company aims to ensure long-term sustainability through mechanisms like high-end tourism and nature-based solutions. In 2022, its sister NGO signed a 30-year agreement with Cambodia’s Ministry of the Environment. Rising Phoenix manages the site, focusing on conservation and community development. In 2023, it launched Siem Pang Experience to

develop ecotourism, creating jobs. By March 2025, Rising Phoenix employed 105 people, becoming the district's largest non-state employer.

Under this project the IBIS Rice scheme will continue to expand beyond the project life and be self-sustainable. First steps towards sustainability by having at least one village networking committee self-financing by 2025. The introduction of this measures will empower the community and give them increased financial responsibility. These steps will happen within a wider context of IBIS Rice Conservation Co. Ltd achieving profitability through expanded global sales rendering third party subsidy of its operation no longer necessary

All project stakeholders have consistently contributed to the development and implementation of the project. The scope of stakeholder involvement has been expanded to include additional agencies and departments, all of which have provided letters of support to extend the main project into an IWT extra project. Even if Rising Phoenix is not awarded the extra grant, the project will continue as planned, albeit with a reduced rate of expansion, until sustainable funding from other initiatives is fully secured by 2029 [REDACTED]

Meetings and study tours held between Rising Phoenix and the Freeland Foundation have demonstrated the potential to extend this programme to the Cambodia-Thai border, building upon and expanding the model initially developed in Siem Pang [REDACTED]

In April 2025, meetings will be conducted with Conservation International and Flora & Fauna in Phnom Penh to outline plans for adopting and expanding activities conducted under IWT119.

13. IWT Challenge Fund identity

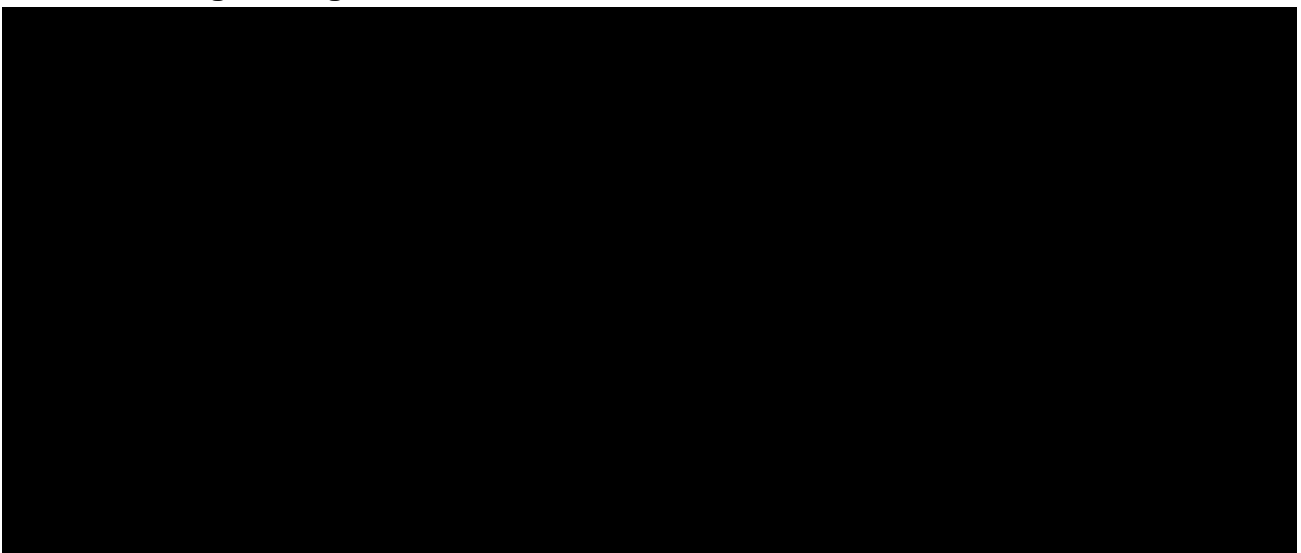
Rising Phoenix has a soul focus on Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. We are funded through annual contributions of the shareholders, regular donations of high-net-worth individuals and through grant contracts.

Rising Phoenix currently holds a portfolio of 11 donor grants. Each project contributes to a different aspect of Rising Phoenix work at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. The IWT grant forms part of the full scope of work at SPWS.

Rising Phoenix maintains a website, produces annual reports and promotions films about our work. [REDACTED]

U.K. funding for Siem Pang PATROL and the project was clearly communicated to government partners and participants in relevant workshops and study tours. Training manuals, produced in English, Khmer, and Laotian, featured UK Government and IWT logos. These were distributed during the 2023 training and the 2025 Border Security Meeting & Workshop.

14. Safeguarding



15. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2024-March 2025)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2024/25 Grant (£)	2024/25 Total actual IWT Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	88,933.11	88,869.83		

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			Rising Phoenix Conservation Inc grant, Rising Phoenix core funding and CEPF:115723
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)		N/A	Cartier Philanthropy

16. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Morodok Baitong USAID funding that had been secured in 2024 to assist in IBIS Rice and Scout expansion came to an abrupt end in January 2025.

Rising Phoenix are reviewing all policies and producers over the next couple of months to update best practices, adopt lessons learnt and ensure they are up to the standards or the requirements of the Royal Government of Cambodia and international standards.

Project design and implementation has been enhanced over the last year, this can be seen from the output 3's results of ten violators in prison, two-violators convicted and receiving prison sentences and the arrest and detention of a major illegal wildlife trade network, including a corrupt police office in Siem Pang District.

Special note for reduction and sensitive information.

Annex AO3.11 – Court Case Tracking-CONFIDENTIAL, cannot be released to the public as it has names of suspects that have not been to trial as yet.

The following Annexes are not be release for public viewing due to sensitive law enforcement content, case tracking and other issues: Annex AO3.1 - 2024-04-05 SPPU Report; Annex AO3.4 - 2024-06-07 SPPU Report; Annex AO3.5 - 2024-08-09 SPPU Report; Annex AO3.6 - 2024-10-11 SPPU Report; Annex AO3.7 - 2024-12 SPPU Report; Annex AO3.8 - RP-SPPU-IWT Smuggling Network Arrested; and Annex AO3.9 - 2025-01-03-03 SPPU Report

17. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

The IWT119 Project has delivered outstanding successes in conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and law enforcement through initiatives like the IBIS Rice Programme, GESI scout teams, and the Siem Pang PATROL Unit (SPPU).

The IBIS Rice Programme expanded significantly in 2024, benefiting 1,234 households across 19 villages. ECOCERT organic certification was achieved, and rice sales rose from 1,348 tonnes in 2023 to 2,018 tonnes in 2024, generating \$933,738 in income. Producer Groups were formalised at the commune level, ensuring EU compliance and sustainability. Farmers received training in financial literacy, governance, and technical skills.

Scout teams patrolled over 19,316 km, removing 1,267 snares and addressing threats within Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary (SPWS). Their dedication bolstered local conservation efforts.

The Siem Pang PATROL Programme tackled illegal wildlife trade (IWT), submitting 36 cases to court. Ten individuals were arrested, eight remain in custody, and two were convicted with sentences of one and five years. A bear smuggling network was dismantled, with suspects awaiting trial.

Cross-border collaborations with Laos and Thailand addressed poaching and trafficking through workshops and study tours, enhancing law enforcement. Awareness of Cambodia's environment code reached over 400 community members.

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption including description, country and credit	Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
Video	Annex C IWT119SPPU YEARLY BRIEFING 2024.mp4 https://drive.google.com/drive/u/2/folders/1kdPDtaQ5Zss4xOMkUBqIC3GMJO5Jtvp5	Yearly briefing on SPPU activities under IWT Jan-Dec 2024 (5min 47sec). English language Cambodia Rising Phoenix		Yes
Video	Annex C IWT119 Border Crime Workshop Introduction https://drive.google.com/drive/u/2/folders/1kdPDtaQ5Zss4xOMkUBqIC3GMJO5Jtvp5	IWT119 Border Crime Workshop Introduction (10 min 31 sec) English, Khmer, Lao language Cambodia Rising Pheonix		Yes

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2024-2025

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact Reduction of poverty and illegal wildlife poaching and trade in Siem Pang District, through innovative and scalable programmes in sustainable livelihoods, increased gender-neutral career opportunities and law enforcement	<p>The IBIS Rice total income from sales for Siem Pang District increased to US\$ 933,701 in 2024 as compared to US\$ 530,505 in 2023, US\$ 308,257 in 2022 and the 2021 baseline of \$170,976. With total certified membership reaching 1,234 households from 19 villages.</p> <p>The project has established and operationalized a diverse and gender inclusive scout team, 20 scouts from which 8 are females (40%) and 12 males (60%). Female Kavet and Lao are 5 which is 62% of female scouts. Males Kavet and Lao are 8, which is 66% of male scouts. Therefore, 65% of scouts are from ethnic minorities.</p> <p>A multi-agency unit comprising 26 law enforcement officers from the PDoE, PDAFF, RGK in collaboration with the military, police, and prosecutor's office, has imprisoned 10 offenders for illegal wildlife trade (including one corrupt district police officer) and submitted 36 cases to court.</p>	
Outcome Illegal wildlife trade reduced, household income increased and sustainable, gender equality promoted and career opportunities created for spatially marginalized ethnic minority communities.		
Outcome indicator 0.1 By 2025 a minimum 2 sites one on the Cambodia-Thai Border and one on the Lao-Cambodian Border have requested to use the innovative scalable PATROL model.	This will be achieved by end of project. Freeland Foundation has already signed a letter of support dated: 21 March 2025. Meeting have been scheduled with Conservation International (CI) and Flora & Fauna (F&F) to discuss closer cooperation and adoption of techniques used under IWT119	Develop agreement with Freeland Foundation, CI and F&F for collaboration and the adoption of law enforcement procedures.
Outcome indicator 0.2, By 2025, the total sales income of Siem Pang IBIS rice members will reach \$300,000 as compared to the 2021 baseline of \$170,000.	Total sales of Siem Pang IBIS Rice in 2024 have reached \$933,701, as compared to \$530,505 in 2023, \$308,257 in 2022 and the 2021 baseline of \$170,976.	Continued expansion of IBIS rice members in Siem Pang district is planned for 2025, and the total IBIs rice sales is expected to increase.
Outcome indicator 0.3 By 2025 at least one village marketing committee is self-financing, as compared to the 2021 baseline of 0.	No village marketing committee is completely self-financing yet. Although four PGs were established and received direct fund from USAID Morodok Baitang (UMB) to cover the per diem, transportation for VMN and refreshment during meetings and field works, in March 2025, the bank account were also embellished and one PG received a direct payment of rice sale for their members, as well as the incentive of rice	Continued capacity development will be provided to the producer groups from Rising Phoenix and IBIS rice implementing partners. It is expected that all the four producer groups will receive

	sold (100 riel per kg) from IBIS Rice Conservation Co., Ltd, for distrusting to their members. This proved that the PGs are functioning as a key step for the future self-financing. We see the key steps to be self-financing and they are in proceeding the producer group operation and management of the IBIS rice scheme in Siem Pang district by themselves.	grants in 2025 by IBIS Rice Conservation Co., Ltd.
Outcome indicator 0.4 20 local people are employed as scouts, in which 50% are ethnic minorities and 50% comprise a female snaring removal team by end of year 1, as compared to the 2021 baseline of 6 scouts with 33% female and 0% ethnic minorities.	20 scouts from which 8 are females (40%) and 12 males (60%). Female Kavet and Lao are 5 which is 62% of female scouts. Males Kavet and Lao are 8, 66% of male scouts. Therefore, 65% of scouts are from ethnic minorities.	The scout team will continue their operation into the final year of the project. Rising Phoenix intends to fundraise for the expansion of the scout unit and recruit more females.
Outcome indicator 0.5 By 2025, the total number of bushmeat, carcasses and alive animals confiscated within SPWS will be reduce by 50% as compared to the 2021 baseline of 58.	During the reporting period, there was 33 incidents recorded on carcasses, bushmeat, and alive animal (released). Comparing to 58 incidents of 2021 baseline, the number of incidents is reduced by 43%.	The scout unit will continue snare removal patrols in 2025 and will likely encounter similar number of incidents.
Outcome indicator 0.6 Working under the mandate of PATROL and the Border Liaison Office (BLO) local and transboundary investigations into illegal wildlife trade, prosecute more than 10 local and transboundary middlemen by end of project, as compared to 2021 baseline of 0.	As of 31 March 2025, two-persons involved in poaching and illegal wildlife trade have been convicted and sentenced to jail terms. Another eight persons are in prison being prosecuted and awaiting trial by the Stung Treng Provincial Courts, including one corrupt district police officer	Continue to mentor and monitor agencies, support patrolling and investigations, establish a wildlife crime mobile unit.
Output 1 Expansion of IBIS Rice Programme at villages surrounding Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, increasing household income.		
Output indicator 1.1 By 2025 IBIS Rice expands from 783 (2021 baseline) to 1,200 Households.	By December 2024, the IBIS Rice scheme was expanded from 783 (2021 baseline) to 1,234 Households. The target is exceeded.	Continued expansion the members in the current 19 villages
Output indicator 1.2, By 2025, 85% of participating households sell their paddy crop to IBIS Rice, as compared to the 2021 baseline of 76%	Although the number of new members increased, but there are still 83% of participating household sold their rice as compared to the 2021 baseline of 76%	Continued recording the number of households participating and selling their paddy crop to IBIS Rice.
Output indicator 1.3 By 2025, at least 90% of participating households have followed the conservation contract, continuing from the achieved 2021 baseline.	At the end of 2024, 98% of participating households have followed the conservation contract, continuing from the achieved 2021 baseline.	Continued monitoring the compliance in 2025
Output indicator 1.4 By 2025 at least one village marketing networks is self-financing, as compared to the 2021 baseline of 0.	Four PGs were established instead of the Village Marketing Networks, the progress on functioning of the IBIS Rice operation at their villages by the PGs, they have also received some fund from UMB and the direct payment of paddy rice sale and the incentives they received through their	Continued the capacity building to PGs on management, leadership and fund raising.

	bank account, these proved they are in the key steps toward self-financing in the future.	
Output 2. A diverse and gender inclusive scout teams are established and operational.		
Output indicator 2.1. Ten males with 50% representation from Lao and Kavet ethnic minorities are recruited into a scout team, trained and equipped by the end of year 1.	Exceeds output at 66% minorities. Currently there are 12 male scouts including 4 Kavet, 4 Laos and 4 Khmer, therefore a total of around 66% of male scouts are from ethnic minorities.	Seek future funding and future expansion, through sustainable income streams.
Output indicator 2.2. Ten female snare removal scouts 50% with representation from Lao and Kavet ethnic minorities are recruited, trained and equipped by the end of Year 1.	Exceeds Output at 62% minorities, but are less 2 on sex. There was 1 Kavet female scout resigned from the job in March 2025. Currently, there are 8 female scouts from which 1 is Kavet, 4 are Laos and 3 are Khmer. Therefore, a total of 62% of female scouts are from ethnic minorities.	Seek future funding and future expansion, through sustainable income streams.
Output indicator 2.3. Snare clearance along the O'Khampa River increases from 3 km2 by end of year 1, and 30 km2 by Year 3.	Snare removal operation along O'Khampa was 606 km ² in year 3 compared to 434 in year 2, and 18 km in year 1 (only three months of operation). This has significantly exceeded the year 3 target.	Continue snare removal operations
Output 3. Siem Pang PATROL Programme fully operational with multi-agency, patrols and investigations, transboundary dialog and ad-hoc investigations with Lao PDR occurring along the border		
Output indicator 3.1 Increased patrol area coverage (km2) of Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary from 20% per month (2021 Baseline) to 70% per month by Year 2.	From April 2024 to March 2025, patrol coverage decreased to 533 km ² due to the adoption of a more strategic approach based on previous years' data. This targeted known poaching hotspots, chokepoints for infiltration, and extraction routes, with specialised teams focused on encroachment documentation, case reporting, and targeting traders and routes outside SPWS. This refined strategy resulted in increased arrests and court submissions, proving more effective than in previous years	Continue to use adaptive management, strategic and operational planning, establish a wildlife crime mobile unit to target IWT traders outside of PA
Output indicator 3.2 Increase in investigations and prosecutions of illegal wildlife traders in Siem Pang District from 2021 baseline of 0 to 3 prosecution in year 2 and 5 prosecutions in Year 3 of the project.	Target will be met by the end of project, presently two-violators successfully convicted, eight-suspects in prison awaiting trial. During the reporting period, there has been a significant rise in investigations, arrests and successful prosecutions. The importance of this development cannot be overstated, as it marks the first instance of successful legal action against individuals involved in the illegal wildlife trade of plants and animals in Siem Pang District. Therefore, from the base line of zero prosecutions in 2021, we are on target for the output to achieved eight prosecutions, by the end of project	Continue to mentor and monitor agencies, support patrolling and investigations, establish a wildlife crime mobile unit.

Output indicator 3.3 Prosecution of transboundary illegal wildlife traders increases from 2021 baseline of 0, to 1 case in year 2 and 1 case in year 3.	This output will be achieved by the end of the project. Under Output 3.2, related to the bear smuggling ring, although the crime group was arrested for a domestic illegal wildlife trade (IWT) case, it is strongly suspected that they were involved in the international trade of bear parts to Vietnam. Consequently, the two middlemen arrested can be included in this output.	Continue to mentor and monitor agencies, support patrolling and investigations, establish a wildlife crime mobile unit. Establish agreement with Champasak Province Laos on PATROL programme.
Output indicator 3.4 1 x Transboundary Advance Investigation training course conducted between Cambodia and Lao PDR, 1 x study tours to Siem Pang PATROL Coordination center by Lao PDR officers. 1 x Refresher Patrol Training. Involving 60 officers with a minimum of 20% female officers involved in working on border security and illegal wildlife trade patrolling and investigations by project end.	Progress towards project output 3.4 includes 114 participants (107 males and 7 females), exceeding the target of 60 officers by 54 individuals. Female participation remains low at 6.1%, reflecting cultural challenges in Cambodia and Lao PDR, where women in frontline roles are often assigned or prefer administrative responsibilities due to limited interest in forest-based roles. Despite this, women held key leadership positions, such as the Lao delegation's female district governor and Cambodia's Deputy Director of Stung Treng Administration and a deputy district governor.	Continue study tours, training, exchanges beyond project life and coordinate closely with other organizations on Cambodian-Lao and Thai-Cambodian border for joint training. Continue to advocate for a greater female representation, especially in leadership decision making roles.
Output indicator 3.5 Annual Border Liaison meetings involving select officers from Cambodia and Lao PDR, starting year 1 to end of project.	From 22-23 January 2025, The Border Crime Workshop and Study Tour at the Cambodia-Laos border and in Siem Pang District aimed to address transboundary crime by bringing together government officials and law enforcement representatives from both nations. Discussions focused on illegal activities over the past year, including border crossings, drug transportation, trafficking of yellow vine products, wildlife poaching, and hunting. Cambodian authorities provided data revealing significant incidents such as 14 illegal border crossings with 147 detained individuals and 4 drug-related cases involving over 1,700 kilograms of drugs and 92 arrests.	Develop agreement with Champasak Province on the PATROL programme, and renew the agreement with Stung Treng Province. Conduct more regular meetings with senior level government officers at the border. Follow recommendations made during the 22-23 Jan 2025 meeting.

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

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Reduction of poverty and illegal wildlife poaching and trade in Siem Pang District, through innovative and scalable programmes in sustainable livelihoods, increased gender-neutral career opportunities and law enforcement			
Outcome: Illegal wildlife trade reduced, household income increased and sustainable, gender equality promoted and career	0.1 By 2025 a minimum 2 sites one on the Cambodia-Thai Border and one on the Lao-Cambodian Border have	0.1 Letters of request by 2 organizations with supporting government letters.	By 2023 COVID-19 Pandemic response allows the opening up of national and transnational travel and tourism with minimal restrictions.

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
opportunities created for spatially marginalized ethnic minority communities.	<p>requested to use the innovative scalable PATROL model.</p> <p>0.2 By 2025, the total sales income of Siem Pang IBIS rice members will reach \$300,000 as compared to the 2021 baseline of \$170,000.</p> <p>0.3 By 2025 at least one village marketing committee is self-financing, as compared to the 2021 baseline of 0.</p> <p>0.4. 20 local people are employed as scouts, in which 50% are ethnic minorities and 50% comprise a female snaring removal team by end of year 1, as compared to the 2021 baseline of 6 scouts with 33% female and 0% ethnic minorities.</p> <p>0.5. By 2025, the total number of bushmeat, carcasses and alive animals confiscated within SPWS will be reduce by 50% as compared to the 2021 baseline of 58.</p> <p>0.6 Working under the mandate of PATROL and the Border Liaison Office (BLO) local and transboundary investigations into illegal wildlife trade, prosecute more than 10 local and transboundary middlemen by end of project, as compared to 2021 baseline of 0</p>	<p>0.2 IBIS Rice sale certificates. IBIS Rice household contracts, land base data shape files, compliance certificates,</p> <p>0.3. Yearly sales and purchase certificates from IBIS Rice, Attendance list; training curriculum; pre/post-test.</p> <p>0.4 Training Reports; Employment records and surveys conducted by Rising Phoenix and Village Chiefs.</p> <p>0.5 SMART data, Patrol Reports; Siem Pang PATROL Operational Working Group quarterly government meeting minutes.</p> <p>0.6 Prosecutors' records; PATROL Operational Working Group quarterly government meeting minutes; Border Liaison Office annual government meeting minutes.</p>	<p>An increasing number of households view IBIS Rice as a saleable commodity rather than for household consumption.</p> <p>A sufficient number of females and Kavet people will engage in the wage economy.</p> <p>Law enforcement agencies will cooperate.</p> <p>The multiple law enforcement agency approach is more resistant to corruption.</p> <p>The Governments of Cambodia and Lao PDR will cooperate under the Border Liaison Mechanism to investigate illegal transboundary wildlife trade.</p>
<p>Output 1</p> <p>Expansion of IBIS Rice Programme at villages surrounding Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, increasing household income.</p>	<p>1.1 By 2025 IBIS Rice expands from 783 (2021 baseline) to 1,200 Households.</p> <p>1.2 By 2025, 85% of participating households sell their paddy crop to IBIS Rice, as compared to the 2021 baseline of 76%</p>	<p>1.1 Households database; land certificate; shape files.</p> <p>1.2 Household contracts; sales agreements.</p>	<p>Households continue to join the IBIS Rice scheme.</p> <p>An increasing number of households sell their paddy crop to IBIS Rice.</p> <p>Villagers voluntarily report infringements. Household compliance with conservation agreements reduces rate of habitat degradation and hunting.</p>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>1.3 By 2025, at least 90% of participating households have followed the conservation contract, continuing from the achieved 2021 baseline.</p> <p>1.4 By 2025 at least one village marketing networks is self-financing, as compared to the 2021 baseline of 0.</p>	<p>1.3 Household contracts; SMART reports; compliance system database.</p> <p>1.4 Yearly sales and purchase certificates from IBIS Rice, Attendance list; training curriculum; pre/post-test.</p>	Villagers are prepared to manage the scheme responsibly.
<p>Output 2</p> <p>A diverse and gender inclusive scout teams are established and operational.</p>	<p>2.1. Ten males with 50% representation from Lao and Kavet ethnic minorities are recruited into a scout team, trained and equipped by the end of year 1.</p> <p>2.2. Ten female snare removal scouts 50% with representation from Lao and Kavet ethnic minorities are recruited, trained and equipped by the end of Year 1.</p> <p>2.3. Snare clearance along the O'Khampa River increases from 3 km2 by end of year 1, and 30 km2 by Year 3.</p>	<p>2.1 Training reports, Rising Phoenix employee records.</p> <p>2.2 Training reports, Rising Phoenix employee records.</p> <p>2.3 Reports and SMART data from baseline, Siem Pang PATROL quarterly government meeting minutes.</p>	<p>A sufficient number of Kavet villagers are prepared to work and not use the job to continue illegal activities.</p> <p>A sufficient number of females are prepared to work as scouts.</p> <p>Female scouts are able to provide time away from family to conduct the tasks and are also not stigmatized by males and family in doing this type of work.</p> <p>Rising Phoenix, Surveillance Intelligence and Reporting Unit will be able to monitor in detail through SMART applications the work conducted and anticipate and respond to any issues and safety concerns with village and family members through counter-intelligence.</p>
<p>Output 3</p> <p>Siem Pang PATROL Programme fully operational with multi-agency, patrols and investigations, transboundary dialog and ad-hoc investigations with Lao PDR occurring along the border</p>	<p>3.1 Increased patrol area coverage (km2) of Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary from 20% per month (2021 Baseline) to 70% per month by Year 2.</p> <p>3.2 Increase in investigations and prosecutions of illegal wildlife traders in Siem Pang District from 2021 baseline of 0 to 3 prosecution in year 2 and 5 prosecutions in Year 3 of the project.</p> <p>3.3 Prosecution of transboundary illegal wildlife traders increases from 2021 baseline of 0, to 1 case in year 2 and 1 case in year 3.</p>	<p>3.1 SMART monitoring, Siem Pang PATROL Reports and quarterly government meeting minutes. From baseline data.</p> <p>3.2 Provincial Court prosecution documents, reports. Siem Pang PATROL quarterly government meeting minutes.</p> <p>3.3 Provincial Court prosecution documents, reports. Training reports, Border Liaison Office (BLO) Annual meeting minutes.</p>	<p>Law enforcement agencies participate and cooperate.</p> <p>Multi-agency cooperation and monitoring leads to reduced levels of corruption.</p> <p>Core funding is maintained for patrol officers' supplements.</p> <p>Border Liaison Officers from Lao PDR are remain active upon project commencement and committed to</p>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>3.4 1 x Transboundary Advance Investigation training course conducted between Cambodia and Lao PDR, 1 x study tours to Siem Pang PATROL Coordination center by Lao PDR officers. 1 x Refresher Patrol Training. Involving 60 officers with a minimum of 20% female officers involved in working on border security and illegal wildlife trade patrolling and investigations by project end.</p> <p>3.5 Annual Border Liaison meetings involving select officers from Cambodia and Lao PDR, starting year 1 to end of project.</p>	<p>3.4 Training reports, Siem Pang PATROL quarterly government meeting minutes</p> <p>3.5 Border Liaison Official government meeting minutes.</p>	<p>working on transboundary illegal wildlife trade.</p> <p>Transboundary multi-agency training is able to be conducted under the mandate of the Border Liaison Office by no later than year 2.</p> <p>The Cambodian Government is still committed to gender inclusive target of 20% of government staff in all agencies being females.</p> <p>Rising Phoenix, Surveillance Intelligence and Reporting Unit will be able to plan and monitor work conducted through SMART applications and other electronic and overt on-the-ground information collection processes.</p>

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)

Output 1: Expansion of IBIS Rice Programme at villages surrounding Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, increasing household income.

- 1.1 Expand the IBIS Rice scheme and sell the IBIS Rice at a minimum 10% premium price
- 1.2 Capacity building to Village Marketing Network committees (VMN) to become Village Agents
- 1.3 Rice field mapping and registration for 300 households with the Department of Land Management
- 1.4 Financial management literacy training to IBIS Rice participants
- 1.5 IBIS Rice compliance monitoring and forest cover change assessment of SPWS
- 1.6 Conduct Farmers' Day for sharing lesson learnt and best practice to local farmers and authorities

Output 2: A diverse and gender inclusive scout teams are established and operational.

- 2.1 Notification - conduct planning and notification of Scout Team Recruitment and desired pre-qualifications in collaboration with the Siem Pang District Authority and Stung Treng Provincial Department of Environment, determine a short list of up to 60 possible recruits.
- 2.2 Selection Course - conduct a recruitment selection course process, including drug testing, ensuring a fair and transparent recruitment of 20 scouts from 60 applicants.
- 2.3 Equipment - Source and procure required equipment in accordance with policy and procedure.
- 2.4 Training – conduct 2-week competency-based scout training, covering Rising Phoenix policy, procedure and reporting, radio and SMART phone communications, remote first aid, navigation, field craft, surveillance patrolling, check points, de-snaring, wildlife awareness and recognition, use of camera traps and use of water craft.
- 2.5 Deploy – submit list of names to Stung Treng Provincial Department of Environment for official approval to work in and support activities in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary and deploy scout team members on tasks in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>2.6 Monthly reporting – produce monthly reports on activities using smart data, earth rangers and field reports.</p> <p>Output 3: Siem Pang PATROL Programme fully operational with multi-agency, patrols and investigations, transboundary dialog and ad-hoc investigations with Lao PDR occurring along the border</p> <p>3.1 Development of Advance Investigation Training – working with the Siem Pang PATROL Operational Working Group (SPPOWG) and the Border Liaison Office (BLO) finalize curriculum outline and material, translate any new material from English to Khmer, and English and Khmer to Lao, select competent instructors.</p> <p>3.2 Study Tour – working with the Siem Pang PATROL Operational Working Group (SPPOWG) and the Border Liaison Office (BLO) organize the approvals, schedule and selection of personnel from Lao PDR to attend a 5-day study tour to the Siem Pang PATROL Coordination Center, Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary and Border Area.</p> <p>3.3 Approval – working through the Siem Pang PATROL Operational Working Group (SPPOWG) and the Border Liaison Office (BLO) Cambodia and Lao PDR gain approval to conduct transboundary advance investigation training for up to 10 Cambodian Government Investigation Officers and 10 Lao PDR Government Investigation Officers with at least 20% being female.</p> <p>3.4 Advanced Investigation Training – implement 2-week training covering: introduction to illegal wildlife trade and transboundary crime, smuggling techniques, the border liaison mechanism, intelligence theory and the intelligence cycle, sources of information, handling informants, six phases of a major investigation, crime scene processing, interviewing techniques, prosecutorial requirements, technical equipment used in an investigation, surveillance, arrests, raids and takedowns. For up to 20 Cambodian and Laos Government Investigation Officers.</p> <p>3.5 Patrol Refresher Training – Conduct refresher training for already existing Patrolling Officers under the Siem Pang PATROL programme, to update on any new tactical procedures to counter any threats utilized by poachers and violators.</p> <p>3.6 Patrolling and Investigation Meetings, Monitoring and Reporting – Through the Siem Pang PATROL Coordination Center, the Border Liaison Meetings, and the Siem Pang PATROL Operational Group meetings, feed information into agencies for investigation and monitor and report on successes and lessons learnt, utilizing operational meetings minutes and data provided.</p> <p>3.7 PATROL Guidelines Manual – Develop and finalize a manual outlining the establishment and functioning of a PATROL programme for use by other entities and organizations.</p>			

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

Please see the Standard Indicator guidance for more information on how to report in this section, including appropriate disaggregation.

IWTCF Indicator number	Name of indicator	If this links directly to a project indicator(s), please note the indicator number here	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
IWTCF-A01	b. Number of people with improved income By 2025, the total sales income of Siem Pang IBIS rice members will reach \$300,000 (£240,000) as compared to the 2021 baseline of \$170,000 (£136,000).	Indicator 0.2	Money GBP – exchange rate uses 1.25	Country	\$308,257 (£246,605)	\$530,505 (£424,404)	\$933,701 (£674,009)	\$1,772,463 (£1,417,970)	Outcome indicator 0.2, By 2025, the total sales income of Siem Pang IBIS rice members will reach \$300,000 (£240,000) as compared to the 2021 baseline of \$170,000 (£136,000).
IWTCF-A01	a. Number of people with Sustainable Livelihoods created or protected By 2025, IBIS Rice expands from 783 (2021 baseline) to 1,200 households that receive household income from the programme.	Indicator 1.1	Number of households	Households in Siem Pang District Cambodia	697	252	285	1,234	By 2025, IBIS Rice expands from 783 (2021 baseline) to 1,200 households that receive household income from the programme.
IWTCF-D01	Number of people from eligible countries who have received structured and relevant training	Indicator 2.2	Number of People	Country Sex: Male or Female IPLC: Kavet, Lao and Khmer	25 Male: 13 Female: 12 IPLC: Kavet: 8 Lao: 8 Khmer: 9	n/a	n/a	25 Male: 13 Female: 12 IPLC: Kavet: 8 Lao: 8 Khmer: 9	Output indicator 2.2. Ten female snare removal scouts 50% with representation from Lao and Kavet ethnic minorities are recruited, trained and equipped by

IWTCF Indicator number	Name of indicator	If this links directly to a project indicator(s), please note the indicator number here	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
									the end of Year 1.
IWTCF-B09	Number of people successfully prosecuted for wildlife crimes	Indicator 0.6	Number of People	County Male Female	0	0	2	2 Cambodia Male: 2	By the end of the project, 10 successful prosecutions will be completed for wildlife crimes.

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, 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)
n/a						

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, scheme, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	YES
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the subject line.	NO
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please consider the best way to submit. One zipped file, or a download option is recommended. We can work with most online options and will be in touch if we have a problem accessing material. If unsure, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the subject line.	YES, INCLUDING ANNEXES (GOOGLE DRIVE)
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.	YES
Have you provided an updated risk register? If you have an existing risk register you should provide an updated version alongside your report. If your project was funded prior to this being a requirement, you are encourage to develop a risk register.	YES
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 17)?	N/A
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	YES
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	YES
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	