



2011

Tigers Alive Initiative Awards for Excellence in Protection Efforts 2011

Best Patrolling Team



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The Eastern Plains Team

The Eastern Plains of Cambodia team has been recognized for the relationship between the efficiency of their patrolling, based on law enforcement monitoring (LEM) reports, and the number of enforcement actions taken and recorded. This team stood out for their careful documentation of their enforcement efforts.

The Eastern Plains of Cambodia Landscape

In Eastern Cambodia stretches a huge block of "dry" forest made up of tall tropical hardwood trees and rich, dense grasses. The Eastern Plains are located to the north and east of the capitol Phnom Penh, and WWF and its partners work in Monduliri Province in two protected areas - the Monduliri Protected Forest and Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary. This landscape of diverse terrain covers an area 585,677 hectares, and in addition to the tiger harbors a number of endangered and important species.

Partners and Team Composition

Three major enforcement units work on the ground with WWF teams. The Monduliri Protected Forest team currently has 17 rangers at six outposts throughout the forest. The team has representatives from local communities, provincial police, border police and the Forestry Administration. The Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary team has 45 rangers at five outposts, and works closely with local communities, in addition to taking part in research. The Mobile enforcement Unit has officers from the provincial police and Forestry Administration staff.

Challenges and Threats

Poaching and illegal timber clearing are a continuous threat due to an insatiable demand for forest products from neighboring countries and the difficulty of patrolling such a vast area. With the province's population growing, the pressure to find new land for food and housing has led to illegal land clearances. The area is also already under exploration for mineral resources, which could threaten the integrity of core tiger areas. With arrests for illegal activities common, more enforcement officers need to be trained in Cambodia's Criminal Procedure Code - a prerequisite for initiating successful court cases.



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Enforcement and Anti Poaching Progress in 2011

- The landscape saw a significant increase in seizures of illegally poached wildlife and illegally cut wood due to improvements in landscape and enforcement efforts.
- With support from WWF, law enforcement teams have recently filed a record number of court cases.
- A community based biodiversity monitoring system has been established, designed for teams that do not have GPS, computers or other available technology. Two community teams now working in the landscape continue to produce good information
- Starting in 2010, there has been a significant increase in patrolling days and night patrols in the landscape. From January to June 2011, the Monduliri Forest team logged 495 patrol days and 256 patrol nights. The overall increase adds up to 62% in the past two years.



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