Prey Lang Community Network

This newsletter gives you an update on the work of the Prey Lang Community Network. Here you can read about PLCN’s latest efforts to save Prey Lang.

PLCN records fewer illegal logging activities in Prey Lang

In the reporting period from August to November 2016, PLCN members recorded
• 154 cases of illegal logging activities

Among these were
• 55 stumps of luxury wood trees found in the forest
• 16 areas of land that had been newly cleared
• 15 sightings of logs or planks being transported in or out of the forest.
• 63 cases of planks left in the forest by illegal loggers

Compared to the previous reporting period - from April to July 2016 – we see a decrease in the recorded illegal logging activity, especially in the instances of stumps and cleared areas.

How we monitor illegal logging

From August to November in 2016 PLCN members went on 7 patrols in the provinces Kratie, Stung Treng, Preah Vihear and Kampong Thom. A total of 172 people participated in the patrols, including local authorities, representatives from NGO’s and forest rangers from the Ministry of Environment.

During the patrols, PLCN recorded among other things illegal logging activities, for example
• a newly cleared area in the forest
• a stump from cut trees that PLCN members have encountered
• planks left by illegal loggers in the forest
• sightings of illegal transport in or out of the forest

Illegal logging activities down compared to last year

Last year, in the same reporting period, PLCN recorded 323 illegal logging activities between July 22 and November 30. This might indicate that illegal logging activity in Prey Lang in general is going down.
PLCN unites with government authorities and rangers to protect Prey Lang

Rangers from Ministry of Environment join PLCN’s patrols

Since 2001, when PLCN started reporting to Cambodian authorities about the status of Prey Lang, the collaboration between the network and authorities has evolved. Now, the collaboration takes new dimensions with rangers and officers from the Ministry of Environment participating regularly on patrols. 26 rangers from Ministry of Environment joined on PLCN’s patrols from August to November 2016 – with the highest presence in Kratie and Preah Vihear.

Orange colors covers Prey Lang

For a few days in February the Prey Lang forest was covered in the orange colors of Cambodian Buddhist monks. 350 people - including PLCN members, Buddhist monks, youth from Phnom Penh, and representatives from authorities – took the orange colors into the forest at a two-day ceremony in the Stung Treng province. At the ceremony around 100 rare luxury wood trees were ordained by the network and left with the significant orange cloth of the community. Watch videos from the ceremony here, here, here and here.

Minister considers to ban import of chainsaws

The Minister of Environment Mr. Say Sam Al, said recently that he will work for an import ban, to stop the use of chainsaws by illegal loggers in the Cambodian forests. Mr. Say Sam Al also said that he recognizes that chainsaws are especially being used to cut down forests as in Prey Lang. Chea Sokhoeun, member of the PLCN, commented on the Ministers plan in the Cambodian Daily. He stated that, PLCN is welcoming an import ban, but also encourages the Minister to take action on the thousands of chainsaws that are currently in use in Prey Lang.

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