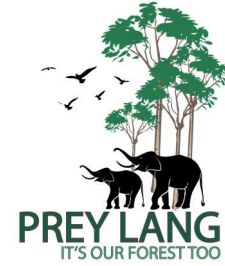


Prey Lang Community Network

Prey Lang Is Our Forest Too



Statement

Illegal Logging and Deforestation in Prey Lang has increased

We are the members of the Prey Lang community network in the four provinces: Kampong Thom, Preah Vihear, Kratie and Stung Treng. We have been volunteering to protect the Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary for more than 20 years and have been monitoring logging activities including timber transportation, use of handmade weapons, and poaching of endangered species and wildlife. The monitoring activities continued although the network was banned from patrolling the Prey Lang protected area in early February 2020 by the Ministry of Environment.

When Prey Lang was placed under the control of the Ministry of Environment, we observed that crime rate increased compared to when it was controlled by the Forestry Administration. What is even more remarkable is that since the Ministry of Environment has banned the Prey Lang community network from patrolling, it seems to be easier to go in and out of the Prey Lang forest for the purpose of logging and transporting simply by paying the officers at the checkpoint in exchange for obtaining “permission” to commit the crimes in Prey Lang.

Since February 2020, we have all observed illegal activities around Prey Lang, such as:

1. The vast cutting down of the resin trees and the large trees in Prey Lang by illegal loggers and Think Biotech Co., Ltd in Kratie province, Thy Nha Co., Ltd Development, and Investment and PNT in Preah Vihear province.
2. Activities of transporting timber and logging equipment passing through the MoE’s Ranger Patrols Office without any reaction from the Rangers.
3. Deforestation and slum settlement in the forest buffer zone protected by the Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary by powerful people and newcomers.
4. Harmful use of handmade weapons by criminal groups and people near Prey Lang, which threatens the protection of natural resources and wildlife.

5. Trapping, pollution, handmade bombs and the use of other illegal devices have seriously affected biodiversity and the environment.

We have all noticed that no action has been taken to prevent these five major threats against the Prey Lang.

We would like to appeal to the Royal Government of Cambodia, the Ministry of Environment, and relevant authorities at all levels:

1. Request to Royal Government to monitor and remove any civil servant from office if they are involved in crime and/or do not take proper action during the performance of their duties.
2. Stop allowing the transportation of timber and the stockpiling of other materials for deforestation from the Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary.
3. Request to Royal Government, especially the Ministry of Environment and relevant institutions, to develop a specific strategic plan to combat deforestation, deforestation for new agriculture, unlawful settlements, firearms processing, hunting and other criminal offenses etc.
4. Let the Royal Government take action to confiscate chainsaws, wood processing mills, weapons of all kinds from villages, communes, districts, provinces, business locations around Prey Lang in the four provinces and stop importing equipment into Cambodia that facilitate the logging.
5. The Royal Government must implement regulations and laws in the protection of the forests in the protected areas.
6. Call on and encourage the Cambodian people in general to actively participate, directly or indirectly, in the cause of protecting natural resources.
7. Call on the international actors to allocate resources to Cambodia and other countries affected by deforestation, climate change and need for preserving and managing natural resources.

For more information, please contact the community representative at the following phone number:

1. Mr. Ek Sovanna 097 644 9998
2. Mr. Svay Song 071 451 9465
3. Mr. Srey Thi 099 637 147
4. Mr. Khem Sokhy 085 473 157
5. Mr. Minh Ny 096 300 2762
6. Mr. Hoeun Sopheap 012 373 441
7. Miss Chheang Ly 096 668 0673
8. Mr. Kheng Kho 071 451 9463
9. Mr. Pich Sarik 097 923 31 99
10. Mr. Khuth Soeum 017 640 084

Together we protect Prey Lang! "Prey Lang is our forest Too!"