THE STATUS OF

PREY LANG

8th Monitoring Report

with data from forest patrols

• **PLCN REPORTS OF ILLEGAL LOGGING HAVE INCREASED**
particularly around the Think Biotech sawmill

• **MOST LOGGED TIMBER SPECIES ARE ENDANGERED**
according to the IUCN Red List; many are valuable for community subsistence

• While the latest government crackdown on illegal logging is welcome,
**PLCN URGES GREATER GOVERNMENT ACTION AGAINST COMPANIES
OPERATING ILLEGALLY IN AND AROUND PREY LANG**

On behalf of
**Prey Lang Community Network
(PLCN):**
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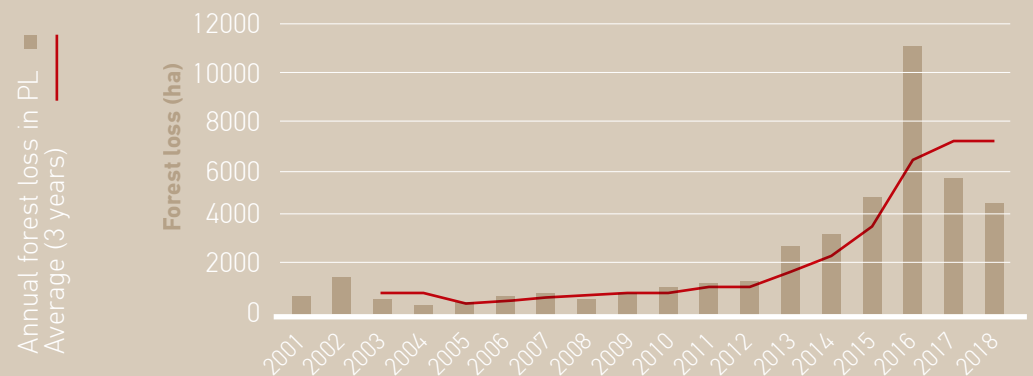Image 1: PLCN members take a rest during patrol.

INTRODUCTION

The **Prey Lang Forest** is located in the central plains of Cambodia, just west of the Mekong River. It **covers approximately 500,000 hectares (ha) and spans four provinces**: Kratie, Stung Treng, Kampong Thom and Preah Vihear. The forest **supports seven distinct forest ecosystems**, including swamp forests, evergreen, semi-evergreen and deciduous forests. Numerous rare and threatened plant and animal species are found in the area. Prey Lang is also a **major watershed** that feeds the Mekong River and the Tonle Sap Lake, both of which are crucial to the fisheries of local households and to the national economy and food security. **Prey Lang also regulates local weather** systems and helps mitigate climate change.** Due to its national importance, Prey Lang **was designated a Wildlife Sanctuary in 2016,** covering 431,683 ha. The Cambodian government has issued a ban on all timber exports.

According to the University of Maryland[2], forest loss for the Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary was 4,563 ha. in 2018. (Fig. 1). This is equivalent to an **average of 13 ha of forest destroyed every day or 18 football fields** the size of Phnom Penh Olympic stadium (0.705 ha) cut down per day. The University of Maryland annual tree cover loss dataset measures the completeness of tree cover canopy in 30x30 meter pixels.

This measurement does not differentiate between permanent land cover change (deforestation) or temporary loss (in which forests will recover), nor between natural or human causes of loss. In addition, because optical satellite data collection can often be obscured by cloud cover in the humid tropics, some late-in-the-year loss may be picked up in the next year following persistent cloud cover. Global Forest Watch (GFW) therefore recommends using a three-year moving average to assess totals and trends in the tree cover loss data (shown in **Fig 1**). The **total amount of forest loss between 2001 to 2018 was 41,758 ha or almost 10% of the Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary.**

In 2001, communities living in and around Prey Lang began to advocate **protecting their ancestral forest lands from large-scale illegal logging and land grabbing,** which was destroying local communities' access to natural resources. Today, **PLCN is a well-organised group of communities working to protect Prey Lang in collaboration with other stakeholders. PLCN conducts regular forest patrols to collect data on forest resources, illegal activities and climate change** using a specially designed smartphone application known as the Prey Lang app. The data are analysed in collaboration with the University of Copenhagen and the results published in reports, press releases and on social media. **PLCN's innovative approach to environmental justice continues to attract international attention** and the network has been awarded **four international prizes**, most lately the Energy Globe Award 2019.

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2 Hansen, M. C., P. V. Potapov, R. Moore, M. Hancher, S. A. Turubanova, A. Tyukavina, D. Thau, S. V. Stehman, S. J. Goetz, T. R. Loveland, A. Kommareddy, A. Egorov, L. Chini, C. O. Justice, and J. R. G. Townshend. 2013. "High-Resolution Global Maps of 21st-Century Forest Cover Change." Science 342 (15 November): 850–53. Data available on-line from: *https://earthenginepartners.appspot.com/science-2013-global-forest/download_v1.6.html* . Forest loss for 2018 in Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary calculated with Google Earth engine.

Annual forest loss in PL Average (3 years)

Forest loss (ha)

① Forest loss

Figure 1: Forest loss in Prey Lang, 2001 - 2018
Brown bars show annual forest loss. Red line shows average forest loss over past three years.

MEET THE PATROLLERS

Mr. SVAY Sung was born in 1957. He is Kuy and lives in Ta Ngeun village, Vattanak commune, Sambou district, Kratie province together with his wife and six children. His family relies on farming, mainly rice, and harvesting of Non-Timber Forest Products. Sung became an active member of PLCN in 2000. He has devoted his life to protecting the forest and is pro-active in mobilising communities to protect Prey Lang as he believes it forms an intrinsic part of Kuy culture and spiritual life. In 2009, Sung became an active member in his commune due to his ability to coordinate and collaborate within the network and with external partners, associations and networks. Sung has gained respect from communities and external stakeholders alike for his skills, persistency and hard work in protecting the forest. In 2015, Sung was elected as one of 28 PLCN core group members and is a respected elder working to coordinate and consolidate the network. Sung is a very active member of PLCN involved in advocacy activities, campaigns, patrols, networking and strengthening the membership base.

Image 1.1: Mr. Svay Sung, PLCN core group member

WHAT'S NEW SINCE LAST MONITORING

REPORT

PLCN WINS THE ENERGY GLOBAL NATIONAL AWARD FOR CAMBODIA

PLCN received the National Energy Globe Award 2019 for their innovative environmental protection efforts in Cambodia. The Energy Globe Award was established 20 years ago, and its aim is **"to present successful sustainable projects to a global audience and to demonstrate that for many environmental problems feasible solutions already exist".** The international Energy Globe Award is known as "Nature's Nobel Prize" and **one of the most prestigious environmental prizes worldwide,** with winners selected by a jury made up of members from the UN Industrial Development Organisation, the World Bank and the European Renewable Energy Council.

DEFORESTATION, A DRIVER OF CLIMATE CHANGE

After the heatwave that baked Southeast Asia and Cambodia during March and April, more members of the public **connected extreme weather events with climate change,** according to a recent article from Mongabay[3]. Public criticism connecting deforestation to the higher temperatures was rejected by Neth Pheaktra, a Ministry of Environment spokesperson. Scientists have, however, repeatedly shown that **deforestation contributes to climate change through increased CO2 emissions and reduced sequestration, as well as through potential changes in water cycles.** Forests absorb much of the sunlight that hits them. Non-forested areas, including concrete-heavy urban or industrial areas that often replace forests in developing nations, reflect sunlight, creating more heat at the ground level. Meanwhile, evaporating water from photosynthesis is responsible for 15 percent of all water vapor in the atmosphere. **Fewer trees means less water vapor, which makes it harder for clouds to form.** In turn, this leads to less precipitation and higher temperatures. A recent study[4] explored the relationship between deforestation and increased temperatures and found that **changing forest cover** is a key driver of **local climate change** worldwide. Moreover, global deforestation leads to a consistent warming of the tropical and temperate regions, while higher deforestation rates, as in Cambodia, were found to create even more intense warming. Despite the logging moratorium, log export ban and crackdowns on illegal timber trade from the government, Cambodia still has one of the highest deforestation rates in the world.

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3 *https://news.mongabay.com/2019/06/as-cambodia-swelters-climate-change-suspicion-falls-on-de-forestation/?n3wsletter&utm_source=Mongabay+Newsletter&utm_campaign=381730ab6a-Newsletter_2019_06_20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_940652e1f4-381730ab6a-67238715*
4 Prevedello, J. A., Winck, G. R., Weber, M. M., Nichols, E., & Sinervo, B. (2019). Impacts of forestation and deforestation on local temperature across the globe. PLOS ONE, 14(3). doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0213368

GOVERNMENT CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL LOGGING

A collection of articles across the national and international media suggest that, in recent months, there has been a **general increase in the Cambodian government's attention towards illegal logging and forest crimes.** In January 2019, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries set up a permanent secretariat (the National Permanent Secretariat for the Prevention and Interception of Logging, Transporting, Collecting, Storing and Exporting of Rosewood), tasked with intercepting illegal timber, with a special focus on rosewood. Recent months also saw **arrests of government officials charged with corruption and Chinese traders found guilty of forceful intimidation using weapons.** The Committee for Forest Crime Prevention has furthermore announced **new strict measures and the immediate destruction of seized tools used by illegal foresters.**
Civil society actors have, however, commented that setting up new institutions, similar to the previously created Committee for Forest Crime Prevention, is not an effective solution to combatting forest crimes due to corruption and timber traders' close connections with government officials. Activists have furthermore called upon the government to expand their crackdown from individuals to companies, who often operate illegally and harvest and process protected and threatened tree species.

"[...]activists have furthermore called upon the government to **expand their crackdown from individuals to companies**[...]".

EIA CALLS FOR ACTION REGARDING VIETNAM CITES

VIOLATION

Siamese Rosewood is a luxury tree species growing in the Prey Lang Forest. **Due to its high value, illegal loggers are targeting the species,** as repeatedly reported by community patrols. Since 2013, the Cambodian government has imposed a ban on the rosewood trade. However, a September 2018 report by the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) highlighted the fact that neighbouring Vietnam has repeatedly ignored the ban and imported illegally harvested Cambodian rosewood using fake CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) permits[5].

The EIA has called for a rosewood trade moratorium with Vietnam and recommended that Vietnam declare all timber imports from Cambodia, enabling Cambodia to better tackle this illegal trade. **The report highlighted that cross-country cooperation is crucial for curbing the illegal trade in luxury woods** and the large-scale deforestation threatening Cambodia's protected areas, including Prey Lang.

RAPID DECLINE OF CAMBODIA'S WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

A number of articles in 2019 reported the rapid decline of Cambodia's wildlife sanctuaries as a consequence of large-scale and uncontrolled deforestation[6,7]. The country has one of the highest deforestation rates in the world, threatening the very existence of its wildlife sanctuaries. Reports show how Beng Per Wildlife Sanctuary has lost nearly 60 percent of its forest in the last 25 years. Similarly, Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary lost more than 100 square kilometres of tree cover in 2016 alone. At the country level, some 2,000 square kilometres of forests are lost annually due to the fact that the government grants vast areas of land concessions to large-scale agricultural companies every year, many of which are operating illegally[8]. **Economic Land Concessions (ELCs) were noted as the primary reason behind deforestation,** with rising demand for rubber and luxury woods being the drivers of forest conversion to plantations. However, reports also noted how small-scale loggers are cutting down trees beyond the ELC boundaries and using the ELCs to launder the wood. The issue is therefore a complex one and requires multi-layered interventions.

5   https://eia-international.org/wp-content/uploads/EIA-report-Vietnam-in-violation-spreads.pdf
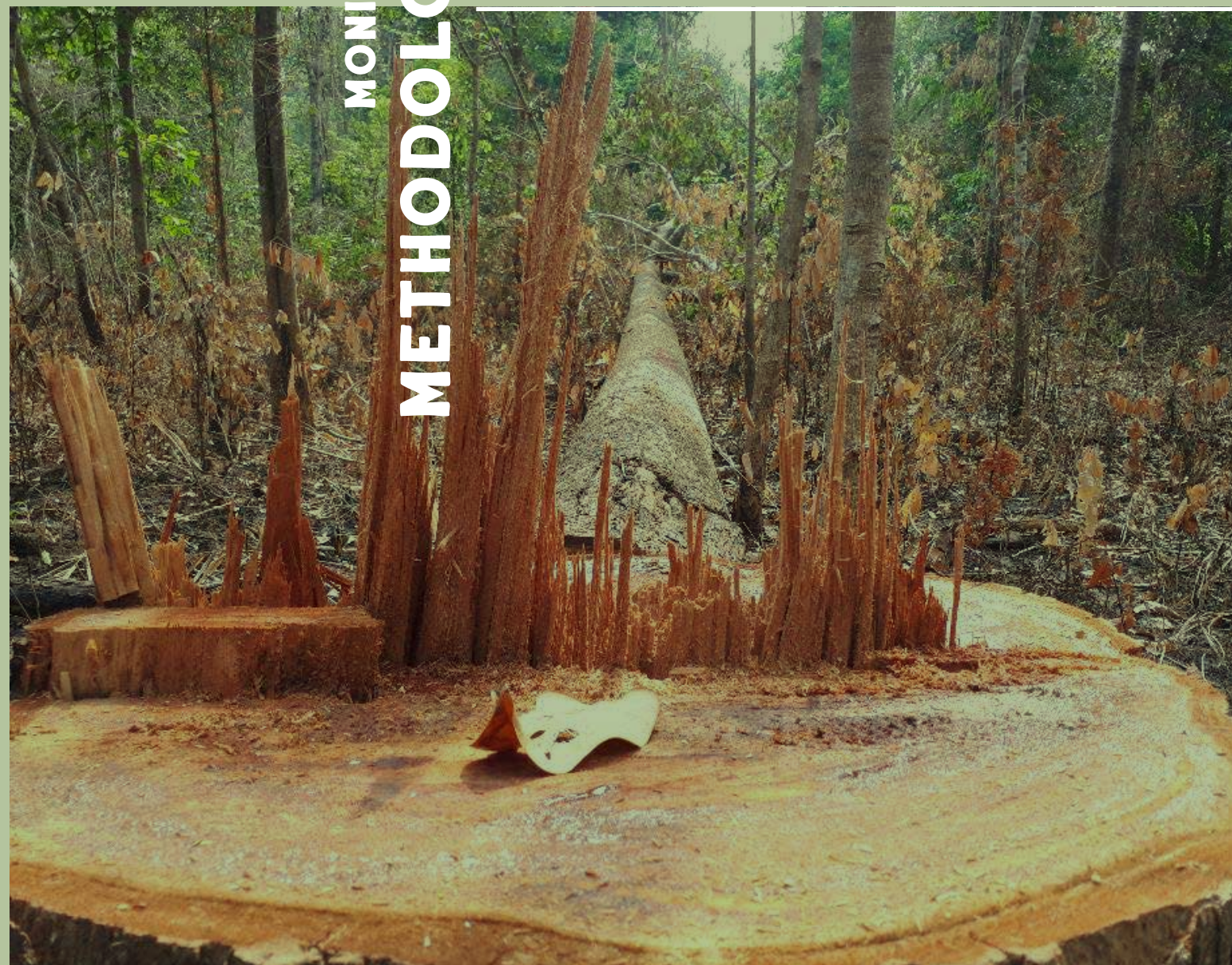6   https://news.mongabay.com/2019/05/illegal-logging-poised-to-wipe-cambodian-wildlife-sanctuary-off-the-map/
7   https://theaseanpost.com/article/cambodias-sanctuaries-under-threat?fbclid=IwAR3d0GBa-JsNOWvQcJDRvJU9pg16vyhpEXxn2Z9PwE_V5Z4pv_1MuPtYvWCc
8   Forest trends: Conversion Timber, Forest Monitoring, and Land-Use Governance in Cambodia, 2015 *https://www.forest-trends.org/publications/conversion-timber-forest-monitoring-and-land-use-governance-in-cambodia/*

MONITORING METHODOLOGY

The Prey Lang app was built based on the open-source smartphone app Sapelli that facilitates data collection across language or literacy barriers. The Prey Lang app documents events in four major categories:

- **"Activities"** refers to extraction activities occurring in the Prey Lang area, such as illegal logging, illegal conversion of forest, illegal hunting, and illegal fishing.
- **"Resources"** refers to natural or cultural resources and sites found in the Prey Lang area such as resin trees, medicinal plants, fishing grounds, and spirit forests.

- **"Reporting"** refers to two major subcategories: Positive interactions (mainly with the authorities) and negative interactions such as threats or violence towards patrol members, which can be documented with the newly introduced security component of the app.
- **"Climate"** refers to climate change observations or climate change mitigation strategies put in place by the communities around Prey Lang forest.

MAP OF PLCN RECORDS LINKED TO NEAR REAL-TIME SATELLITE FOREST MONITORING
BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE (JRC)

Planks	🟥
Stump	🟨
Transport	🟩
Cleared Area	🟩
Climate Change	🟪
Economic Land Concessions (ELCs)	⬛
Sawmill locations	🟩
Delta-rNBR approach	🟧

Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary

Image 2: Map showing the **entries recorded from PLCN (coloured dots)** paired with forest canopy disturbance events detected by the FCDM tool (Langner et al., 2018) for the period June 2018 to June 2019. **The results of the FCDM tool Delta-rNBR approach are represented as a heat map,** highlighting regions in which forest canopy cover disturbances were detected. The darker the red, the higher the spatial density of disturbance detections. Map constructed with qGIS 3.6.2 Noosa software.
Note that each PLCN record may represent multiple entries (see enlarged areas below in Figs 2.1 and 2.2.)

Image 2.1 and 2.2: Enlarged Overlap between PLCN entries and forest canopy loss detected by FCDM tool (Langner et al., 2018) using satellite imagery from Sentinel 1 and Landsat 7 and 8.

The map in Image 2 shows the **logging and climate change related PLCN records** in Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary and surrounding areas for the period June 2018 - June 2019. PLCN documented 210 activities with GPS coordinates, mostly illegal logging (87%), while the rest relates to climate change observations such as reduced water levels in rivers and lakes. Heightened logging activity records can be observed around the ELCs and especially around the Think Biotech sawmill close to the Mekong River on southeast Kratie province.
PLCN's data are for the first time linked to a new near real-time forest monitoring approach (FCDM tool combining Delta-rNBR methodology[9] with Delta-SPE methodology[10]) in collaboration with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC). A preliminary result (based only on Delta-rNBR methodology) was published at the European Space Agency Living Planet Symposium 2019 in Milan[11]. The FCDM tool (able to run the Delta-rNBR as well as the Delta-SPE approach) uses satellite imagery from Sentinel 1 as well as Landsat 7 and 8. The resulting map of forest canopy loss is considered conservative, showing too few rather than too many detections.
The two maps in Image 2.1 and 2.2 show multiple entries in two enlarged areas from Image 2.

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9   Langner, A.; Miettinen, J.; Kukkonen, M.; Vancutsem, C.; Simonetti, D.; Vieilledent, G.; Verhegghen, A.; Gallego, J.; Stibig, H.-J. Towards Operational Monitoring of Forest Canopy Disturbance in Evergreen Rain Forests: A Test Case in Continental Southeast Asia. Remote Sens. 2018, 10, 544.
10   Langner, A., et al. Monitoring large- and small-scale changes in vegetation cover in the dry and humid domain using multi-temporal Sentinel-1 data, in preparation
11   Langner, A.; Theilade, I.; Nguyen, K.H.; Berger, D.; Argyriou, D.; Stibig, H.-J. Strengthening forest protection by near real-time forest disturbance monitoring (Delta-rNBR approach) - a case study in Cambodia, ESA Living Planet Symposium 2019
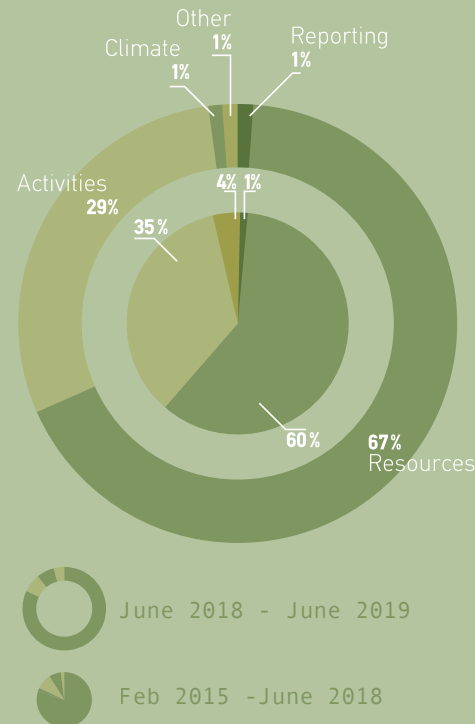
FINDINGS AND

DISCUSSION

The ID of the results

	June'18 - June '19	Feb '15 - June '19
Total Entries	5144	23419
Validated Entries	3681	10731
Validated Rate	72%	46%
Average illegal logging entries per month	89	83%

Between June 2018 and June 2019, the Prey Lang database received **5,144 entries of which 3,681 (72%) contained photo documentation, coordinates, time, date, and had a relevant category assigned.** Only validated entries were included in the analysis. The validation rate was high regardless of three periods of training, testing sessions and new members joining the patrolling. Despite a recent lack of funding for regular patrols leading to potential underreporting of illegal logging, **patrols reported an average of 89 illegal activities per month** from June 2018 to June 2019 compared to an average of 83 logging cases per month since the beginning of the project. The records taken by the PLCN members were not normalised by their observation frequency and observation time; however, the patrols are bi-monthly for approximately the same number of days. **Figure 2** shows the distribution of all validated entries for the latest period. **In all, 67% of entries reported valuable resources (2,453 entries) while 29% related to illegal activities (1,080 entries).** The rest of the categories (Climate change, Reporting interactions and Other) made up 4% of the entries (148 entries). The graph shows the distribution of entries for the total period in which the Prey Lang app has been in operation.

Other **1%**
Climate **1%**
Reporting **1%**
Activities **29%**
35%
4% 1%
60%
67%
Resources

June 2018 - June 2019

Feb 2015 - June 2018

② Entries distribution

Figure 2: Distribution (%) of total entries June 2018 to June 2019 and February 2015 to June 2019.

ACTIVITIES

In the period between June 2018 and June 2019, **Activities was the second most reported category.** Illegal logging accounted for 97% of all entries while ELC mining, ELC plantation, illegal fishing and illegal hunting only constituted a minor proportion. This is consistent with documentation in previous years.

As described in Figure 3, within the category illegal logging, almost half of all entries reported **stumps (49%)**, a proxy for harvesting of luxury trees, such as Chhertheal *(Dipterocarpus alatus Roxb. & G.Don)* (Img. 3), Korkoh *(Sindora siamensis Miq.)* and Pdeak *(Anisoptera costata Korth.)*, often exported for use in high-end furniture production outside Cambodia. Furthermore, monitors regularly came across **planks (24%)** (back cover photo), which are usually left by loggers for later collection and transport. **Cleared areas (12%)** designates larger areas where all trees were removed for timber, farming, mining or other land-intensive activities (Img. 4). These clearings vary in size but previous reports suggest that they may be as large as 100 hectares.

Stumps 49%

Planks 24%

Transport 16%

Cleared areas 12%

Logging entries ③

Figure 3: Distribution (%) of logging entries June 2018 to June 2019 as well as February 2015 to June 2019

Image 3: A stump of Chhertheal (Dipterocarpus alatus Roxb. & G.Don) found during a patrol in Stung Treng province, March 2019

Image 4: A cleared area within the Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary in the province of Stung Treng, January 2019

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is a crucial part of data collection, as it **highlights how road construction and transportation of timber impacts the forest.** For example, harvested logs were still predominantly transported using plough machines[12] (82% of all entries, cover photo), while the use of motorbikes and trucks accounted for 14% (**Fig. 4**). Nevertheless, **new and improved roads into the Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary have accelerated illegal logging,** according to the locals (pers. comm).

On the basis of 5 years of data collection using the Prey Lang app, it is possible to observe trends in, and identify main threats to, the Prey Lang Forest.

Comparing the **dry seasons of the last two years**, we can see an **increase in reported illegal activities** in 2019 of **more than 23%** compared to the preceding dry season. The dry season in Cambodia lasts from December until April. (**Fig. 5**).

The rise in reported illegal activities highlights the **urgency of concerted action against deforestation** in order to safeguard Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary from total destruction.

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12   Plough machine or goh-yun in Khmer is a tractor and the most used means of forest transport
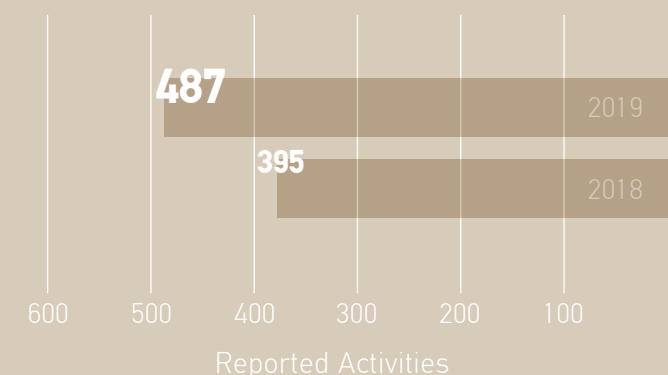
④ Transport entries

Figure 4: Distribution (%) of illegal timber transport entries June 2018 to June 2019 as well as February 2015 to June 2019)
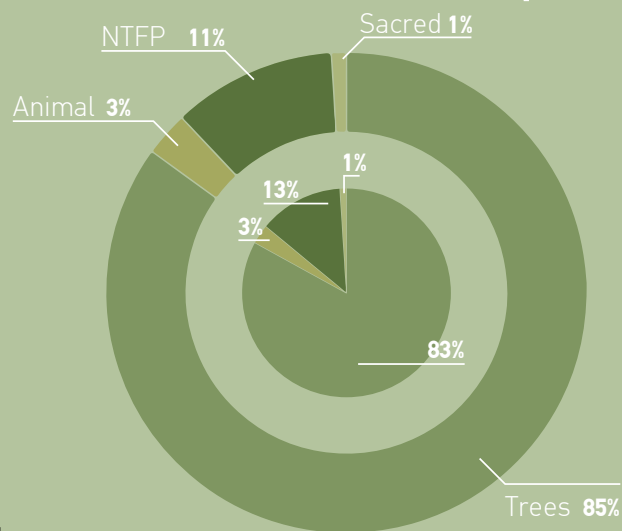
⑤ Dry Season

Figure 5: Comparison of recorded activities during the dry season of 2018 and 2019 (Dry season: December-April)
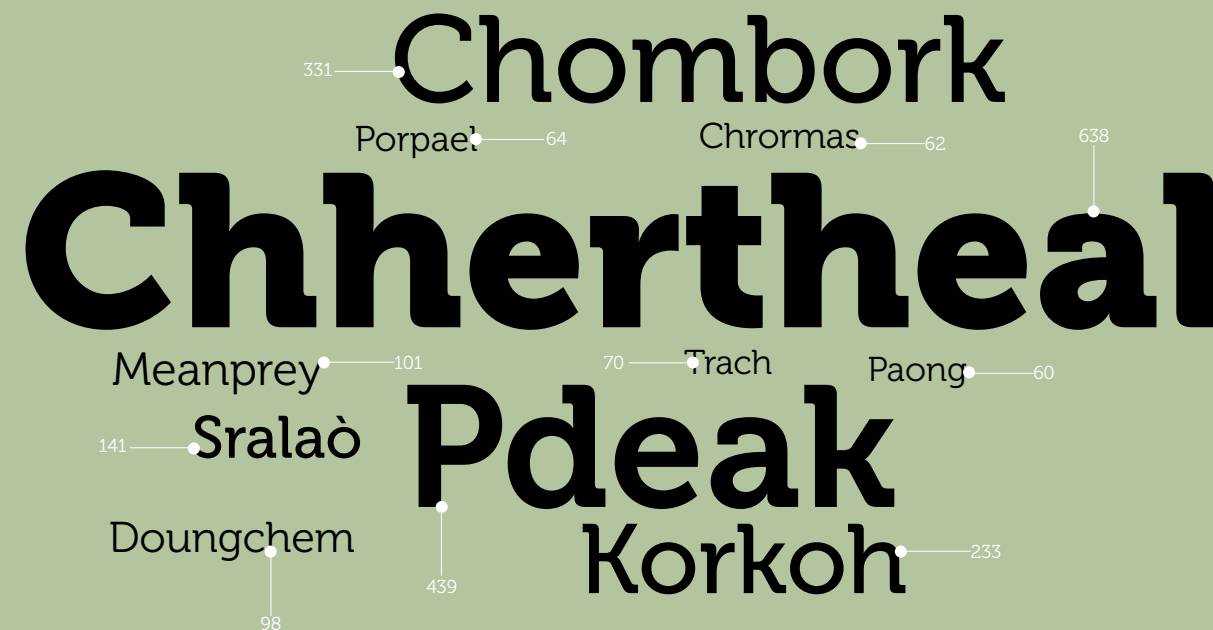
June 2018 - June 2019

Feb 2015 -June 2018

Boat **4%**

Big Truck **7%**

Small Truck **7%**

7%   **2%**

9%

Ox Cart **2%**

80%

Machine Cow **82%**

487

395

2019

2018

600   500   400   300   200   100

Reported Activities

7

8

Image 7: A Chombork tree *(Irvingia malayana Oliv. ex A.W.Benn.).*

Image 8: A Chherteal Resin tree *(Dipterocarpus alatus Roxb. & G. Don)*

Figure 6 shows the recorded resources for the period June 2018 to June 2019. **Most of the entries were trees** (2,113 entries), followed by NTFPs (273 entries). The remaining two categories were animals (84 entries) and sacred sites (20 entries). These percentages are similar to the results of the February 2015 to June 2019 period. **Figure 7** shows the most reported species of trees. **The most reported tree species is Chherteal** *(Dipterocarpus alatus Roxb. & G.Don)* (Img 8), used primarily for its resin. According to PLCN, this species was also the **most frequently logged** (Img. 3) **and is endangered** according to the IUCN's Red List. **The second most reported, and third most logged, species was Pdeak** *(Anisoptera costata Korth.),* which is also endangered. **The third most reported tree species was Chombork** *(Irvingia malayana Oliv. ex A.W.Benn.)* (Img. 7). Overall, four of the ten most reported tree species are on the IUCN Red List. Prey Lang therefore has trees of high conservation value but these species are being threatened by logging.

331 — Chombork

Porpael — 64   Chrormas — 62   638

Chherteal

Meanprey — 101   70 — Trach   Paong — 60

141 — Sralaò

Pdeak

Doungchem   Korkoh — 233

439

98

⑦ Most recorded trees

Figure 7: Most important tree species measured as number of records since February 2015.

638 Chherteal (Resin)
Dipterocarpus alatus Roxb. & G.Don
439 Pdeak
Anisoptera costata Korth.
331 Chombork
Irvingia malayana Oliv. ex A.W.Benn.
233 Korkoh
Sindora siamensis Miq.
141 Sralaoʼ
Lagerstroemia calyculata Kurz

101 Mean/Meanprey
Dimocarpus longan Lour.
98 Doungchem
Heritiera javanica (Blume) Kosterm.)
70 Trach (Resin)
Dipterocarpus intricatus Dyer
64 Porpael
Shorea roxburghii G. Don
62 Chrormas
Vatica odorata (Griff.) Symington
60 Paong
Calophyllum calaba var. bracteatum (Wight) P.F.Stevens

NTFP **11%**   Sacred **1%**

Animal **3%**

1%

13%

3%

83%

⑥ Resources entries

Figure 6: Distribution (%) of valuable resources entries in June 2018 to June 2019) as well as February 2015 to June 2019)

June 2018 - June 2019

Feb 2015 - June 2018

Trees **85%**
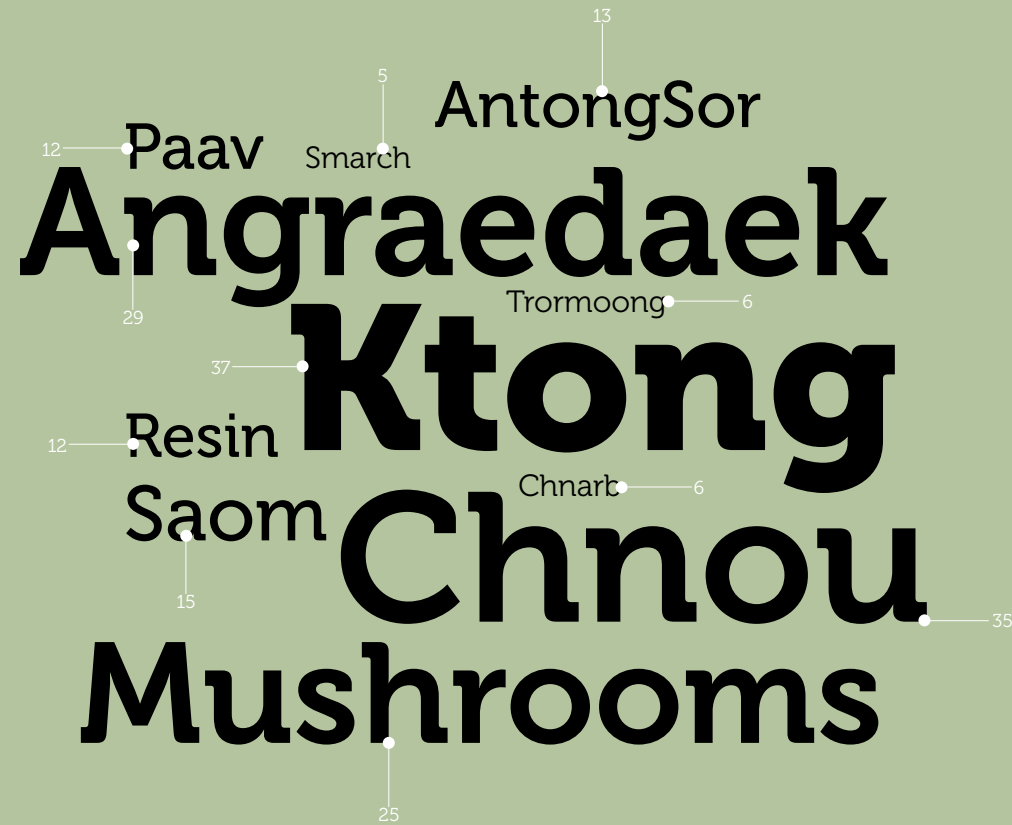
The most reported Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) are shown in **Figure 8.** Khanma or Ktong *(Ancistrocladus tectorius (Lour.) Merr.)* (Image 9) **is the most reported plant species.** Ktong is a medicinal plant used as a tea to relieve diarrhoea, and its vine is also used to make baskets, mats, furniture or thatched roofs. Most importantly, Ktong is made into a tray to clean rice. **The second most reported NTFP species, Chnuo** *(Myrialepis paradoxa (Kurz) J. Dransf.),* has similar applications to Ktong. **The third most** reported species, Angraedaek *(Dracaena angustifolia (Medik.) Roxb.),* has various medicinal properties. For example, the leaves are brewed into a tea that enhances blood circulation. Moreover, if the infusion is prepared with the leaves and flowers of Chnuo, it is considered an assistance to women giving birth as it stimulates the appetite and increases milk production. Finally, the young leaves are edible, and the timber is used to produce planks.

⑧ Most recorded NTFPs

Figure 8: Most important NTFP species according to the number of records since February 2015.

Paav
Smarch
AntongSor
Angraedaek
Trormoong
Ktong
Resin
Saom
Chnarb
Chnou
Mushrooms

Image 9: Epiphytic Orchid of the genus Vanda.

NTFP

Image 10: Ktong (Ancistrocladus tectorius (Lour.) Merr.)

37 Ktong (Medicinal)
(Ancistrocladus tectorius (Lour.) Merr.)
35 Chnou (Crafts)
(Myrialepis paradoxa (Kurz) J. Dransf.)
29 Angraedaek (Medicinal)
(Dracaena angustifolia (Medik.) Roxb.)
25 Mushrooms (Edible)
(Different species)
15 Saom (Edible)
(Daemonorops jenkinsiana (Griff.) Mart.)

13 Antong Sor (Medicinal)
(Eurycoma longifolia Jack)
12 Resin (Crafts)
12 Paav (Edible)
(Licuala spinosa Wurmb)
6 Chnarb (Crafts)
(Areca triandra Roxb. ex Buch.-Ham.)
6 Trormoong (Edible)
(Garcinia oliveri Pierre)
5 Smarch (Edible)
(Syzygium zeylanicum (L.) DC.)

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM

PLCN

We, the Prey Lang Community Network (PLCN) of Kratie, Steung Treng, Preah Vihear and Kampong Thom, who voluntarily protect and monitor the Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary,

would like to express our **sincere appreciation** to the National Commission for Crime Prevention and Suppression of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Environment, and all other relevant partners **who have taken action on forest restoration and forest crime prevention.**

We have monitored the government's forest restoration and crime prevention efforts closely. We have observed that the National Commission for Crime Prevention and Suppression of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Environment, and relevant partners have been working extremely hard on these issues. We recently saw how they have **stopped and arrested powerful logging operations and stakeholders, closed down log storage facilities and sawmills, confiscated thousands of logs and destroyed the logging tools.** These actions have been taken in an effort to protect the remaining forests.

We have also seen that forest prevention and restoration activities are constantly being implemented by **the Ministry of Environment and relevant partners, such as tree-planting participation, thus expressing the Cambodian government's commitment to natural resource protection.**
We strongly hope and believe that

these forest restoration activities and crime suppression actions will continue without cease. We hope and expect that the **National Commission for Crime Prevention and Suppression of Natural Resources will take swift action to close down Biotech Cambodia Co. Ltd., and the sawmills located in in Phom Kampong Damrei village, Beung Cha commune, Sambo district, Kratie province.**
We greatly appreciate the aforementioned actions taken to protect and restore Prey Lang and we sincerely wish for the happiness and success of every official, officer, development partner, journalist, and forest community activist.

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"PREY LANG: IT'S OUR FOREST TOO."

LET'S
PROTECT
PREY LANG
TOGETHER