

Cave-Dwelling Bats in Cambodia: Conservation Status, Threats & Needs

Presented by:

SOPHANY PHAUK

hellosophany@gmail.com

1. National Karst Area: 20,000 km²

Karst and Caves

2. Cave Survey Areas:

Tarum Cave

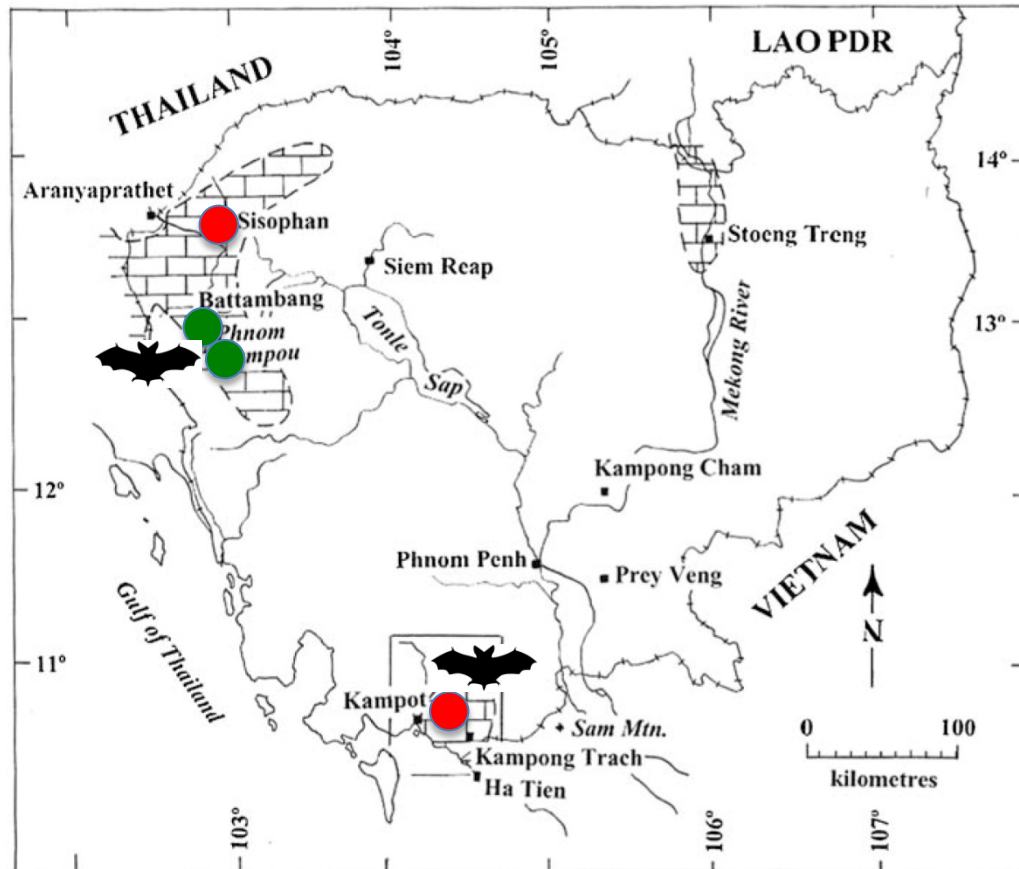


Takream Cave




3. Priority Areas for Future Cave Bat Surveys:

- La'Ang Thom and La'Ang Vihea Loung
- Sisophon, Banteay Meanchey Province



 Caves surveyed

 Priority area for cave bat surveys

 Bats surveyed



Cambodian Cave Bats: What we know

1. Major Cave Bat Colonies

- Phnom Sampov (Battambang) supports a huge colony of *C. plicatus* (>1,000,000 bats)
- Phnom La'Ang (Kampot) also supports a huge *C. plicatus* roost

2. Cave Bat Species Richness

- Phnom Sampov and Phnom La'Ang, but we don't know how many species are present!
- >100 caves registered nationally, but v. few surveyed for bats

3. Priority Cave Bat Species for Conservation

- *Chaerephon plicatus*
- *Eonycteris spelaea* and *Rousettus spp.*
- *Otomops wroughtoni*, plus rhinolophid and hipposiderids?



Current Threats to Cave Bats

Type of Threat	Occurrence	Urgency	Importance
Tourism	2	2	4
Hunting	2	3	5
Mining Activities	3	3	6
Guano Harvesting	1	1	2
Deforestation (Foraging habitat)	3	3	6
Agricultural Pesticides	3	3	6
Diseases	1	1	2

Occurrence: 1= Localized; 2= Widespread; 3= Nationwide.

Urgency: 1= Low; 2= Medium; 3= High.

Importance: For conservation attention



Current or Recent Cave Bat Research

Type of Research	Location	Major Aims	Contact Person/ Institution
Cave bat inventory	Siem Reap	(starting in '12) Inventory cave roosts to identify key sites for cave bat conservation	Neil Furey, FFI-RUPP Cambodia Bat Team
Cave bat inventory / status assessment	Battambang & Kampot	(starting in '13) 1. Status assessment for <i>C. plicatus</i> roosts nationwide 2. Inventory other cave roosts to identify key sites for cave bat conservation	Neil Furey, FFI-RUPP Cambodia Bat Team



Current Cave Bat Conservation Activities

Type of Activity	Location	MajorAims	Contact Person/ Institution
none	nationwide	-	-



Future Needs for Cave Research & Conservation in Cambodia

Action or support needed	Importance	Justification
Start up & recurrent funding	1	Baseline status assessments are needed nationwide to identify key sites for cave bat and prioritize conservation needs
All types of capacity-building for bat research & conservation	2	To make up for the lost generation of scientists and teachers in the late 1970's and lack of training programs until 2005.