



Disney Conservation Fund Helps World Hope International Support People, Southern Yellow-Cheeked Crested Gibbons, and the Habitats They Need to Thrive.



WASHINGTON DC, (SEPTEMBER 25, 2020) – World Hope International (WHI) has been awarded a grant by the Disney Conservation Fund (DCF) for work supporting the indigenous Bunong people in both sustainable development and conservation goals through Jahoo, an ecotourism and research center in Mondulkiri Province, Cambodia. During its 25th anniversary year, the Disney Conservation Fund is proud to continue providing critical support to community-led conservation efforts globally. The fund has been supporting local efforts around the world aimed at saving wildlife, inspiring action and protecting the planet with more than \$100 million distributed to nonprofit organizations since 1995.

At Jahoo, WHI works with the Bunong to protect the many endangered or threatened species from poaching and the forest against illegal logging, which endangers both the wildlife and the future of the community. On a recent trek through the forest, the Jahoo team came across illegal loggers on indigenous land and contacted the community leaders, who rapidly responded to put a stop to it with the aid of rangers. The ancient trees in the region are owned by the Bunong, who have used them sustainably for centuries - and their tall canopy and fruit are a favorite of the endangered Southern Yellow-Cheeked Crested Gibbons, for whom the region is not only the best place on earth in which to spot them, but also their final refuge.



“In Cambodia, the economic impacts of COVID-19 have resulted in reduced ecotourism and increased threats to endangered gibbons. Support from the Disney Conservation Fund will be critical in improving community attitudes and increasing conservation action for gibbon conservation,” stated Kyle Winney, WHI Conservation Specialist, upon receiving notification of the award.

WHI CEO John Lyon commented that, “This is really terrific news - we thank Disney for this award that strengthens our work in both conservation and community development, and for Disney’s recognition that conservation and community development efforts can and should go hand-in-hand. Real conservation can only happen when communities are engaged.”

DCF grant recipients are selected based on their efforts to implement comprehensive community wildlife conservation programs, stabilize and increase populations of at-risk animals and engage communities in conservation in critical ecosystems around the world.

For information on Disney’s commitment to conserve nature and a complete list of grant recipients, visit www.disney.com/conservation.

For more information about World Hope’s work at Jahoo among the Bunong, visit worldhope.org.au/jahoo

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About World Hope International

World Hope International is an international relief and development organization working with vulnerable and exploited communities to alleviate poverty, suffering, and injustice. Our vision is to provide those in need with opportunity, dignity, and hope so they can possess the tools for change in themselves, their family, and their community. WHI supports all people regardless of ethnicity, gender, race, or religion.

WHI uses market-based and community-driven solutions to empower, protect, and build resiliency through innovative, environmentally conscious, and transformative projects. We deliver our programming through strategic local and global partnerships to create a maximal, sustainable impact.

In Cambodia, WHI works in the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to support the indigenous Bunong living within the protected area in achieving both sustainable development and biodiversity conservation goals. Jahoo Gibbon Camp is a community-based ecotourism initiative that promotes sustainable development and builds indigenous leadership for biodiversity and forest conservation, with the endangered southern yellow-cheeked crested gibbon as its flagship species.