

Project Update: August 2010

The first in a longer term study of reptile biodiversity at Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary was conducted by Neang Thy in August 2010, with assistance of two MSc students from the Royal University of Phnom Penh. The purpose of the study was to collect data to assess altitudinal and seasonal variations in reptile occurrence at Phnom Samkos, so as to prioritise important areas for conservation within the sanctuary. Over the course of the latest trip, 10 days were spent sampling at two sites. Survey methods at each included two lines of pitfall traps, day and night time searches along forest and riverine transects (respectively) and opportunistic sampling. Eighteen reptile species and 18 amphibian species were recorded, five of which were new for the area. These include one species of water skink (*Tropidophrus* cf. *microlepis*) and one pit-viper (*Ovophis* cf. *monticola*), which represent first records for the Cardamom Mountains and Cambodia, respectively.



Left: The locally endemic Samkos bush frog (*Chiromantis samkosensis*), a recently described species recorded during the latest survey at Phnom Samkos. Right: The triangle keelback snake (*Xenochrophis trianguligerus*), a new record for Phnom Samkos was also encountered during the latest survey at the wildlife sanctuary.