

Project Update: March 2011

The third and fourth surveys of reptile diversity at Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary were undertaken in January and February 2011, with assistance from four MSc students from the Royal University of Phnom Penh. As in previous visits, the aim was to gather data to assess variations in reptile occurrence at the site, so as to prioritize areas for reptile conservation.

In the latest research, 26 (16 reptiles and 10 amphibians) and 34 (18 reptiles and 16 amphibians) species were recorded in January and February, respectively. Of these, one undetermined species of kukri snake (*Oligodon* sp.), a gliding gecko (*Ptychozoon kuhli*) and a brown snake (*Dendrelaphis* cf. *striata*) were recorded for the first time for Cambodia. The growing number of reptile species encountered in our research suggests that current knowledge of reptilian diversity at PSWS remains incomplete and that further research is highly likely to yield additional species, including rarely recorded and poorly known taxa.



Left: Gliding gecko (*Ptychozoon kuhli*). Right: Green Cardamom pit viper (*Cryptelytrops cardamomensis*).