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Guidelines for authors are available at www.catsg.org/catnews

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 Asiatic golden cat record from the Kulen-Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary, Cambodia

A total of six consecutive camera-trap images of Asiatic golden cats *Catopuma temmincki*, three of which showed two individuals, were captured on 9 February 2011 at 10:17 h, with two seconds between consecutive photos, in a dry river bed located at 14° 4’ 7.037” N, 104° 11’ 41.608” E at 103 m above sea level. The images were obtained during a camera-trapping survey carried out by Frontier Cambodia from January to November 2011 in the Kulen-Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary, northern Cambodia.

The images, to the best of our knowledge, represent the first records of the species from the Oddar Meanchey province side of the Kulen-Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary in northern Cambodia. The photos, taken in an area dominated by evergreen forest with an average altitudinal range of 97 m above sea level, were the only images of Asiatic golden cats captured during eleven months of surveying at the site. The Asiatic golden cat ranges from the Himalayan foothills into China and Southeast Asia; within Indochina it is native to every country. The species is listed as Near Threatened by the IUCN Red List with the primary threat being habitat loss due to deforestation; other threats include trade in pelts and bones, indiscriminate snaring and retaliatory killings following livestock predation (Sanderson et al. 2008). Habitat consists primarily of forest habitats including tropical and subtropical evergreen as well as mixed and dry deciduous (Nowell & Jackson 1996).

The Kulen-Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary, covering an area of 4,025 km² (Supporting Online Material SOM Maps) and spanning three provinces, is Cambodia’s largest protected area. Initially set up to protect the now-presumed extinct kouprey *Bos sauveli* in 1964, it encompasses a range of habitats including semi-evergreen and evergreen forest as well as open dipterocarp.

The sanctuary is home to a variety of large mammal species; with confirmed records from Frontier Cambodia camera-trapping surveys including sun bear *Helarctos malayanus*, gaur *Bos gaurus*, red muntjac *Muntiacus vaginalis* and Eurasian wild boar *Sus scrofa*. Frontier Cambodia has been working within the Oddar Meanchey portion of the sanctuary since January 2011 and is the first organization to survey the local area.

Felids within Southeast Asia are typically underrepresented in field studies (Grassman et al. 2005); and as a result very little is known about Asiatic golden cat biology and behaviour (Nowell and Jackson 1996, Taylor-Holzer, Sa-at, and Thamarut 2005). This species was originally believed to be nocturnal (Griffiths 1993), although a more recent radio-collared study by Grassman et al. (2005) showed diurnal and crepuscular activity patterns with peaks at 08:01-10:00 h and 16:01-18:00 h. Our photos were captured at 10:17 h and are the first and only images caught on camera trap in 11 months of surveying in the area. Asiatic golden cats are believed to be solitary (Grassman et al. 2005) except during the mating season. However, from the photographs (Fig. 1) it is difficult to tell if the two individuals are two adults or a mother and sub-adult cub.

As so little is known about the species, this data represents important new information on its range and offers a glimpse into the social behaviour of these little-known felids. Further studies of Asiatic golden cat ecology should now been seen as a priority.

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References


Supporting Online Material Maps are available at www.catsg.org/catnews

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**Fig 1.** Asiatic golden cats caught by a camera trap.
Supporting Online Material
