

Rare giant barking deer spotted in Cambodia

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The giant barking deer was captured on a hidden camera in Cambodia's Virachey National Park.

A critically endangered giant barking deer has been spotted in Cambodia for the first time, in a boost for the country's wildlife preservation efforts, officials said Friday.

The giant muntjac—known for its long antlers—was captured on a hidden camera in April in northeast Cambodia's Virachey National Park in Ratanakiri province, environment ministry spokesman Neth Pheaktra said.

But the discovery was only made recently after Cambodian authorities retrieved the camera and trawled through months of footage from the forest, which has long been a site of [illegal logging](#).

"This is the most exciting news for Cambodia and for the whole world that such a rare and most critically [endangered species](#) was discovered in Cambodia," he said.

"This is a positive result for the government's efforts to protect natural resources."

The species was first found in forests in neighbouring Vietnam and Laos in 1994.

Muntiacus vuquangensis, as it is scientifically known, is on the red list of the International Union for Conservation of Nature as critically endangered.

Illegal logging remains a major environmental hazard in Cambodia, with vast tracts of forest under threat since the country's civil war ended in 1998.

Virachey National Park suffered rampant deforestation in the early 2000s but its situation has been improving.

"The [park](#) has become a safe shelter for wildlife," Neth Pheaktra said.

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