

## Here is the latest on WWF-Cambodia’s initiatives, achievements and events:

### Belgium Delegation Visits Mekong Flooded Forest Landscape

His Excellency Michel Parys, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Southeast Asia, and Mr Marc Fransen, Desk Officer at Belgium’s Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD), visited the Mekong Flooded Forest (MFF) landscape in Kratie province, including Prek Prasab and Sambo Wildlife Sanctuaries, on 25–26 February 2026. The 97-participant delegation, joined by WWF-Cambodia staff, government partners, and community members, reviewed monitoring and evaluation progress and the Scale-Up II project results. Through presentations, Q&A sessions, dolphin watching, and community product showcases, participants explored conservation and livelihood initiatives. Local ecotourism, chicken, and fish production groups shared achievements and challenges, while authorities and technical partners reaffirmed ongoing support. The visit highlighted collective efforts to ensure sustainable community benefits and long-term conservation impact.



### WWF-Cambodia Launches Blue-Green Riverine Tourism Project in Kratie



WWF-Cambodia and partners officially launched the 14-month Blue-Green Riverine Tourism project in Kratie province, promoting sustainable tourism that protects the Mekong Flooded Forest while creating economic opportunities for local communities. The launch workshop brought together 55 participants, including provincial line departments, local authorities, ecotourism communities, tour operators, private sector representatives, and partner organizations. The event aimed to strengthen collaboration and coordination among stakeholders to ensure effective project implementation while advancing community-based tourism and conservation efforts across the landscape.

# Camera Trap Monitoring Strengthens Wildlife Protection in Prek Prasob Wildlife Sanctuary

The WWF-Cambodia Mekong Flooded Forest (MFF) team, working closely with park rangers and Community Protected Area Members (CPMs), monitored 14 existing camera traps and deployed six additional units in Prek Prasob Wildlife Sanctuary on 19–20 January 2026. The monitoring captured encouraging footage, including a hog deer mother with her fawn, confirming the continued presence of wildlife in the area. Several sightings of hog deer, a species of conservation concern, were also recorded. Data collected from the camera traps will support long-term population monitoring, habitat-use analysis, and density studies. These insights help guide protection efforts, strengthen law enforcement, and ensure science-based conservation actions to safeguard wildlife populations.



# Mekong Dolphin Monitoring and Sound Trap Deployment Enhance Conservation Efforts



WWF-Cambodia’s research team, in collaboration with Fisheries Administration (FiA) staff from Kratie, Stung Treng, and Phnom Penh, conducted six days of Mekong dolphin monitoring and sound trap deployment across the Mekong Flooded Forest (MFF) landscape from 19–24 January 2026. The monitoring focused on tracking dolphin newborns, migration patterns, and illegal fishing activities within protected areas, while raising awareness among local fishers. The fieldwork included a four-day upstream survey from Kratie to Stung Treng and a two-day downstream return, during which six sound traps were installed to support acoustic monitoring. These efforts generate critical data to strengthen conservation measures and support the long-term survival of Mekong dolphins.

# Connecting Students to Nature Through World Wetlands Day 2026

WWF-Cambodia, in collaboration with Pour un Sourire d’Enfant (PSE), organized a Wetland Day event at the PSE campus in Phnom Penh on 30 January 2026 to celebrate World Wetlands Day under the theme “Wetlands and Life – How Are We Connected to Wetlands?”. The event is part of PSE’s and WWF-Cambodia’s environmental education program, which promotes youth well-being and environmental quality through waste management, energy saving, green spaces, and food quality. Students and staff explored wetland ecosystems, their locations, benefits, and connections to community livelihoods, while learning about climate change adaptation and pollution. The activities encouraged eco-friendly practices and reinforced youth commitment to environmental education and long-term sustainability.



# Mobile App Training Enhances Endangered Fish Monitoring in Kratie



WWF-Cambodia, in collaboration with the Royal University of Agriculture's Faculty of Fisheries, trained nine fishermen from three community fisheries, Kampi, Prek Krieng, and Kampong Krabie, in Kratie province on using a mobile application to collect data on endangered fish species from 12–17 January 2025. The training aimed to strengthen community-based monitoring by enabling fishers to record and track endangered species using digital tools. The team also conducted refresher training for 15 additional active members to reinforce data collection skills and improve the accuracy of monitoring efforts supporting conservation of threatened fish species.

# Native Tree Seeds Delivered to Support Forest Restoration in Mondulkiri

WWF-Cambodia, under the Inditex Project, delivered native tree seeds to five ranger outposts in Phnom Prich and Srepok Wildlife Sanctuaries within the Eastern Plains Landscape in Mondulkiri Province on 6–7 January 2026. The delivery included 218 kg of *Azelia xylocarpa* (Beng), 151 kg of *Sindora cochinchinensis* (Kor Koh), and 0.5 kg of *Pterocarpus macrocarpus* (Thnong) seeds, responding to requests from Community Protected Area (CPA) committees. The seeds will support nursery production and forest restoration activities led by the Provincial Department of Environment, contributing to increased forest cover and long-term climate benefits in Mondulkiri.



# WWF-Cambodia and Ralph Lauren Promote Sustainability in Cambodia's Garment Sector



WWF-Cambodia engaged Ralph Lauren and its garment factory partners to advance sustainability practices in Cambodia's garment sector on 21 January 2026. WWF's energy team presented work on water stewardship and sustainable wood supply, introducing the Small-Medium-Large initiative, which helps factories improve water efficiency and wastewater management through cost-free audits and compliance guidance. The session also highlighted WoodAI, used by Ralph Lauren and six other brands to reduce deforestation risks. By collaborating with global brands and factories, WWF-Cambodia promotes scalable solutions to reduce environmental impacts and strengthen sustainability across the sector.



## SMART Workshop Strengthens Regional Conservation Monitoring and Conflict-to-Coexistence Efforts

WWF-Cambodia convened 18 conservation practitioners from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam for a regional SMART workshop at Sensory Park Urban Hotel on 2–4 February 2026. The three-day training focused on upgrading landscapes to SMART 8, harmonizing data models and shared servers, and strengthening analytical, reporting, and adaptive management capacities. Participants engaged in hands-on exercises, competency assessments, and peer exchanges to standardize monitoring protocols across borders. The workshop also advanced WWF’s Conflict-to-Coexistence approach by strengthening the use of SMART tools to monitor and mitigate human–wildlife conflict. Improved data quality and regional alignment enable faster, evidence-based decisions, reinforcing law enforcement effectiveness and supporting long-term conservation outcomes across priority landscapes.

## FPIC Community Consultations Highlight Local Perspectives on Conflict-to-Coexistence

WWF-Cambodia facilitated five Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) consultation meetings across Oyadav District in Ratanakiri Province and Koh Nhaek District in Mondulakiri Province from 14–19 January 2026, engaging more than 252 community members. Conducted with local authorities and the Provincial Department of Environment (PDOE), the consultations sought community consent for implementing WWF’s Conflict-to-Coexistence (C2C) strategy. The process allowed participants to reflect on potential benefits, concerns, and their level of involvement. Securing informed community consent strengthens legitimacy, reduces future conflict risks, and ensures that C2C implementation is locally owned, socially sustainable, and aligned with community priorities.



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