



WWF

CAMBODIA

Bi-Monthly Newsletter: July-Aug 2025

Building a future in which people live in harmony with nature.

© Mao Daravuthy / WWF-Cambodia

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



WWF-Belgium Field Visit Highlights Ranger and Community Conservation Efforts in Cambodia

From 7–10 July 2025, WWF-Cambodia hosted a WWF-Belgium representative for a field visit to the Eastern Plains and Mekong Flooded Forest Landscapes. Accompanied by WWF-Cambodia's Country Director, district leaders, park directors, and patrol teams, the visitor observed ranger operations and community patrol activities at Srepok Wildlife Sanctuary, Dey Kmoa, and Trapaeng Thmier outposts, learning about field challenges and capacity-building needs. In Kratie, the visit included river guard stations, community fisheries, and ecotourism sites, showcasing law enforcement and livelihood programmes. The visit provided valuable insights into the practical impacts of WWF-Cambodia's conservation efforts on biodiversity and local communities, guiding future donor support and programme planning.



Visit this QR code to learn more about WWF-Cambodia

WWF Reviews IKI SCP Asia Phase II Progress in Mondulkiri

WWF-Cambodia hosted the IKI SCP Asia Phase II project coordination meeting in Mondulkiri from 22–26 July, bringing together teams from WWF-Germany and WWF-Thailand to review progress and adjust strategies as the project enters its final phase. Discussions focused on emerging challenges, global market trends and options to sustain results beyond the project's lifetime. Field visits to commune councils, agricultural cooperatives and coffee producers offered first-hand insights into on-the-ground implementation. The meeting also highlighted opportunities to strengthen communications and share impact stories. These reflections will help ensure the project delivers lasting benefits for sustainable production and consumption in Cambodia and the wider region.



WWF Collects River Water Samples to Strengthen Freshwater Biodiversity Monitoring

WWF-Cambodia's Mekong Flooded Forest Landscape team, in collaboration with the Fisheries Administration, provincial cantonments in Kratie and Stung Treng, and local communities, conducted river water sampling for environmental DNA (eDNA) analysis from 19–21 August 2025. A total of 43 samples were collected from seven locations, with further sampling planned through 29 August and again in November. As part of WWF's wider Greater Mekong initiative, eDNA analysis helps identify species diversity and detect rare or threatened species. By generating science-based evidence, the activity strengthens freshwater conservation planning and supports efforts to protect the Mekong, Sekong, Sesan, and Srepok river ecosystems.



Rare Slender-billed Vulture Spotted at Mekong Flooded Forest Feeding Site



WWF-Cambodia staff recorded four critically endangered vultures at a vulture restaurant in Trapaeng T'mor Community Forest from 28 to 31 July, drawn by a cow carcass provided as safe food. The sightings included one red-headed vulture, two white-rumped vultures and a rare slender-billed vulture, a species seen in the area only once or twice a year. White-rumped vultures are more commonly observed during the rainy season. These observations contribute to WWF's quarterly vulture monitoring and inform the next census in September. The visit highlights the importance of managed feeding sites in supporting the survival and monitoring of Cambodia's last vulture populations.

WWF-Cambodia and WWF-Vietnam Launch Transboundary Conservation Collaboration

On 4 July 2025, WWF-Cambodia hosted a meeting with WWF-Vietnam and 17 key stakeholders, including government leaders and NGO partners, at its Phnom Penh office to explore transboundary conservation opportunities. The session focused on developing a shared framework for collaboration, with priorities including strengthened law enforcement, ecological monitoring, and inclusive conservation practices. Participants exchanged ideas, addressed challenges, and provided recommendations to guide future joint action. By fostering cross-border cooperation, the initiative enhances regional biodiversity protection, strengthens governance, and promotes sustainable management of ecosystems that span Cambodia and Vietnam.



Annual Survey Shows Strong Recovery of River Terns in the Mekong Flooded Forest

WWF-Cambodia's latest river tern survey has recorded a maximum of 94 individuals across Stung Treng and Kratie provinces, marking a notable increase from 71 birds counted last year. The population had remained stable between 2021 and 2024, making this year's rise a promising sign for the species. Additional surveys along the Sekong River documented 39 river terns, further boosting Cambodia's national population. The results reflect the impact of sustained conservation actions, including nest monitoring carried out with rangers and community members. The findings demonstrate that targeted protection efforts can reverse declines in threatened waterbird populations.



Government and NGOs Honour Rangers on World Ranger Day in Monduliri



More than 200 people gathered at Keo Seima Ranger Station in Monduliri Province on 15 August to mark World Ranger Day and recognise the dedication of rangers and supporting patrol members who protect Cambodia's natural heritage. Chaired by the Ministry of Environment's Secretary of State, H.E. Sokheng Navin, the event highlighted the risks rangers face, from wildfires and flooding to dangerous wildlife encounters and law enforcement operations. With support from WWF-Cambodia and other partners, 50 rangers and community patrol members participated. The commemoration reinforced collective commitment to improving ranger welfare, strengthening collaboration, and enhancing protected area management across Cambodia.

SMART Project Evaluation Informs Future Sustainable Rubber Initiatives

WWF-Cambodia launched the end evaluation of the SMART project in Pich Chreada District, Monduliri Province, from 5–9 August 2025, following the project's completion in April. Implemented over 18 months, the SMART project strengthened partnerships in sustainable natural rubber value chains, supporting 300 smallholder farmers and one agricultural cooperative through training in good agricultural practices, business linkages, and policy dialogue. The evaluation involves consultations with beneficiaries and donors to assess outcomes and capture lessons learned. These insights will guide the design of future initiatives, ensuring more effective, inclusive, and sustainable development of Cambodia's natural rubber sector.





© Sokong Hem / WWF-Cambodia

Mondulkiri Farmers Strengthen Eco-Friendly Vegetable Production Practices

WWF-Cambodia's Sustainable Consumption and Production team met with a vegetable farming group in Aboun village on 10 July 2025 to promote environmentally responsible farming practices. The session brought together 15 participants, including six women, and focused on plastic management using the four "Rs": refuse, reduce, reuse, and recycle. Farmers also documented key production activities such as harvesting, pesticide use, and fertiliser application in a shared record to support learning and transparency. Mapping of farms and agricultural associations was also reviewed. By strengthening practical knowledge and accountability, the initiative supports safer food production, reduced environmental impact, and more sustainable livelihoods for local farmers.

Chicken-Raising Groups Agree on Bylaws and Benefit-Sharing to Strengthen Livelihoods

On 22 August 2025, members of a community chicken-raising group met in Chroy Banteay village to finalize group bylaws and a benefit-sharing model aimed at building sustainable livelihoods. The meeting brought together 40 participants from five villages, including 26 women along with commune authorities and representatives from the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Through discussions and review sessions, members agreed to allocate 20% of profits to conservation and elected a committee to oversee implementation. By formalizing governance and linking income generation with conservation, the initiative strengthens local leadership, ensures fair benefit sharing, and supports long-term, nature-positive livelihoods for rural communities.



© Youmy Hou / WWF-Cambodia

© Youmy Hou / WWF-Cambodia

© Youmy Hou / WWF-Cambodia

© Youmy Hou / WWF-Cambodia



© Lor Kimsan / WWF-Cambodia

Want more updates on WWF-Cambodia?
Find us at wwf.org.kh or on social media



Working to sustain the natural world for the benefit of people and wildlife.

together possible panda.org

© 2025

© 1986 Panda symbol WWF – World Wide Fund for Nature (Formerly World Wildlife Fund)
® "WWF" is a WWF Registered Trademark. WWF, Avenue du Mont-Bland, 1196 Gland, Switzerland. Tel. +41 22 364 9111. Fax. +41 22 364 0332.

For contact details and further information, please visit our international website at www.panda.org