



WWF
CAMBODIA

Bi-Monthly Newsletter: May-June 2025

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

© Zoe Frieze / WWF-Cambodia

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



Together Possible: WWF-Cambodia and the Ministry of Environment renew their five-year partnership

WWF-Cambodia signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Environment on 19 June 2025, formalizing an ongoing partnership to protect Cambodia's nature for another five years. The agreement will enable us to advance our collaborative conservation efforts across priority landscapes, from promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Eastern Plains Landscape to enhancing community-led, biodiversity-friendly livelihoods in the Mekong Flooded Forest. At a joint signing ceremony attended by the Minister of Environment, WWF-Cambodia's Country Director commemorated the occasion as a "historic event," reinforcing our shared commitment to habitat protection, species conservation and long-term ecosystem resilience.



Visit this QR code to learn more about the WWF-Cambodia and the Ministry of Environment Renew Strategic Partnership for Natural Resource Conservation

World Environment Day engages youth and communities with theme "Beat Plastic Pollution"

On 5 June 2025, WWF-Cambodia celebrated World Environment Day with thousands of students and community members. In Phnom Penh, our Country Director joined King Norodom Sihamoni at a national event highlighting action on plastic pollution. Our Communications team hosted an educational booth at Pour un Sourire d'Enfant's campus, teaching schoolchildren and vocational students about local wildlife and their role in protecting it. In Kratie province, our landscape team and provincial leaders gathered 500+ community members to call for less plastic use and proper waste disposal. Communities across Cambodia heard our message to safeguard nature by adopting sustainable consumption habits that help beat plastic pollution.



Secretary General visits Mondulkiri farmers to promote sustainable agriculture

Cambodia's Secretary General of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD), Office of the Council of Ministers, visited Mondulkiri farming groups supported by WWF-Cambodia's Sustainable Consumption and Production project on 5 to 6 May 2025. The visit aimed to assess progress and challenges faced by honey, vegetable and cacao farmers, exploring opportunities to improve production, processing and market access. Takeaways included the value of scaling up supply chains and enhancing private sector partnerships, as well as the importance of collaboration to advance environmentally responsible agriculture.



Stakeholder consultations shape WWF-Cambodia's Office Strategic Plan



Our programme teams engaged over 70 key stakeholders in two consultation sessions on 10 and 11 June 2025, gathering essential feedback on our Office Strategic Plan (OSP) 2026–2030. For the next five years, the OSP will guide our path to making impactful, inclusive change for people and the planet. Meetings gathered our close partners in conservation action in both priority landscapes, including NGOs and government officials at local and national levels. Incorporating their valuable perspectives, WWF-Cambodia will also gather feedback from international partners and donors before launching the final OSP.

First-ever Panda Circle sparks creative collaboration and new opportunities

WWF-Cambodia's top leadership hosted the inaugural "Panda Circle" gathering on 22 May 2025, bringing together influential members of the diplomatic, business and academic worlds to strengthen conservation in Cambodia. Group participants engaged in lively conversations on enhancing WWF-Cambodia's partnerships, public advocacy and academic involvement. Inspired by discussions with university faculty, a student field visit from the Singapore University of Social Sciences to our Eastern Plains Landscape is in development. Further engagements with Panda Circle are on the horizon to deepen regional collaboration for the protection of nature.



1. H.E. Ms. Teo Lay Cheng - Ambassador, Singapore Embassy
2. Mr. Marc Thayre - Deputy Head of Mission, British Embassy
3. Mr. Marith Darby - Executive Director, British Chamber of Commerce
4. Mr. AJ Boelens - MEF, IFCC Advisor
5. Prof. Barry Clarke - Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS)
6. Mr. Vibol Chap - Country Director, WWF-Cambodia
7. Dr. Dipankar Chyau Patnaik - Conservation Programme Director, WWF-Cambodia

Sarus crane and three primates rescued and relocated to wildlife center

WWF-Cambodia staff and mobile law enforcement teams rescued rare wildlife in May 2025, including a sarus crane, two Indochinese silvered langurs and a pig-tailed macaque. Responding to a local report, our team found the sarus crane living with a family in Kratie province, who agreed to release the crane after hearing about the importance of wildlife protection. The langurs and macaque were received by our Mobile Law Enforcement Unit in Mondulkiri from government partners, who collaborate with us to curb wildlife crime. All animals were safely transported to the Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Center, where they received specialized care in a protected, natural environment.



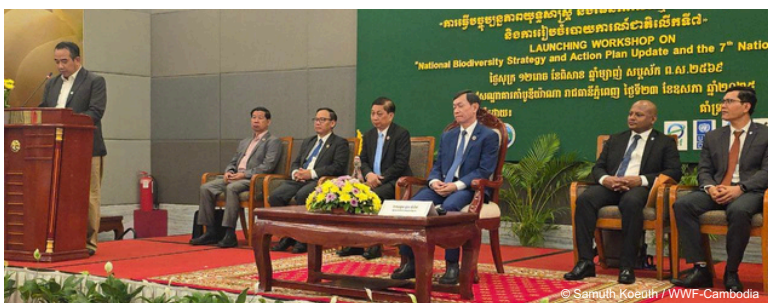
Tree ordination connects Buddhist teachings and nature protection



In partnership with the Kratie Department of Environment and local monks, WWF-Cambodia organized a tree ordination ceremony in the O'Kreang Community Forest on 12 June 2025, symbolically ordaining 300 trees as Buddhist monks. Bringing together 150 participants, the ceremony linked spiritual faith with the conservation of natural resources in this sacred forest. Participants joined in traditional prayers, learned about protected area laws and committed to stopping harmful practices to protect these valued beings.

Biodiversity strategy update kicks off with key partners

To support our government partners in fulfilling national conservation commitments, WWF-Cambodia co-organized a launching workshop with key partners on 27 May 2025. The workshop focused on preparing updates to Cambodia's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and developing the seventh national report to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Chaired by the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Environment, the event convened around 60 representatives from government, UN agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders to gather insights for this critical undertaking. WWF-Cambodia will continue to provide the technical support needed to protect the country's treasured biodiversity.





© Panha Makara / WWF-Cambodia

Data collection in the Sambo Wildlife Sanctuary enhances WoodAI species identification

WoodAI, co-developed by WWF, was piloted in Kratie's Sambo Wildlife Sanctuary, where WWF-Cambodia's law enforcement team joined park rangers, community members and technical specialists to test an AI-powered smartphone application. The tool helps garment and textile factories identify wood species, reducing their potential risk of contributing to deforestation. From 24 to 25 May 2025, 24 people tested 37 plant species using the app, utilizing only a smartphone and macro lens. By encouraging the use of plantation-grown wood, WoodAI helps reduce pressure on forest ecosystems and contributes to climate change mitigation efforts.

Research team undertakes human-elephant conflict mapping in two villages

WWF-Cambodia's Eastern Plains Landscape team conducted human-elephant conflict mapping during 8–13 June 2025 in Srepok Wildlife Sanctuary, liaising with the provincial government, research ranger teams and the local community. While visiting two villages, staff documented elephant-raided farms and identified elephant crossing points to best understand their movements between protected areas. With mapping efforts indicating at least 100 farms were raided in two villages last year, nurturing ways for people and elephants to coexist is an essential step for everyone's well-being.



© Bloch Rai / MoE / 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