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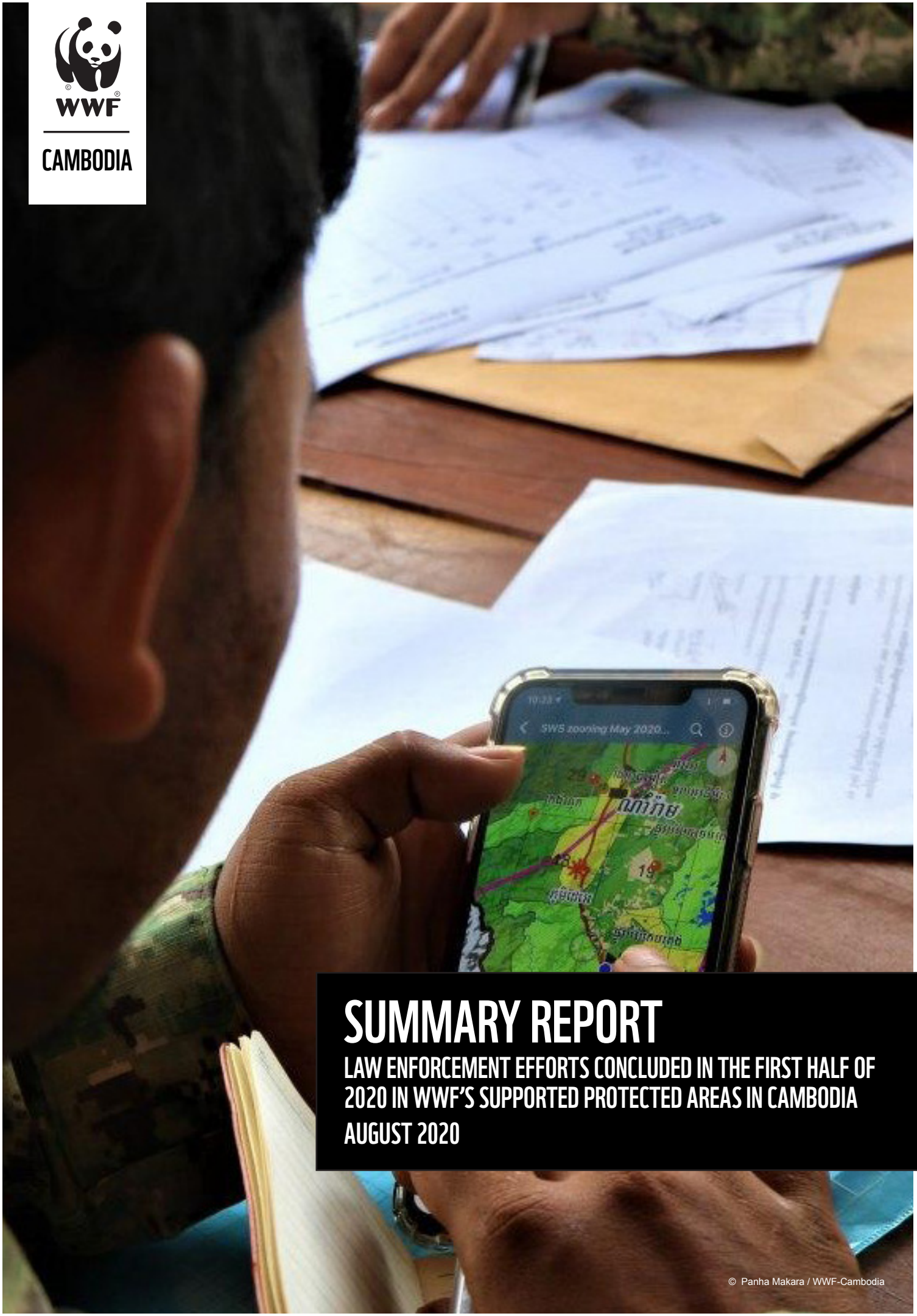

SUMMARY REPORT

LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS CONCLUDED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2020 IN WWF'S SUPPORTED PROTECTED AREAS IN CAMBODIA

AUGUST 2020

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PROTECTING CAMBODIA'S UNIQUE BIODIVERSITY LANDSCAPES

Law enforcement is a key component for protected areas in the Eastern Plains and Mekong Landscapes. WWF works very closely with the Royal Government of Cambodia and its relevant Ministries of Environment and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to support protected areas management and build capacity for law enforcement and provide necessary equipment to a total of 271 rangers and river guards for regularly patrolling both protected landscapes. Over the past two decades, WWF has been providing active support in the implementation and enforcement of the forestry and fishery laws, complementing other WWF initiatives on community engagement and biodiversity research, in collaboration with the Government at all levels, local communities and development partners, as well as private sector.

Forest cover of the Eastern Plains Landscape in Mondulkiri province where WWF is working with stakeholders to protect globally significant wildlife in their natural habitat. © Thou Sothean / WWF-Cambodia

In the Eastern Plains Landscape, WWF supports management of two key protected areas of Srepok and Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuaries of almost 6,000 square kilometers combined, under the management of the Ministry of Environment. This landscape is home to globally significant wildlife including Asian elephant, leopard, dhole, banteng, gaur, Siamese crocodile, eld's deer, primate species such as black-shanked douc and gibbon, as well as giant ibis and other large bird

Flooded forests in the Mekong Floded Forest Landscape where WWF is working with partners to protect the Irrawaddy dolphin and other riverine species. © WWF-Cambodia

species. In the Mekong Landscape, WWF conservation efforts focus on protecting terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity resources within a 180 kilometers stretch of the Mekong River in Kratie and Stung Treng provinces, under the management of the Fisheries Administration, as well as supporting two protected areas of Prek Prasab and Sambo Wildlife Sanctuaries, under the management of the Ministry of Environment. This unique lower Mekong section is home to the critically endangered Irrawaddy dolphin, endangered hog deer and many important bird species including river tern, giant ibis, white-shouldered ibis, lesser adjutant and vultures.

LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

THE EASTERN PLAINS LANDSCAPE

Different types of snares removed off the protected forests by the law enforcement team in Mondulkiri. © Lor Sokhoeun / WWF-Cambodia

As a result of the law enforcement efforts in the first semester of 2020, the law enforcement team consisting of the Ministry of Environment's 114 rangers and 588 community members in the EPL, with support from WWF, patrolled 1,257 days and 846 nights covering a distance of 61,758km within Srepok and Phnom Prich wildlife sanctuaries. Within the six month period, the team confiscated 3,684 snares, 180 chainsaws and sent 37 perpetrators to court.

A chainsaw confiscated by the law enforcement team in the EPL.
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In addition to the forest patrol in the protected areas, the Mobile Enforcement Unit in Mondulkiri province, with support from WWF, has been combating natural resource crimes outside the protected areas. The team conducted 92 patrol days and 35 patrol nights covering a distance of 6,716.64km within the first semester of 2020. At the same time, the team also conducted spot-checking at markets, restaurants, resorts and road blocks in Modulkiri. During the six month period, the team educated 183 perpetrators, while four perpetrators signed warning letters. Seven perpetrators were also sent to court while four perpetrators received jail sentences.

The law enforcement team in the EPL and the illegal gears they confiscated from perpetrators in the protected areas in Mondulkiri. © Panha Makara / WWF-Cambodia

THE MEKONG FLOODED FOREST LANDSCAPE

For the first semester of 2020, 72 river guards of the Kratie and Stung Treng Fisheries Administration Cantonments of the Ministry or Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, with support from WWF, conducted 2,042 patrol days along the 180km stretch of the Mekong River from Kratie town to Cambodia-Lao border in Stung Treng province. The river guards confiscated a total of 45,997m of illegal gillnets and 31,874m of illegal long-line hooks. Meanwhile, the law enforcement team of eight rangers of the Ministry of Environment and 80 community members conducted 809 patrol days in Prek Prasab and Sambo wildlife sanctuaries in Kratie province. The team intervened 18 illegal poaching cases, 74 illegal logging cases and 107 illegal forest land encroachment cases, confiscating 269 snares/traps, 15 chainsaws, seven homemade guns and 102 illegal fencing poles. Eight perpetrators were fined, 31 given the warning letters and 36 educated.

Pile of illegal fishing gears confiscated by the river guards in the MFF.
© Sina Pha / WWF-Cambodia

A river guard removing long-line hooks from the Mekong River's dolphin protected zone in the MFF. © Nuth Rithy / FiA / WWF-Cambodia

A river guard removing illegal gillnets from the Mekong River's dolphin protected zone in the MFF. © Nuth Rithy / FiA / WWF-Cambodia

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