



Students Experience Frontline Conservation in Cambodia's Eastern Plains Landscape

23–27 November 2025

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WWF-Cambodia hosted 27 students from the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) for a six-day immersive field trip to the Eastern Plains Landscape (EPL) from 23–27 November 2025, offering firsthand experience of conservation in one of Southeast Asia's most important biodiversity strongholds.

The visit provided students with direct exposure to WWF-Cambodia's core conservation efforts, including protected area law enforcement, biodiversity research and monitoring, and community engagement. By working alongside rangers, scientists, and local communities, students gained practical insights into how conservation is implemented on the ground.

“Experiences like this are critical to shaping the next generation of conservation leaders by connecting knowledge with real world action,” said the WWF-Cambodia Country Director.



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Through this field experience, students witnessed how these challenges are addressed through science-based approaches, including SMART patrol systems, data-driven monitoring, and community-based conservation models. The visit highlighted the interconnected nature of conservation, where ecological protection is closely linked with social, economic, and governance factors.

“Seeing conservation in action has completely changed how we understand the challenges - it’s not just about wildlife, but also people and livelihoods,” said one SUSS students.



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The field trip also reflects the growing partnership between WWF-Cambodia and SUSS, combining field expertise with academic learning. This collaboration enables students to translate theory into practice, while contributing fresh perspectives and innovative thinking to conservation challenges. It also helps elevate Cambodia’s conservation story to a global audience through youth engagement.

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“I hope that our participation and experience during this trip can contribute to wildlife conservation by promoting effective alternative approaches and inspiring more people,” said SUSS professor Mr. Barry Duncan Clarke.



Students not only developed technical knowledge in biodiversity monitoring but also gained a deeper understanding of the human dimension of conservation, how local communities balance environmental protection with economic needs, and how governance systems shape conservation outcomes.

Engaging young people in initiatives like this is critical to advancing WWF's global Roadmap 2030, which emphasizes the role of future leaders, researchers, and innovators in addressing urgent environmental challenges. Youth bring new energy, digital skills, and storytelling approaches that can amplify conservation impact beyond field sites.



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