

# TOGETHER WITH ELEPHANTS: PROTECTING CAMBODIA'S GIANTS

## WORLD ELEPHANT DAY AND INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

### AUGUST 2025



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On the morning of 12 August in Monduliri's Srepok Wildlife Sanctuary, groups of students gazed into the forest with wonder, imagining a four-ton giant trudging through the tall grass. Their imaginations grew as they traveled down a worn dirt path, listening to the insights of local rangers who protect the forest and its wild inhabitants.

This World Elephant Day – coinciding with International Youth Day – WWF-Cambodia partnered with the Monduliri Provincial Administration, the Provincial Department of Environment and local authorities to bring Monduliri students to Tropeang Thmeir Ranger Outpost for a half-day of educational programming. Here, students experienced the place where rangers and community patrol members safeguard Srepok Wildlife Sanctuary, home to wild Asian elephants and other wildlife.

Students and accompanying community members spent the morning learning about elephant biology, on-the-ground conservation activities and ways to prevent human-elephant conflict through interactive games. A “dream map” presentation from community representatives in Koh Myeurl envisioned elephants and humans living peacefully together. On a “habitat walk” guided by rangers, students were inspired students to be elephant allies by refusing unsustainably sourced wildlife and timber products.



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# A TIME OF NEED FOR ASIAN ELEPHANTS

Conservation efforts are becoming more urgent in the face of habitat fragmentation and human-elephant conflict. This year on Mother's Day, the death of a baby elephant on a motorway in Malaysia and images of the calf's grieving mother renewed global calls for better wildlife protection. The tragic accident highlighted the dangers that infrastructure expansion can pose to elephants and their shrinking habitat.

Approximately 400 or more Asian elephants still roam Cambodia's Eastern Plains Landscape, including Srepok, Phnom Prich, Keo Seima and Ouyada Wildlife Sanctuaries. WWF-Cambodia supports patrol teams in two of these four protected areas, defending elephant habitat by detecting and preventing illegal land clearing, deforestation and snaring.



But elephants also need younger generations to defend their forest. By protecting the land, we protect the gentle giants that call it home – building a better future for our youth to enjoy.



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*Through the RECOVER project, WWF-Cambodia aims to stabilize and increase globally threatened populations – especially Asian elephants – by implementing innovative conservation approaches, improving protected area governance and mitigating human-elephant conflict.*

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