



Media release

First-ever action plan to save Asian elephants in Cambodia launched

Cambodia's first-ever action plan to save the Asian elephant from extinction has been adopted by the Ministry of Environment, in close cooperation with [Fauna & Flora International](#).

The General Directorate of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDANCP), with technical support from the Cambodian Elephant Conservation Group (CECG), worked with national and international stakeholders over the last few years to compile this first-ever conservation action plan for the species in Cambodia.

CECG, established in 2005 by Fauna & Flora International (FFI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and the Forestry Administration, aims to conserve the Asian elephant in Cambodia by stabilising and increasing wild elephant populations throughout the country.

“Under the leadership of HE Say Samal, Minister of Environment, we developed this Action Plan, the first for Asian elephants in Cambodia and a landmark achievement that will, in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, guide effective protection of the country's most iconic species. I am very proud of the work done by colleagues at GDANCP and the Provincial Departments of Environment, who worked closely with FFI and other partners in the formulation of this Plan”, said H.E. Meas Sophal, Director General of the Ministry of Environment's GDANCP.

The Asian elephant is under severe pressure throughout its range and it is classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List, meaning that it faces a very high risk of extinction in the wild. In Cambodia, between 400 and 600 individuals are thought to remain, distributed mainly in the Cardamom Mountains in the south-west of the country and the eastern plains of Mondulkiri Province, with smaller numbers in other parts of the country, such as the northern plains. These landscapes are known for their rich biodiversity and suitable habitats for elephants and other threatened species. Habitat degradation has resulted in fragmented populations, negatively affecting the species' long-term viability. Elephant calves have also been found to be under pressure from [snares](#), affecting population recovery. These concerns have led to the development of this 2020-2029 Action Plan, which identifies six key priority issues and lays out strategic actions to address them.

H.E. Meas Sophal added that “the Action Plan aims to strengthen management of Asian elephants with involvement from all stakeholders, so that their populations are protected and able to recover, not least in the protected area and biodiversity conservation corridor

network, which covers 7.2 million ha or 40% of the country's surface, ultimately safeguarding this cultural heritage icon for future generations".

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About Ministry of Environment (www.moe.gov.kh/)

The Ministry of Environment is assigned by the Royal Government of Cambodia the mission to lead and manage environmental protection, conservation of biodiversity, and sustainable utilisation of natural resources for all Cambodians, as stipulated in Sub-Decree No. 135 of 5th July 2016.

About Fauna & Flora International (FFI) (www.fauna-flora.org)

FFI protects threatened species and ecosystems worldwide, choosing solutions that are sustainable, based on sound science and that enhance human well-being. Operating in more than 40 countries worldwide, FFI saves species from extinction and habitats from destruction, while improving the livelihoods of local people. Founded in 1903, FFI is the world's longest established international wildlife conservation organisation and a registered charity.







