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Twenty-Year Spatial Plan for Mondulakiri Province Adopted for Sustainable and Dynamic Green Economic Development

Senmonorom, Mondulakiri Province: On February 18, 2021, the twenty-year Mondulakiri Provincial Spatial Plan was officially endorsed by the Provincial Council. This marks a historical moment as this is the province's first spatial plan. Representatives of the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, Mondulakiri Provincial Council members, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), WWF-Cambodia, and the spatial planning technical team participated in the meeting.

Prior to endorsement, relevant stakeholders from various ministries, provincial departments, district and commune administration offices, USAID, civil society organizations, and the private sector attended the final spatial plan consultation workshop on February 17, 2021.

Spatial plan development included a multi-step stakeholder engagement process that was initiated in January 2017 through the creation of a governance structure. This launch was made possible through funding support from the European Union. Active development of the plan commenced in October 2018 with funding support from the USAID Wildlife Sanctuary Support Program through WWF Cambodia. The planning process was conducted by a team consisting of the Mondulakiri Core Working Group for spatial planning, a technical consultant team hired by WWF-Cambodia, and technical experts from WWF-Cambodia.

His Excellency Dr. Meng Bunnarith, Deputy Director-General of the General Department of Land Management and Urban Planning and Deputy Secretary-General of National Committee of Land Management and Urban Planning said, "This spatial plan is the fundamental for Mondulakiri province, that not only responds to the needs of increasing population growth and development in the era of regionalization and globalization, but also provides strategic directions to shape the province's spatial development in the next 20 years. He added, "As concluded in the final consultative workshop yesterday, I reckon that the plan takes into account stakeholders' concerns throughout the planning process; the richness of natural capital and local culture is thus central to the plan. I hope that the provincial administration and its subordinates will use this spatial plan as a tool to guide their development process for the sake of the province's future."

The spatial plan is an important policy and strategic document that provides the vision and long-term development goals for the next 20 years (2021-2040), as well as specific directions for the spatial development of the province to ensure sustainable development that is compatible with a conservation focus. The plan was developed in response to the increasing needs of local communities, development challenges, and the significant transformation of the socio-economic, cultural, and environmental systems in the province.

His Excellency Svay Sam Eang, Governor of Mondulakiri province and lead of the Provincial Committee for Land Management and Urban Planning, was appreciative of the active engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including provincial and local authorities, local

communities, NGOs, donors, technical experts, and the private sector, which resulted in the development of the spatial plan. He added that “The Monduliri Provincial Spatial Plan seeks to influence decisions and build collective ownership around a balanced development between sustainable natural resources management, economic development and equitable access to public services.”

Ms. Hanh Nguyen, Acting Mission Director USAID, said, “USAID hopes that the Monduliri Spatial Plan will serve as a strategic tool to navigate the development and conservation priorities of this beautiful province by addressing current needs and assuring the long-term sustainable and low-emission development of Cambodia.”

The Monduliri Provincial Spatial Plan is an important road map for the effective and responsible management and the balanced use and allocation of land, natural resources, and technical and social infrastructure based on the actual needs of the province, and upon legal principles, participation, and close cooperation among all institutions and stakeholders.

“The main substantive innovations in landscape approach are the recognition of the need to address the complex interactions between different spatial scales, and the need to embrace the full complexity of human institutions and behaviours,” said Mr Seng Teak, WWF Country Director, adding that WWF stands ready to support the government with sustainable land use planning while safeguarding the rich biodiversity in the province.

[Link to Photos](#)

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