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Maddox Jolie-Pitt Foundation



Fauna & Flora

Press Release on New Survey Reveals Rich Biodiversity in Cambodia's Samlout Multiple Use Area

[10 December 2024] A comprehensive biodiversity survey conducted in the Samlout Multiple Use Area (MUA) in Battambang and Pailin Provinces, Cambodia, has documented a diverse array of invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals, highlighting the ecological importance of this area.

The survey led by Fauna & Flora and commissioned by the Maddox Foundation in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, has confirmed the presence of several threatened species such as Sunda pangolin, Asian elephant, dhole.

Cambodian Minister of Environment H.E. Dr. Eang Sophalleth said that the Ministry of Environment introduced the Circular Strategy on Environment, strategically focusing on "Clean, Green, and Sustainable." The biodiversity survey is aligned with this strategy. He welcomed the report's findings, stating, "We now have a greater understanding of Samlout's biodiversity values, which highlight the unique natural heritage of the area and underscore our collective responsibility to protect it. We are strengthening efforts to prevent deforestation and other sources of degradation in multiple-use areas in Battambang and Pailin provinces. With the collaboration of our dedicated partners, we will ensure that Cambodia's biodiversity flourishes for future generations. Together, we can balance conservation and sustainable development, securing both our natural resources and our nation's prosperity. "

Pablo Sinovas, Fauna & Flora Country Director in Cambodia, remarked, "This survey's findings underscore the rich biodiversity within Samlout, a vital component of Cambodia's protected area network. Its location next to protected forests along the Thai border enhances its significance for transboundary ecological connectivity, further emphasizing the need for sustained conservation efforts. "

Angelina Jolie added: "Cambodia's rich biodiversity is a testament to the resilience of nature and the importance of safeguarding our ecosystems. The discovery of new plant species in this report underscores the critical role Cambodia plays in the global effort to protect wildlife and the importance of Maddox Foundation's work protecting biodiversity for future generations."

Fauna & Flora, the Maddox Foundation, and the Ministry of Environment, along with Battambang and Pailin provincial administrations, also held a workshop to share key findings from the biodiversity report to the public. The event aimed to highlight important biodiversity values, share the final survey report, and encourage wildlife and biodiversity conservation. As a result, the understanding of wildlife and biodiversity in the Samlout Multiple Use Area (SMUA) was enhanced, and the commitment to conservation efforts in SMUA and other parts of Cambodia was strengthened.

This survey, conducted between October 2021 and June 2022 to gather comprehensive data on the region's biodiversity, focused on five taxonomic groups: bats, orchids, herpetology, ornithology, and the camera trapping program.

The bat survey recorded a significant number of bat species, contributing valuable data to our knowledge of bat species occurrence in Cambodia and the area's likely significance for Cambodian bat conservation.

The herpetological survey recorded 51 species: 21 amphibians, 6 agamids, 4 geckos, 5 skinks, 14 snakes, and one turtle and the ornithological survey recorded a total of 142 bird species from 48 families.

The orchid survey recorded over 50 species from 29 genera. The survey also noted seven additional plant species of interest from five other families, including two new species records for Cambodia (a small colony of the rare aroid *Pycnospatha arietina* and the notable aroid *Amorphophallus tenuistylis*.)

The camera trap survey detected 44 species, including 28 mammals and 15 birds. Among these, 12 species were categorized as threatened on the IUCN Red List, with one critically endangered, three endangered, and eight vulnerable species.

Samlout is home to a wide array of rare plants and wildlife, including several critically endangered and endangered species. This information it provides is vital for shaping policy decisions and management practices to utilize these resources sustainably, ensuring their long-term preservation.

The Biodiversity Report of Samlout Multiple Use Area in Battambang and Pailin was funded by the Maddox Foundation.

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For media only:

Please use [the link to download the photos](#) and access the [report](#).

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