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Joint Press Release on Camera Traps Reveal Rare Species in Virachey National Park

A camera-trap biodiversity survey conducted throughout 2025 has revealed the remarkable diversity of species inhabiting Virachey National Park. Located in northeastern Cambodia, the park serves as a critical habitat for a wide range of wildlife.

A collaborative survey conducted by Fauna & Flora and Ministry of Environment, with support from the Ratanakiri Provincial Department of Environment and participation from Indigenous Peoples and local communities, revealed a remarkable diversity of rare and significant species. A total of 42 species were recorded, including 32 mammal species, 9 bird species, and 1 invertebrate species. Among these, 2 species are classified as Critically Endangered, 5 as Endangered, and 13 as Vulnerable. Notably, video footage documenting a herd of Asian elephants in the forest provides compelling evidence of the high ecological integrity and suitability of Virachey National Park as a critical habitat for wildlife.

The key species identified in the survey include rare animals such as the Asian elephant, Dhole, Clouded leopard, Asian golden cat, Great hornbill, Marbled cat, Bengal slow loris, Green peafowl, Douc langur, and Sunda pangolin and many others.

H.E. Khvay Atiya, Undersecretary of State and Spokesperson for Ministry of Environment stated: "Virachey National Park is a treasure of Cambodia, home to a rich diversity of species. This survey provides invaluable knowledge that will guide our efforts to protect these forests and their wildlife, while also supporting the communities who depend on them."

Vanny Lou, Terrestrial Programme Manager, Fauna & Flora – Cambodia Programme, commented: "Virachey National Park is alive with a host of incredible creatures, each playing a critical role in maintaining the forest ecosystems. This camera-trap data allows us to discover some of Virachey National Park's rarest species while also gaining a better understanding of their behavior, preferred habitats, and interactions with human settlements."

The main goal of this survey is to strengthen conservation actions in this biodiversity hotspot, taking into account the needs of both wildlife and local communities. People living near this protected area can play a key role in effectively protecting wildlife, but they face their own set of challenges. Therefore, harmonizing conservation goals with local development needs is not merely a social objective, but an ecological necessity for the survival of the region's extraordinary biodiversity.

The activity was supported by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) via the Biodiverse Landscapes Fund (BLF).

For media only:

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

For more information, please contact:

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