

# KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

## NATION RELIGION KING



### **Joint- Press Release on The discovery of a coral spawning event for the third time in the Koh Rong Archipelago and for the first time in the Koh Sdach Archipelago.**

**Phnom Penh, 16th March 2026-** Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Ministry of Environment, in close collaboration with Fauna & Flora – Cambodia Programme, Marine Resource Protection Organization, and Song Saa Foundation, are pleased to announce the discovery of a coral spawning event for the third time in Koh Rong Archipelago, and for the first time on Song Saa Island in Preah Sihanouk Province and in Koh Sdach Archipelago in Koh Kong Province.

The survey and study of this coral spawning event were conducted from 7–9 March 2026, with support from Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Environment, Fauna & Flora, Marine Resource Protection Organization, Song Saa Foundation, Bubbles Up Dive Centre, and Khmer Dive Group.

Over the course of the survey, the team conducted night dives and detailed reef monitoring to record spawning activities, assess coral health, and document environmental conditions. These observations provide vital scientific data that help researchers understand coral reproduction cycles, track reef recovery, and identify factors that contribute to effective coral reef management. The information gathered also supports evidence-based strategies for long-term coral reef conservation, benefiting both biodiversity and coastal communities that rely on healthy reefs for food and livelihoods.

**Jun Cheng, Senior Marine Programme Manager, Fauna & Flora-Cambodia Programme commented,** “Witnessing coral spawning for the third consecutive year is an encouraging sign that Cambodia’s coral reefs still hold remarkable resilience. These findings reinforce the importance of continued scientific monitoring and strong collaboration amongst the government, NGOs, and local partners to ensure the long-term protection of these critical marine ecosystems.”

**H.E. Dr. Eang Sophalleth, Minister of Environment**, remarked: "The successful observation of coral spawning highlights the effectiveness of ongoing conservation and management efforts in Cambodia's marine protected areas. Continued collaboration between government institutions, conservation organizations, and local communities is essential to conserve biodiversity and to sustain these ecosystem services for all generations".

**H.E. Dith Tina, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries**, remarked: "The results of these three consecutive years bear witness to the recovering health of our seas and stand as undeniable proof of our success in implementing fishery protection measures. We have moved beyond policies on paper to achieve tangible results in the water. However, we must not rest on today's achievements; we remain steadfast in our commitment to sustain and build upon this progress for the years to come."

Healthy coral reefs are extremely important for ensuring the sustainability of marine fisheries resources and supporting the livelihoods of coastal communities. The team will continue to study and document coral spawning events to strengthen joint conservation strategies and ensure the long-term resilience of Cambodia's coastal ecosystems.

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**For media only:**

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