



# GREEN ROOM

DECEMBER 2025 - JANUARY 2026



## Message from Natalie Phaholyothin, CEO of WWF Thailand

*As we begin the New Year, I extend my warmest greetings to colleagues, partners, and friends across the WWF network, and reflect on our shared commitment to creating lasting change for nature and people. The stories in this issue highlight WWF Thailand's recent conservation efforts, from elephant monitoring in Kuiburi and the return of banteng to Salakpra, to empowering young conservation leaders and communities protecting their forests.*

*Against this backdrop of collective effort and progress, as I conclude my seven-year journey with WWF Thailand, I do so with deep gratitude. It has been a privilege to work alongside such dedicated colleagues. While I step away from my role, my belief in WWF's mission remains unwavering, and I leave with great pride in what we have achieved together and confidence in WWF Thailand's future.*



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# Setting a New National Benchmark for Inclusive Conservation in Thailand



As Thailand works to achieve its 30x30 commitments, it is reaching a turning point in how conservation is done.

The National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRC) has highlighted the Doi Soi Malai-Mai Klai Pen Hin National Park designation process – implemented with WWF-Thailand – as a model for rights-based, inclusive conservation that builds trust and shared ownership. Doi Soi Malai has been listed as a proposed national park for decades, but designation has been hindered by community concerns over land rights and government overreach.

Now, thanks to WWF Thailand's extensive and equitable engagement process, communities are embracing protection. WWF staff have led extensive community consultations in 22 area villages, with 20 villages already approving protection.

Recognising WWF Thailand's success, NHRC is now launching participatory consultations in three proposed protected areas, including the proposed Mae Chaem Non-Hunting Area. WWF Thailand has been asked to facilitate these dialogues across 12 villages to ensure community voices shape conservation decisions.

Working alongside the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, this marks a shift from conservation imposed on communities to conservation built with them - laying the foundation for lasting impact under Thailand's 30x30 commitment.

Protecting nature and respecting people's rights go hand in hand.

# A Community's Choice for Forests, Wildlife, and the Future



A meaningful step toward biodiversity conservation took place within the Mae Ping Tiger Corridor at Khunpawor National Park, where the integrated GBF 30x30 and Forest Forward projects engaged with the Ban Pae Hae Community Forest.

Through a consultation meeting within the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process, community members came together to discuss the nomination of their forest for assessment as an Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measure (OECM). The forest, made up of dry evergreen and mixed deciduous ecosystems, is also known to support wild elephants and tigers, highlighting its ecological significance.

By the end of the discussion, a strong sense of shared commitment emerged. All community members and the Community Forest Committee unanimously agreed to endorse and consent to submit the site for OECM evaluation.

This shared decision marks an important step toward long-term biodiversity conservation, helping protect nearly 300 hectares of forest for the future and building critical habitat connectivity within the Dawna Tenasserim Landscape. Please reach out to learn more about WWF Thailand's vision for protecting this area, Southeast Asia's most important tiger landscape.

# Elephant Population Monitoring in Kuiburi



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Closing out 2025 with one of the biggest conservation efforts in the past decade, WWF Thailand, together with local community agencies, and volunteers, conducted an integrated elephant population monitoring activity in Kuiburi National Park.

The survey applied three main methods: direct counting, camera traps, and unmanned aerial vehicles (drones), to support the development of a population database for conservation planning, area management, and human-wildlife conflict mitigation.

Data collected through the combined methods are currently being verified prior to detailed analysis. Preliminary results from direct counts at 20 observation points over six days recorded up to 104 elephants from an estimated total of around 400 individuals across the park, with females outnumbering males.

These figures do not represent the park's total elephant population but reflect observations from the central zone bordering local communities—a high-risk area for human-wildlife conflict—making the data particularly relevant for future conflict management. As a local leader in human-wildlife conflict, WWF Thailand will continue to monitor these populations and develop innovative solutions that protect people and planet, together.

# Banteng Translocation



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More than 30 years after the banteng, a Critically Endangered keystone species of Thailand's lowland forests, disappeared from the Salakpra landscape, signs of its return are quietly reshaping the forest once again. What began 12 years ago as a hopeful reintroduction effort has grown into a long-term collaboration among dedicated partners, gradually restoring the banteng's presence in its former home.

This year, WWF Thailand continues this journey alongside the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, the Zoological Park Organization of Thailand, Kasetsart University, and Mahidol University. We began with a capacity-building workshop for young veterinarians, providing hands-on training and practical experience in anesthesia, animal handling, health care and physical examinations, as well as animal translocation. This initiative aims to enhance their knowledge and strengthen their expertise in supporting wildlife reintroduction efforts in the near future.

This year marks another important step forward, as three banteng were carefully anesthetised, fitted with tracking collars, and moved from the Khao Nam Pu Nature and Wildlife Education Centre to a pre-release enclosure within Salakpra Wildlife Sanctuary. Here, they are undergoing an acclimatisation period, learning to adjust to natural conditions and to live more independently from humans, before their official return to the wild in March.

Before the move, detailed health checks, including DNA sampling, confirmed that all three banteng are healthy. To support long-term monitoring, one individual has been fitted with a GPS collar and two with radio collars, allowing us to follow and study their movements and survival after release.

Over the past five years, 16 banteng have been released into the wild. Encouragingly, monitoring efforts have documented the birth of new calves in the wild, along with a growing presence of predators—early signs that the ecosystem is beginning to recover its natural balance.

These milestones reflect more than conservation success; they tell a story of patience, partnership, and renewed hope for Thailand's forests. As the three banteng prepare to begin their new lives in the wild, we invite everyone to join us in wishing them a safe journey and a future where they can once again thrive in the forest. Please support WWF Thailand as we continue to grow our rewilding efforts across Thailand.

# Building the Next Generation of Conservation Leaders



Raising awareness of the value of natural resources among young people is a vital foundation for effective conservation, as today's children will shape their own future.

Over the past two months, the Tiger Recovery Project has actively engaged students from several schools in communities across Kamphaeng Phet Province, where the project is being implemented.

In partnership with Khlong Lan National Park, the events started with a "Visit the Tiger's Home" programme that allowed students from over six schools to get up close and involved with nature while learning about tigers, other keystone species present in their neighboring forests.

They learned to identify tiger stripe patterns and wildlife tracks and were introduced to life and conservation work in the forest.

This was followed by hands-on habitat restoration activities, where the students helped create artificial mineral licks—an essential nutrient source for hoofed wildlife—supporting ecosystem balance.

Such out-of-classroom learning is a long-term investment that nurtures stewardship and inspires young people to protect the natural resources of their homeland. WWF Thailand is committed to nourishing the next generation of conservation heroes.

# WWF Thailand's Annual Report FY25 Launched



WWF Thailand's Annual Report FY25 is now live, reflecting a year of dedicated work and impact. Thank you to our WWF networks around the world for the collaboration and support that made this possible. [\[click\]](#)



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