



## Message from Communications Team, WWF Thailand

May-June has been a season of milestones. Across forests, communities, and coastlines, WWF Thailand and our partners have continued transforming conservation ambitions into real-world impact—from restoring wildlife and strengthening forest protection to empowering communities, advancing innovation, and celebrating the people behind conservation. Here's a look back at the stories that defined the past two months.

### The 6th Sambar Deer Release into their Natural Habitat



[Watch full video from Mae Wong-Khlong Lan](#)

The Tiger Recovery Project proudly continues its mission to restore prey populations in Thailand's critical tiger habitats. This year marked the 6th sambar deer release, carried out in two priority sites: **Mae Wong-Khlong Lan National Parks and Salakphra Wildlife Sanctuary** — both vital strongholds for tiger conservation.

A total of 32 sambar deer were released, generously supported by four long-standing partner breeding centres: Khao Kho, Khao Son, Huai Sai, and Bang Lamung. The releases included 6 GPS-collared individuals to monitor survival rates and track their movements as they adapt to their natural homes.

Since the project began in 2021, an impressive 181 sambar deer have been reintroduced into the wild — a significant step toward rebuilding healthy ungulate populations that sustain thriving tiger ranges.

This milestone was honored by the presence of our dedicated partners, including the Wildlife Conservation Office, the Protected Area Regional Office 12 (Nakhon Sawan), national parks, breeding centres, and our international ally WWF Malaysia, who joined us in celebrating this achievement. Together, we are shaping a future where tigers and their prey can flourish once again.

# A Journey of Recovery: Returning Banteng to the Wild



## [Watch full story](#)

A significant milestone for wildlife conservation has been achieved as banteng, one of Thailand's most threatened species, take their journey back to the forests where they belong. After careful preparation at Khao Nam Pu Nature and Wildlife Education Centre, the animals were released back into the wild, marking an important step in the recovery of the species.

This achievement reflects the collaboration among the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, the Zoological Park Organisation of Thailand, Kasetsart University, WWF Thailand, and dedicated partners. Together, they supported every stage of the process, from captive breeding and veterinary care to translocation and post-release monitoring.

This milestone highlights the value of long-term conservation efforts in recovering threatened species and restoring healthy ecosystems. As one of Thailand's largest wild herbivores, the banteng plays a crucial role in maintaining forest health by dispersing seeds, influencing vegetation dynamics, and supporting ecological balance.

Through the return of banteng to their natural habitat, conservation partners are not only helping secure the future of this endangered species but also contributing to stronger, more resilient forest ecosystems for generations to come.

## Forests Forward: Marking World Environment Day 2026 with Conservation in Action



## [Watch World Environment Day Celebration](#)

Since October 2024, the Forest Forward Project has been driving a story of hope, where forests are being restored, communities are leading conservation, and technology is helping protect nature.

The project has restored 69.72 hectares of forest across target areas while strengthening 47 community forests spanning more than 9,883 hectares. In the Lower Songkhram Basin, 31 community aquatic conservation zones now protect 142 hectares of waterways, creating healthier landscapes where biodiversity can thrive.

Forest guardians have also been empowered. Through SMART Patrol training, 120 rangers have strengthened their patrol skills. Human-elephant conflict has decreased by 30%, supported by five emergency response teams and 25 officers trained to use thermal drones in high-risk areas. In Mae Ping Forest, a real-time wildfire surveillance system now monitors 25,000 hectares using drones and live-stream cameras to detect threats early.

These achievements were celebrated on [World Environment Day 2026](#), when more than 180 participants—from SIG, WWF Thailand, government agencies, partner networks, and the Nong Son community—gathered in Sam Ngao District, Tak Province. Activities included a traditional forest ordination ceremony, tree planting, and recognition of local conservation champions, highlighting how conservation is strengthened through culture and community.

As the project enters its third year, SIG and WWF Thailand remain committed to strengthening protected area management, expanding community-led conservation, enhancing monitoring systems, and scaling solutions that create lasting benefits for people and nature.

## Three Years of Turning Waste into Opportunity: MA-RE-DESIGN Project Concludes with Lasting Impact in Koh Tao and Trang



### [Watch full story from Koh Tao](#)

After three years of collaboration, innovation, and community action, the MA-RE-DESIGN Project has demonstrated that meaningful solutions to marine plastic pollution begin at the local level. Implemented by WWF Thailand in partnership with GIZ and UNEP COBSEA, with support from the Federal Republic of Germany, the project has transformed Koh Tao and Trang into leading examples of how circular economy approaches can create cleaner communities and healthier marine ecosystems.

In Koh Tao, the project brought together local authorities, tourism businesses, communities, schools, and the diving sector to tackle island-specific waste challenges. Through initiatives such as voluntary business commitments, deposit return systems, community waste banks, and improved recycling pathways, the island has strengthened its waste management system and reduced waste collected during [World Oceans Day](#) clean-up activities by 27% compared to 2025.

In Trang Province, the project empowered schools, youth, communities, and local authorities to become active drivers of change. Community and school waste bank networks have expanded waste segregation efforts, while the newly launched “Ma Gep Ta” website, developed jointly by WWF Thailand and Trang City Municipality, provides residents with easier access to waste collection services and information, helping foster a culture of responsible waste management.

The MA-RE-DESIGN Project leaves behind more than successful pilot initiatives. It has built partnerships, strengthened local capacity, inspired behavioral change, and created practical models that can be scaled and replicated elsewhere. Together, Koh Tao and Trang have shown that when communities, businesses, and governments work hand in hand, a future with less plastic pollution and healthier oceans is within reach.

## Empowering Forest Rangers for Stronger Forest Protection



Strong forests depend on strong frontline protection. To help safeguard Thailand's protected areas, WWF Thailand supported the SMART Patrol System Training for 65 forest rangers from six national parks across Tak Province.

Held over one week at Lan Sang National Park, the training was led by expert instructors from the SMART Patrol Monitoring Centre of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation. Rangers strengthened their skills in patrol planning, field data collection, law enforcement, and safe operations—essential tools for protecting wildlife and responding effectively to threats in the field.

To further enhance their capacity, WWF Thailand also provided essential field equipment, including uniforms, hammocks, buffs, and rain ponchos, ensuring rangers are better prepared for the demanding conditions of forest patrols.

By investing in the people who stand on the frontlines of conservation, we are helping build stronger protection for Thailand's forests, wildlife, and the communities that depend on healthy ecosystems.

## Building Internal Capacity to Strengthen Conservation Impact



Delivering effective conservation starts with investing in our people. In a first for WWF Thailand, colleagues became trainers, leading an internal Capacity Building Workshop to share their technical knowledge with staff across teams. This initiative marks an important step toward fostering a culture of continuous learning and cross-team collaboration.

The workshop on Spatial Data Management Using GIS, UAV-Based Aerial Photography, and Biodiversity Index Assessment Using R & RStudio equipped participants with practical tools to strengthen conservation planning and data-driven decision-making. Staff received hands-on training in GIS, including QGIS and ArcGIS Pro, for spatial data management and map creation. The workshop also highlighted the development of the Eyes on the Forest (EoF) Web and Mobile Application, an enhanced database management platform that improves data access, analysis, and usability, enabling more effective decision-making and responsive area-based management.

They also learned how to conduct biodiversity index assessments using R and RStudio, enabling more effective analysis of ecological data to support evidence-based conservation planning. Participants further explored how Power BI can be used to develop interactive dashboards for data visualisation, project monitoring, and systematic data management.

The workshop demonstrated the value of learning from one another and investing in our people. By leveraging the expertise within the organization, WWF Thailand is strengthening internal capacity and equipping staff with the tools to deliver even greater conservation impact.



Working to sustain the natural world for the benefit of people and wildlife.

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