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# CARDAMOM TENTED CAMP

Impact Report 2025

Botum Sakor National Park · Cambodia



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## NOTE FROM THE LODGE MANAGER

At Cardamom Tented Camp, we believe tourism can be a powerful force for good. Every day, our team works to ensure that your stay is not only a memorable experience in nature, but also contributes to protecting the forest and supporting the communities who call this region home.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated staff, our valued partners, and most of all, the guests we welcomed from around the world throughout 2025. While the year brought its challenges, it was also filled with excitement and hope. We were fortunate to witness incredible moments in the forest, including sightings of several rare species and exceptionally rare birds. It is a powerful reminder of the good work that we are doing to bring the forest back to life.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who played a part in this journey. We look forward to the discoveries and experiences that 2026 and beyond will bring. Together we keep the forest standing.

Allan Michaud  
*Lodge Manager*



# Cardamom Tented Camp

Cardamom Tented Camp was created through a partnership between Minor Group, YAANA Ventures, and Wildlife Alliance to protect an 18,073-hectare concession from threats such as illegal logging, poaching and sand dredging.

The camp opened in November 2017, offering guests an immersive nature experience while directly contributing to the protection and conservation of the surrounding rainforest. Guided by the camp's slogan since its inception, "Your Stay Keeps the Forest Standing," a percentage of every stay supports the conservation work of Wildlife Alliance in the area. Additional profits are reinvested locally to benefit nearby communities.

In partnership with the Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation, the camp also supports 15 rangers working with Wildlife Alliance to patrol and protect the forests of Botum Sakor National Park. Today, the camp features 12 comfortable safari-style tents and employs 18 team members, many from surrounding villages and townships.



# The 4Cs

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Cardamom Tented Camp adopted The Long Run's 4C framework to guide every decision.

Cardamom Tented Camp is a proud member of The Long Run, a global network of nature-based tourism businesses dedicated to driving conservation through tourism. In early 2025, we adopted The Long Run's 4C framework: Conservation, Community, Culture, and Commerce, using it to guide our decisions.

The 4Cs recognize that sustainable tourism depends on balancing environmental protection, community wellbeing, cultural respect, and economic viability. At Cardamom Tented Camp, conservation is the starting point of everything we do, with the other pillars helping ensure that our work is inclusive, resilient, and prepares us for the future.

*Proud member of*

**THE  
LONG  
RUN**

# What Does Each "C" mean To Us?



Conservation

Protecting the rainforest and its wildlife is central to our mission. We don't just aim to reduce harm but actively restore and regenerate the ecosystems we manage, striving to leave the surrounding habitat better than we found it. Our goal is clear: to the best of our abilities, maintain and enhance a diverse habitat to make sure species thrive and none go extinct.



Community

Conservation only works when local communities are fully engaged and supported on their terms. We start by understanding and addressing their immediate needs, building trust through meaningful partnerships. Once those foundations are in place, we work together through educating staff, rangers, and neighboring communities, to protect the forest and create shared value that benefits everyone involved.



Culture

We recognize Cambodia's history and Khmer culture, embedding this understanding into how we host visitors, hire staff, and conduct ourselves. For us, culture also lives in the forest. Respect for both people and place guides our partnerships, daily operations, and how we engage with guests and the land surrounding us.



Commerce

Financial sustainability is essential to our conservation work. A strong business allows us to expand ranger teams, deploy more camera traps, and invest in the tools needed to protect the forest effectively. Balancing purpose with profit is key to long-term impact.

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# Your Stay Keeps the Forest Standing

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CARDAMOM TENTED CAMP · EST. 2017

# 2025 Highlights

18,073

HECTARES PROTECTED

2

PANGOLINS RESCUED

72

CAMERA TRAPS PLACED

620

PATROLS CONDUCTED

55,219 km

Patrolled

819

Snares  
Removed

15

Illegal Camps  
Dismantled

22

Chainsaws  
Confiscated

632 m

Bird Nets  
Removed



# CONSERVATION

*Protecting the forest and its wildlife is central to our mission*

## FOREST PROTECTION

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Since 2017, Cardamom Tented Camp has been supporting the ranger teams of Wildlife Alliance, who patrol the forest to prevent illegal activities such as logging, poaching, and land encroachment. These patrols are essential for safeguarding wildlife and maintaining the health of the ecosystem.

In 2025, the camp supported the salaries of two forest rangers, contributing directly to the protection of 18,073 hectares of forest within Botum Sakor National Park. Covering such a vast landscape requires more than ranger patrols alone. In addition, 47 camera traps helped the rangers monitor wildlife movement. Camera images provide valuable insights that guide conservation interventions.

Throughout the year, rangers carried out 620 patrols across the concession and surrounding areas. In total, they covered 47,474 kilometers by vehicle and boat, as well as an additional 7,745 kilometers on foot, allowing them to monitor remote areas and respond quickly to threats.

These efforts resulted in the removal of 819 illegal snares, 15 illegal camps, 632 meters of bird nets, and the confiscation of 22 chainsaws. Ranger teams also rescued two Sunda Pangolin, one of the world's most threatened mammals.

620

Patrols  
conducted

819

Snares  
removed

15

Illegal camps  
dismantled



KEY NUMBERS · RANGER OPERATIONS

# Ranger Figures

Year-on-year performance — patrol teams

INDICATOR	2024	2025	CHANGE
Ranger Patrols	532	620	+16.54%
Rangers at Station	18	15	-16.67%
Snares Removed	901	819	-9.1%
Illegal Activities		697	—
Animals Rescued	1	2	+100%
Camera Traps Placed	0	50	New ↑

\*\* Illegal activities: chainsaws, camp removals, wooden poles, axes, bird nets



CONSERVATION · WILDLIFE MONITORING

# Wildlife Monitoring

Monitoring wildlife helps us understand how the forest is recovering and whether our conservation efforts are making a difference. Aside from the rangers, our camera traps and jungle treks with guests allow us to track species presence, movement, and biodiversity across the forest.

In addition to the 47 camera traps placed, the camp invested in an extra **25 new camera traps**, improving our ability to monitor wildlife across the concession and support the conservation work of Wildlife Alliance. Some of these camera traps are also used as part of the guest experience, allowing visitors to see firsthand how wildlife monitoring works and to engage directly with the conservation efforts taking place around the camp.

The year brought several exciting discoveries. We recorded new bird species, along with two additional mammals, including the remarkable sighting of a **Marbled Cat**. Our monitoring efforts also recorded four new snake species, including the **Triangle Keelback, Mountain Bronzeback Tree Snake**, and the **Cardamom Mountain Green Pit Viper**.

One of the most memorable moments of the year was the sighting of the extremely rare **White-eared Night Heron** during a night safari boat trip.

# Life in the Forest — As Captured by Our Camera Traps



Sun Bear  
TRAILCAM13

27 C 29.65 inHg TRAILCAM13 08/20/2025 07



Barking Deer  
TRAILCAM19

30 C 29.80 inHg TRAILCAM19 10/03/2025 1



Mouse Deer  
TRAILCAM19

31 C 29.71 inHg TRAILCAM19 10/26/2025 12



Yellow-throated  
Marten · TRAILCTC02

26 C 29.62 inHg TRAILCTC02 09/18/2025 0



Wild Boar



Woolly-necked  
Stork



Large Indian  
Civet · Night



Wild Pig



Porcupine  
TRAILCTC02 · Night

25 C 29.83 inHg TRAILCTC02 03/01/2025 09



Marbled Cat  
Night sighting



Reticulated  
Python



Marbled Cat  
Camera trap

An aerial photograph of a campsite nestled in a dense forest. Several tents with light-colored roofs are arranged in a semi-circle. A solar panel array is visible on a clearing. A network of paths or roads winds through the site. The overall scene is lush and green, with sunlight filtering through the trees.

# SUSTAINABILITY AT CAMP

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Garden · Waste · Energy · Community



# Camp Figures

Year-on-year performance — camp data

INDICATOR	2024	2025	CHANGE
Energy Used (kWh)	—	—	—
Energy Produced (kWh)	9,960	13,816	+39%
Recycled Waste (kg)	No data	882 kg	New ↑
New Animal Sightings	No data	7	New ↑
Camera Traps Placed	25	25	0%
Community Projects	0	1	+100% ↑

\*\* Animals include snakes, birds, mammals



SUSTAINABILITY · VEGETABLE GARDEN

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## Growing Fresh Ingredients On Site

In recent years, Cardamom Tented Camp has explored different ways to grow fresh ingredients on-site, including small initiatives such as hanging herbs and a small vegetable garden near the kitchen. In 2025, this effort developed further with the creation of dedicated vegetable beds at the camp.

The garden allows the kitchen team to grow a selection of fresh herbs and vegetables directly at the camp. By producing some of our food on-site, we reduce packaging and transport impacts while giving guests a closer look at how food can be grown sustainably in a remote forest setting.

This year we introduced butterfly pea, mint and cucumbers to our garden, marking the first step in developing a small but productive food space at the camp. We hope to expand the variety of crops and increase production in 2026.

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## WASTE JOURNEY 2025

Waste separation has always been an important practice for Cardamom Tented Camp. Beyond its environmental benefits, it is also operationally essential for a remote property with limited disposal options.

This year we improved how we track, separate, and manage the waste we generate. Today, the camp separates several waste streams, including plastic, cardboard, cans, metal, cooking oil, and beer bottles, ensuring that as much material as possible is diverted from landfill.

After separation, we send our waste to local recyclers whenever possible. The revenue from recycling is then shared with staff as motivation to maintain good separation practices.

In 2025, a total of 882 kg of recyclable waste was collected and sold, generating approximately 40 USD per staff member through the recycling incentive program. Additionally we sold 190 liters of cooking oil for bio-diesel and returned 1,320 beer bottles to our brewer.

### Staff Incentive Program

~\$40 USD per team member in 2025

### Additional Achievements

190 litres of cooking oil sold for biodiesel  
1,320 beer bottles returned to brewer

### 882 kg

of recyclable waste collected and sold in 2025



## RENEWABLE ENERGY UP

At Cardamom Tented Camp, solar energy plays an important role in helping the camp operate as independently and sustainably as possible in a remote forest environment. By increasing our reliance on renewable energy, we aim to reduce our dependence on diesel generators and lower the environmental footprint of our operations.

In December 2024, the camp added a fourth 9 kWh battery to its solar system, bringing total storage capacity to 36 kWh. This upgrade enabled the camp to produce 13,816 kWh of solar energy in 2025, compared to 9,960 kWh in 2024.

As a result, diesel consumption decreased from 1,400 liters in 2024 to 915 liters in 2025, representing an approximate 35% reduction year-on-year

# Reducing Diesel Use Through Solar Energy

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**13,816 kWh**

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**Solar Energy Produced 2025**

+39% vs 9,960 kWh in 2024

**36 kWh**

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**Total Battery Storage**

4th battery added December 2024

**35%**

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**Diesel Reduction**

1,400 litres (2024) → 915 litres (2025)

# Supporting Communities and Conservation Together

## 2 Rangers

Salaries funded directly from guest stays, in partnership with Wildlife Alliance and GTAEF

## Chi Phat Waste Management Pilot

Launched with Khiri Reach — 20 households now separating waste into organic, recyclable and landfill streams

## 18 Staff Members

Many employed from surrounding villages and townships, contributing directly to local livelihoods

## Trapeang Rung

2026 community engagement — listening to local needs and supporting practical initiatives



# Chi Phat Waste Management

In 2025, we began supporting improved waste management in the nearby community of Chi Phat. Community leaders had already started waste management nearly 10 years ago, introducing a system to collect household waste twice a week and bringing it to a nearby dumping site. With this foundation in place, the community was ready to take the next step and reduce the amount of waste ending up there.

Together with Khiri Reach, Cardamom Tented Camp launched a pilot project with 20 households, introducing a simple system to separate waste into three categories: organic, recyclable, and landfill waste. The pilot began with an educational session for participating households, explaining the importance of waste separation and how to sort waste correctly at home.

The goal of the project is to help reduce waste entering the natural environment while building practical habits that can gradually be expanded across the community.





# 2026 and Beyond

# Building on the Progress Made this Year

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In 2026, Cardamom Tented Camp looks ahead with a particular focus on community and culture.

01

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## Artists in Residence

Invite local artists to stay and create works inspired by the rainforest, wildlife, and guest experiences – celebrating Cambodian creativity.

02

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## Local Community Outreach

Engage with the community of Trapeang Rung by listening to local needs and supporting practical initiatives that benefit both people and the environment.

03

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## Ranger Well-being

Invest further in the well-being of Wildlife Alliance ranger teams, whose essential work protects the forest every single day.

04

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## Camera Traps & GPS


Expand the use of camera traps and GPS equipment to improve wildlife monitoring and gain deeper insights into the forest ecosystem.

# Recognition for Conservation and Responsible Tourism

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## ICRT Southeast Asia Responsible Tourism Awards

 Gold Winner – Nature-Positive Category

Recognising impactful conservation and dedication to protecting Cambodia's rich biodiversity through responsible tourism.



## Travel + Leisure Luxury Awards Asia Pacific

Best Beach, Island + Upcountry Hotel in Cambodia

Voted for our unique nature-based stay and commitment to sustainable hospitality.



# Together we keep the forest standing

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Cardamom Tented Camp · Impact Report 2025

## Partners

MINOR  
INTERNATIONAL

WILDLIFE  
ALLIANCE

