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WCS releases 35 Cantor's giant softshell turtles into the wild

The Wildlife Conservation Society Cambodia Programme (WCS) has said it safely released 35 Cantor's giant softshell turtle hatchlings into the wild along the Mekong River on February 17, in Kratie province's northernmost district of Sambor. This comes as a result of collaboration with the Fisheries Administration (FiA) and the Kratie provincial FiA cantonment, the NGO said in a statement on February 18. The ceremony for the release of the turtles was held in Kampong Cham commune of southwestern Sambor, in the presence of WCS country director Ken Serey Rotha, it said. Also in attendance were Fisheries Conservation Department deputy director In Hul, provincial FiA director Mok Ponlok, the community nest protection team and other WCS staff, it added. Cantor's giant softshell turtle (*Pelochelys cantorii*) is listed in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species as "Critically Endangered", meaning that it faces an extremely high risk of extinction.

Source: [The Phnom Penh Post](#)

Kids aged 5-11 can get Sinovac boosters from Feb 21

Children aged 5-11 nationwide who have completed their primary Covid-19 vaccination schedule at least four months prior will be able to get a booster shot of the Chinese-made Sinovac coronavirus jab from February 21, according to national Covid-19 vaccination committee head Or Vandine. In the capital, the booster shot for this age group will be administered at Calmette

Hospital, Preah Ang Duong Hospital, National Paediatric Hospital, National Maternal and Child Health Centre, Khmer-Soviet Friendship Hospital and Kantha Bopha Children's Hospital, Vandine said in a statement on the night of February 17. She called on parents and guardians to take their 5-11-year-olds to get their boosters.

Source: [The Phnom Penh Post](#)

Kandal Governor: Solid waste mismanagement cause of pollution

Kandal Governor Kong Sophoan blamed the pollution of the streets and the environment on mismanagement and improper disposal of local waste. He made this remark during the meeting of the Steering Committee to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the work of the 11 municipal administrations in solid waste management in Kandal, which was held on February 17 at the Kandal Provincial Hall. To battle the issue of solid waste disposal and management, the specialized departments of municipal, district, commune and village authorities must take strict measures against those who throw garbage in the open and do not follow the instructions of the authorities, the Governor stated. Separately, the company that is responsible for collecting garbage must also set a clear time to collect garbage and not wait for garbage to pile and stink before collecting them. In order to improve the well-being of the people, sanitation, beauty of the city and other locations and proper solid waste management, people must participate in maintaining hygiene.

Source: [Khmer Times](#)

Study: Poor will be hit hardest by temperatures rising with climate change

In yet another sign that climate change strikes the poorest without mercy, a new study shows that low-income people have a 40% higher exposure to heat than those with higher incomes. By the end of the century, heat wave exposure for the poorest 25% people worldwide will equal the rest of the global population combined. That's after taking into account access to air conditioning, cool air shelters, heat safety rules for outdoor workers and heat safety awareness campaigns, according to the study published recently in the journal *Earth's Future*. The researchers also said that by the year 2100, the world's poorest people will face 23 more days of heat waves than the wealthiest people. They noted that many heavily populated, low-income regions are located in tropical areas and their populations are expected to increase, which will increase economic disparities in heat wave exposure.

Source: [UPI](#)

WTO Trade and Environmental Sustainability Initiative Starts Taking Shape

The postponement of the World Trade Organization (WTO)'s Twelfth Ministerial Conference in December 2021 did not put a stop to conversations about how international trade and trade policy can support environmental and climate goals and promote sustainable production. On 15 December 2021, the ministers representing 57 WTO members published a statement during a high-level event that also served as the launchpad for ministerial statements on plastics pollution and environmentally sustainable plastics trade and on fossil fuel subsidies. The WTO's Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala described the meeting of co-sponsors as a historic event, pointing out that "trade, and the WTO, are part of the solution to climate change and environmental degradation".

Source: [IISD](#)

Pollutant Registers Used to Assess Progress on Sustainability

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has published a report on using pollutant release transfer register (PRTR) information to evaluate progress towards SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production). PRTRs collect and disseminate information on environmental releases and transfers of pollutants from industrial and other facilities. The registers have not previously been analyzed for tracking progress toward the SDGs. The OECD analysis focuses on: pollutant releases to air and water; releases from facilities in the manufacturing sector; and releases of specific pollutants of concern. The analysis developed approaches for using PRTR data from different countries to conduct a global-scale analysis on assessing progress towards the SDGs, specifically SDG target 12.4 on sound chemicals management, reducing chemical releases into the environment, and minimizing the adverse impacts of chemical releases on human health and the environment.

Source: [IISD](#)

Chicago denies permit for scrapyard at heart of 'environmental injustice' battle

City health officials on Friday denied a key permit to a scrap metal facility planned for a largely Latino neighborhood, handing a victory to residents who had fought the project for more than two years and led the Biden administration to raise concerns of "environmental injustice." After a year of delays and town hall meetings, the Department of Public Health's denial of the operating permit blocks Reserve Management Group, a metals and electronics recycling firm, from moving ahead with its plan. On its website, the city said its refusal to grant a permit means the company "cannot operate the Southside Recycling facility."

Source: [NBC News](#)

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