

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

**On**

### **Management of Monkeys and other Wildlife in Angkor Park**

APSARA National Authority would like to inform the public that the number of monkeys and other wildlife living in Angkor Park is increasing year by year. With this growth, the technical team of APSARA National Authority, under close cooperation with the Forestry Administration and the Wildlife Alliance, has been continuing to pay attention to its protection and conservation. However, we are facing some management problems, mostly related to monkeys.

In December 2020, we issued a press release regarding monkey management, urging the public to co-operate in order to prevent the exploitation of monkeys that have been living in Angkor Park by not feeding, or being in close contact with monkeys. We also requested people to stop liking and sharing videos that encouraged these activities on social media. This was done so that animals can live more naturally, as interactions with people can lead to negative behaviors, which may impact the monkeys and the public.

Recently, we have observed that there are still some individuals who continue to feed monkeys for the purpose of taking pictures and videos of monkey. They invented an attractive story (even name those related monkeys), posted daily on social media platforms with videos and then asking donations that's actually for their personal gains. As anticipated, those feeding and filming activities, in addition to being disruptive are changing their nature from a wild animals able to forage their own food, into animals that are more reliant on human handouts. As the monkeys are becoming fearless of human beings they have started then to commit negative behaviors such as grabbing food, injuring national and international tourists, affecting banners, causing some temple stones to fall and other damages (picture attached).

Separately and recently, videos of highly inappropriate and very concerning activities by some extremist groups have been leaked. They videotaped monkeys for posting on social media for personal gain. In those tapes, they have used such inhuman actions on monkeys such as violence, torture and deprivation of infants from its mother, etc.; you can find those videos as attached <https://youtu.be/G3Lxh1UrVRQ>, <https://youtu.be/NU5P0NLzonc>, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9\\_n2valzjU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9_n2valzjU), <https://fb.watch/eZJqQQSwZO/>, "Baby Rainbow needs your help to comeback home and reunion her family." <https://donorbox.org/helprainbowtocomebackhome>

In order to maintain the harmony of wildlife in Angkor Park, we would like to request the cooperation from the public and relevant authorities working together to prevent all these inappropriate activities that have been negatively impacting management of Angkor Park, which affects national pride and honor. At the same time, we urge national and international tourists to stay away from monkeys and wildlife to avoid any harm, especially please do not provide food that can change the nature of animals from wild to vulnerable animals. We will also take legal action against those who have committed crimes against monkeys and other wildlife in Angkor Park without exception.

As mentioned above, we kindly request the public to cooperate for the welfare of the wildlife in ANGKOR Park.

Siem Reap, October 26<sup>th</sup> 2022 *AS?*