

WE ARE SMILING GECKO

An overview of our engagement



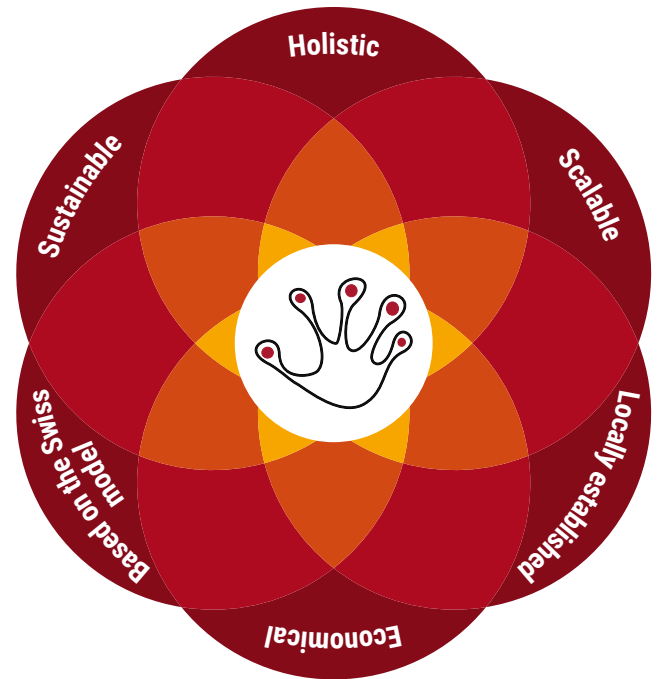
Even more than 20 years after the end of its bloody civil wars, Cambodia remains one of the most backward countries in Asia. Large sections of the rural population live in extreme poverty that dominates every aspect of their lives. Smiling Gecko supports these people. With an independent, holistic approach, which we would like to introduce to you on the following pages.





THE SMILING GECKO PRINCIPLE

Since its foundation in 2012, Smiling Gecko has aimed to show needy families in rural Cambodia a sustainable way out of poverty. To achieve this, we rely on an independent, holistic approach that combines economic and ecological principles. The focus is on providing high-quality education and vocational training for children and young adults. Since 2014, we have owned land in the province of Kampong Chhnang, on which we have built the 150-hectare Smiling Gecko Campus.



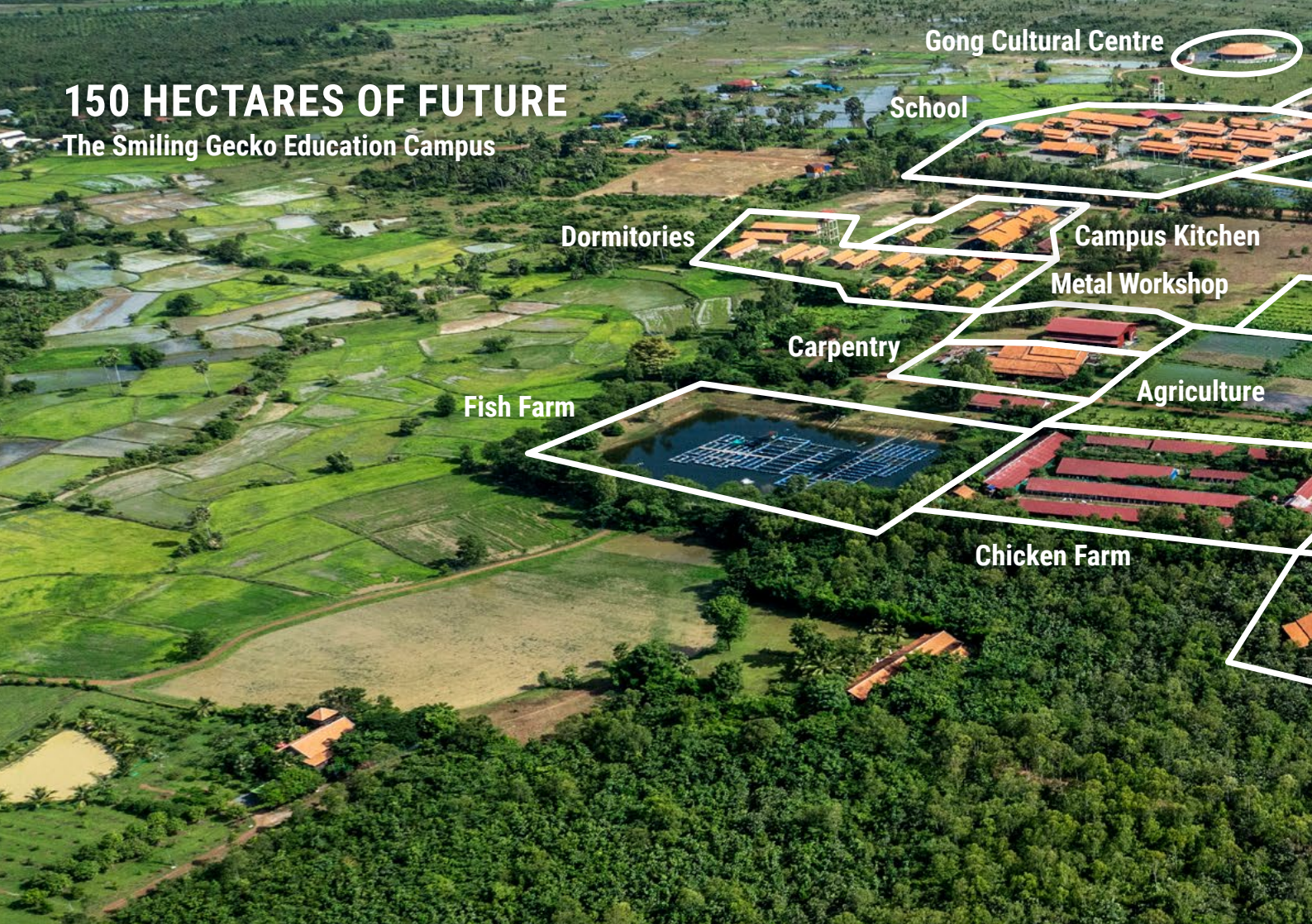
IN LINE WITH THE UN AGENDA

When planning and implementing our diverse activities, we are guided by the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development wherever possible, to which Cambodia committed itself in 2015. Our commitment currently covers twelve of the seventeen areas defined by the UN. This is probably one of the reasons why the Cambodian government is so supportive of our project.



150 HECTARES OF FUTURE

The Smiling Gecko Education Campus



Gong Cultural Centre

School

Dormitories

Campus Kitchen

Metal Workshop

Carpentry

Agriculture

Fish Farm

Chicken Farm



Secondary- & Highschool

Cattle Farm

Nursery

Fish Farm

Solar Field

Agriculture

Fish Farm

Natural Fertilizer

Vanilla Farm

Family Farms

Farmhouse Resort & Spa





THE HEART OF THE PROJECT SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

Established in 2017, the school and kindergarten are at the heart of the Education Campus. From the outset, our well-trained national and international teachers have delivered bilingual instruction in Khmer and English. This gives our children real opportunities for a self-determined future and a certain level of prosperity, even in rural Cambodia.



Education with real-world experience

Alongside traditional subjects, our approach combines strong academics with life skills, creativity, and community values. From the early years, students benefit from bilingual instruction and a programme that includes IT, arts, music, sports, ethics, and social development. We place a strong emphasis on sustainability through hands-on learning in agriculture, hygiene, recycling, and environmental care.



Scan/take a picture of the QR code and go directly to the relevant area on smilinggecko.ch.



Social support programme

In a poor region like Kampong Chhnang, Smiling Gecko plays a vital role beyond education. Our Social Support Programme ensures that children grow up in a safe, healthy, and supportive environment. By providing daily nutritious meals, clean water, hygiene education, and structured personal care routines, we support student development, reduce the burden on families, and help prevent child labour and illness. Uniforms promote equality and hygiene, and regular medical and dental check-ups help keep children healthy.







THE HOLIDAY PARADISE

Farmhouse Resort & Spa

Holiday in a paradise setting and at the same time doing something meaningful for the development of Cambodia: it's not a contradiction, rather our philosophy at the Farmhouse Resort, which is currently our most important source of income, as well as our largest training enterprise.



Resort

Nestled within the Education Campus, the hotel is a place of heavenly peace and relaxation. The resort has 34 rooms and suites with a total of 17 bungalows, mostly built in classic Khmer style. All are air-conditioned and generously equipped with private terraces.

Sanctuary Spa

With a total of 8 treatment rooms, our Spa is a real oasis in the middle of a wonderful tropical garden where we grow rare indigenous plants, amongst other things.





Restaurant UN

In addition to the Farmhouse Restaurant, the resort boasts one of Cambodia's finest restaurants: UN, which is run by our talented head chef, Mariya Un Noun. Even more exclusive is the 'Chef's Table', where Mariya Un Noun cooks for up to 10 guests in the unique ambience of the founder's bungalow. An experience.



Campus Kitchen

We produce around 200,000 meals a year in our campus kitchen for our employees, but above all, for our school and kindergarten children, whom we feed in the mornings and at lunchtimes during the week. For them, these are usually the only meals for the day.



[Learn more](#)





THE MODEL FARMS

Agriculture and Stockbreeding

At the Smiling Gecko Education Campus, we run a multi-faceted agricultural operation in which we apply new knowledge on sustainable cultivation practices and effectively use agricultural climate information. The plant and animal products produced here are of excellent quality and form the basis for the nutrition of our school children, amongst other things.



Fruit and vegetable cultivation

Long beans, bitter melons, mangoes and more than 30 other fruit and vegetable varieties grow in our fields and greenhouses.

Chicken Farming

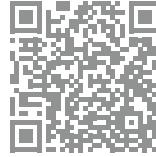
Chicken farming has always been practised in rural Cambodia. We support the local families by breeding young chickens, which we can offer them at low cost for further fattening.





Fish Farming

Fish is a key element of the local diet. That is why we engage in fish farming and fattening and now produce around 75 tonnes of ready-to-eat fish, in addition to fingerlings for farming.



[Learn more](#)



Experimental agriculture

Whether it's cultivating TCM botanicals, our vanilla farm or experimenting with more climate-resilient plants, we gather the knowhow for tomorrow's yields on our campus.





THE MANUFACTURING SITES

Handicraft and Production

The manufacturing facilities on the Smiling Gecko Education Campus produce a variety of handcrafted products and nationally marketable goods. At the same time, these businesses are a cornerstone in the professional education and vocational training of young adults. An aspect that is particularly important in rural Cambodia, as there are few classic training sites and many people learn their craft in a very rudimentary way.

Bakery and Butchery

Crispy baguettes and croissants, chicken sausages or juicy pork chops: in the bakery and the butchery, we produce what enriches the menu on the Campus and in the Farmhouse Resort every day.



Carpentry

A real flagship is our carpentry workshop, where we produce, amongst other things, practically all the furniture that is used at the Farmhouse Resort. In addition, we have a small production facility for handcrafted wood products and are currently in preparation to enable us to make entire house extensions.



Tailoring

In the garment factories of Cambodia, textile worn by the rest of the world is produced under inhumane conditions. We take a different approach: our working conditions are fair and so are the wages that the tailors earn for their work.

Metal Construction Workshop

The latest addition to our campus is the metal construction workshop. We also see good opportunities to integrate the young people trained there into the Cambodian labour market. This is especially true if they are led by experienced international specialists, as are practically all of our employees.



[Learn more](#)

THE CULTURE CENTRE

In the 'Gong', we give the country its voice back

Unlike any other country in Southeast Asia, Cambodia is still suffering from the effects of its uniquely turbulent past. This is also evident in its culture. The country is in danger of losing its roots. With the Gong cultural centre, which opened in 2024, we have created a place where old traditions are honoured and kept alive. At the same time, we are providing a breeding ground for new ideas to emerge.



Auditorium

The cultural centre's stage is always available to artists of all ages for performances and rehearsals. Symphonic orchestras have played here, circuses have put on shows and world-class international artists have performed. With a capacity of up to 140 guests, the hall is probably the largest in the area.



Recording studio

Our recording studio is equipped to international standards and is run commercially by us. We also use it for our own school choir recordings, but it is primarily intended for national and international artists, who can record their music here in a remarkable atmosphere.

Conferences

The unique premises are also an exceptional venue for conferences and product presentations in front of a large audience. The 'Gong' is equipped with the necessary technology for this purpose. Meanwhile, the Farmhouse Resort's fine cuisine takes care of your physical well-being.



[Learn more](#)

STILL ESSENTIAL FOR SURVIVAL

Immediate Humanitarian Aid

People in rural Cambodia are largely abandoned to their fate by state authorities and are in a constant struggle to survive. Increasing crop failures and events such as the Covid-19 pandemic and its consequences mean that even this minimum is often unattainable. This is where our help is needed.



No Alternative to our Engagement

Over the past few years, we have distributed more than 10,000 aid packages in the area surrounding the Smiling Gecko Education Campus and in the slums of Phnom Penh. For us, this is a financial feat that is difficult to manage. But there is no alternative. For many families, these food rations are literally vital to their survival.



Since the aid organization started, we have consistently provided emergency aid to families in need. We provide them with food from our farm, fresh drinking water from our wells, donated rice, sanitary products and medicine.



[Learn more](#)

SUPPORT US!

We are delighted for your support today through your donation or bequest, helping the people of Cambodia to help themselves tomorrow.



Smiling Gecko

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