



ANNUAL REPORT

WWF-LAOS 2024-25

CONTENTS

About this Annual Report & WWF-Laos at a glance	2
Foreword by the Country Director of WWF-Laos	3
Year in review: A 12-month snapshot in numbers	4
The standout accomplishments	5
1. Programme implementation and results	6
• Forests	7
• Freshwater	8
• Wildlife	9
• Climate Change	10
2. Efforts and milestones at priority sites	11
• Nam Poui National Protected Area	12
• Nong Kham Saen Wetland	13
• Xebanghieng Riverscape	14
• Phou Xieng Thong National Protected Area	15
• Xesap National Park	16
• Siphandone Riverscape	17
• Dong Hua Sao National Park	18
• Xepian National Park	19
3. Combat illegal wildlife trade	20
4. Sustainable rattan and bamboo	21
5. Plastic and waste management	22
6. Cross-cutting implementation and support	23
7. Enabling functions	24
• Key notable achievements	25
8. Challenges and opportunities	26
9. Strategic Plan 2026-2030	27
10. Acknowledgement and partnership	27

WWF-LAOS FY25 ANNUAL REPORT: JULY 2024 TO JUNE 2025

Xesap National Park – Laos | © WWF-Laos

Front cover image: Patrol team in Xesap
National Park – Laos | © WWF-Laos

ABOUT THIS REPORT

12

MONTHS COVERING THE PERIOD BETWEEN JULY 2024 TO JUNE 2025 | FY25



IN NUMBERS

2	PRIORITY SPECIES GROUPS: NATIONAL AND GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE	3	FOCUS CITIES	4	KEY CONSERVATION PROGRAMME:
3	MAIN LANDSCAPES	8	OFFICES		
8	KEY PRIORITY SITES FOR CONSERVATION	75	STAFF		
				FORESTS	FRESHWATER
				WILDLIFE	CLIMATE CHANGE

ABOUT WWF-LAOS

WWF has had a presence in Laos since the late 1980s, with the WWF-Laos office officially established in 2001. Today, our head office is in Vientiane capital, with seven field offices across the country and over 75 staff members working with partners to deliver effective conservation.

WWF-Laos is part of WWF-Southeast Asia, receiving supervision and support from WWF International and Network Offices in many countries worldwide. The office also receives financial support from various donors for the implementation of conservation projects in Laos.

OUR MISSION FOR LAOS IS TO BUILD A FUTURE WHERE THE PEOPLE OF LAOS CAN THRIVE AND LIVE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE.

By working in partnership with the government of Laos, private sector, communities, and local and international organizations, we can address the threats to biodiversity and habitat loss and move towards a greener, nature-based future for the sustainable and long-lasting benefit of both people and wildlife.



FOREWORD



Loris Palentini,
Country Director of WWF-Laos

As we close the chapter on Fiscal Year 2025, I am proud to reflect on the remarkable progress WWF-Laos has made in our shared mission to safeguard nature and build a future in which people live in harmony with nature. This year has been one of both challenge and opportunity, and I am deeply grateful to our dedicated team, partners, and supporters who have made our achievements possible.

WWF-Laos continues to play a vital role in protecting the country's rich biodiversity and natural heritage. From the forests of the Annamite Mountains to the mighty Mekong River, our work has focused on conserving critical habitats, protecting endangered species, and promoting sustainable livelihoods for communities who depend on nature.

FY25 saw significant strides in landscape conservation, with strengthened collaboration across sectors and borders, particularly through

our transboundary efforts in the Mekong region. One of the highlights of this year has been our growing engagement with local communities and government partners. Together, we have advanced inclusive conservation models that empower people to be stewards of their environment. Whether through community forest management, wildlife monitoring, or sustainable fishery and agriculture initiatives, we are seeing firsthand how conservation and development can go hand in hand.

We also continued to invest in science and innovation, using data and technology to inform our strategies and measure impact. Our teams have worked tirelessly to ensure that our interventions are evidence-based and adaptive to the changing realities on the ground. This approach has helped us respond more effectively to emerging threats such as illegal wildlife trade, deforestation, and climate change.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our donors, partners, and colleagues across and beyond the WWF network. Your belief in our mission fuels our work and inspires us to aim higher. I would also like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Government of Lao PDR for its continued collaboration and commitment to conservation.

As we look ahead to FY26, we remain steadfast in our vision for a greener, more resilient Laos. We know the road ahead will require even greater cooperation, innovation, and courage. But with the strength of our partnerships and the passion of our team, I am confident that we will continue to make a lasting impact for nature and people.

THANK YOU FOR WALKING THIS JOURNEY WITH US.





746,000

hectares across four protected areas are actively managed under conservation management plans with support from WWF-Laos



1,035

times of river patrols conducted across three freshwater priority sites – strengthening management, reducing illegal fishing, and safeguarding endangered species



4

new fish conservation zones (FCZs) established, bringing the total to nearly 320 nationwide – all established with WWF-Laos' support over the past decade



19

illegal wildlife cases investigated by authorities with support from WWF-Laos

905

illegally traded wildlife specimens confiscated



2

National Protected Areas patrolled over 760 days by different forest patrol teams

91,770

kilometers of distance covered



>134,000

native and fruit trees planted in forest restoration areas

4,280

hectares of degraded forest improved through restoration efforts



2,740

snares removed from protected areas

305

illegal hunting and logging camps dismantled



>25

capacity-building activities and trainings conducted for partners and communities – strengthening skills, fostering collaboration, and advancing conservation



81,000

hectares across two protected areas monitored for wildlife surveys, with 225 camera traps deployed in 135 locations

74

wildlife species recorded



>30

awareness-raising activities conducted in communities and at key national conservation events – sharing knowledge, inspiring action, and promoting conservation

YEAR IN REVIEW:
JULY 2024 TO
JUNE 2025

A 12-MONTH SNAPSHOT IN NUMBERS

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: COLLECTIVE EFFORTS



LAOS CELEBRATES ASEAN HERITAGE PARK STATUS FOR NAM POUI AND PHOU XIENG THONG

The declaration of Nam Poui and Phou Xieng Thong as ASEAN Heritage Parks brings the total number of such designated sites in Laos to three, following Nam Ha National Protected Area's inclusion in December 2023. These designations reflect the country's increasing leadership in biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management.

The inclusion of Nam Poui and Phou Xieng Thong highlights not only their biodiversity value, but also their role as flagship sites attracting regional and international attention as models for sustainable protected area management.

With their new ASEAN Heritage Park status, these two parks are gaining wider recognition – showcasing their national importance while also standing out as high-value sites for conservation at the regional level and drawing global interest for their ecological significance and potential as models of sustainable protected area management.

[Click here to find out more](#)



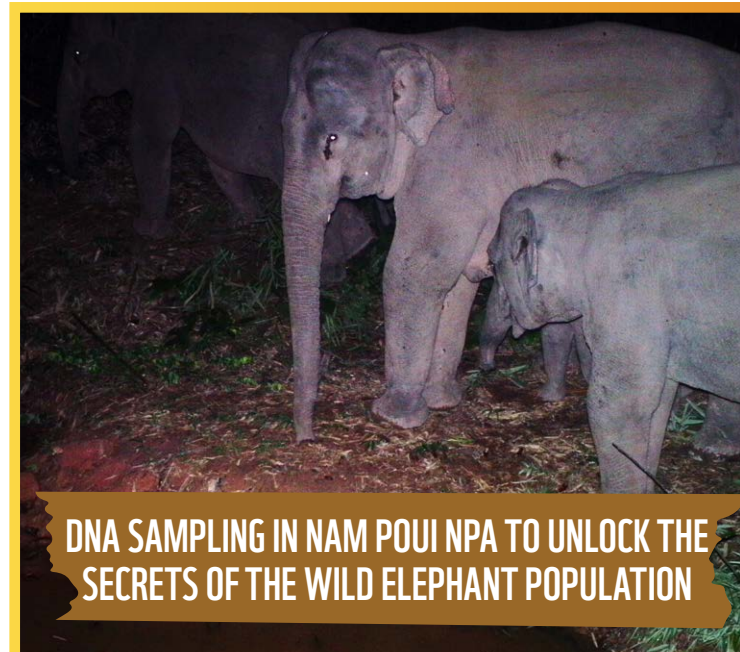
COMPREHENSIVE NATIONWIDE ASSESSMENT OF FISH CONSERVATION ZONE EFFECTIVENESS

WWF-Laos, through the Xebanghieng and Phou Xieng Thong projects, in collaboration with the Department of Livestock and Fisheries completed the first nationwide assessment of 61 Fish Conservation Zones (FCZs). The review looked at management practices, effectiveness, community ownership, and key challenges, including the impacts of climate change – highlighting what works and where improvements are needed.

Laos now has over 1,000 FCZs, of which 320 were established with support from WWF-Laos. These zones are critical for conserving aquatic biodiversity, protecting fish stocks, and sustaining the livelihoods of river-dependent communities. The findings will help strengthen management plans, revise current regulations, and guide the creation of future FCZs.

By identifying both successes and gaps, this study provides a clear path to scale up effective practices – ensuring FCZs continue to deliver long-term benefits for people and nature in Laos.

WWF-Laos' 2024-25 Annual Report | Page 5



DNA SAMPLING IN NAM POUI NPA TO UNLOCK THE SECRETS OF THE WILD ELEPHANT POPULATION

For the first time, a fecal DNA survey has been conducted in Nam Poui National Protected Area (NPA) – one of the country's few strongholds for the endangered Asian elephant. From February to May 2025, 348 samples were collected across key areas known for seasonal elephant movement in Nam Poui NPA and surrounding areas.

Priority zones were identified using historical human-elephant conflict records, camera trap data, and other field information on known elephant use areas. The samples are currently being analyzed, with results expected in 2026. These findings will provide critical information for planning conservation actions, improving habitat connectivity, and reducing human–elephant conflict.

The data will also deliver a robust population estimate, insights into genetic diversity, and information to assess connections with elephant herds in neighboring Thailand – highlighting the importance of protecting dispersal areas that extend beyond national boundaries.

[Click here to find out more](#)



5-YEAR PLASTIC PROJECT SECURED FROM THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

For the first time, WWF-Laos has successfully secured funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to implement a comprehensive initiative tackling plastic pollution in Laos. The five-year project, running from 2025 to 2029, marks a major milestone as it expands previous Plastic Smart Cities work into a broader national program of action.

Focusing on Luang Prabang, Vang Vieng, and Vientiane – three fast-growing cities where urbanization and tourism drive rising plastic waste, the project will strengthen waste management systems, reduce single-use plastics, and promote circular economy solutions. It will be delivered through a strong implementation partnership with the Lao government, development partners such as [Swiss Contact](#) and [Plan International](#), and local CSOs.

By combining policy reform, community engagement, and private sector participation, the program aims to cut plastic use, curb pollution, empower local authorities in waste management, and support these cities on their journey to becoming Plastic Smart Cities under the national Plastic Action Plan.

[Click here to find out more](#)

1

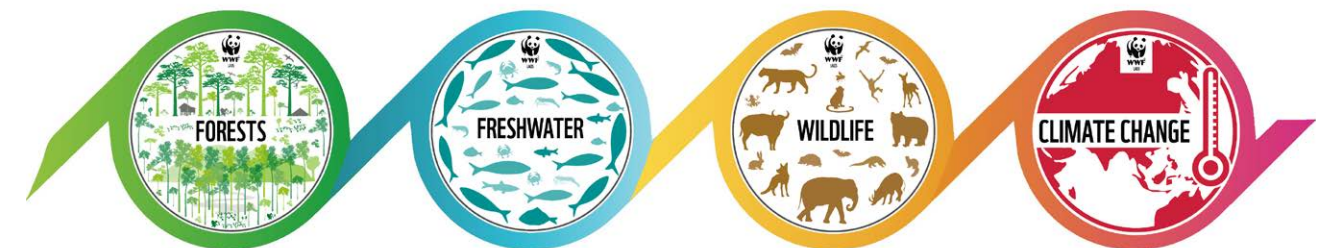
PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND RESULTS



Our conservation programme in Laos is implemented across four key thematic areas: Forests, Freshwater, Wildlife, and Climate Change.

While each programme has its own targets and objectives, they are all integrated and cross-cutting, ensuring a cohesive approach to conservation across the country.

Below is a map of Laos highlighting the three main landscapes and eight key priority conservation sites, and three cities. The efforts and activities in these areas are carried out in partnership with the Government of Laos, as well as local and international organizations – working together to protect and preserve the natural environment while promoting sustainable, nature-based solutions for resilient livelihoods.





HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

 **>134,000**

TREES PLANTED:
native and fruit trees
in priority sites
(66,256 in FY24)

 **746,000**

HECTARES
across four protected areas
supported by WWF-Laos,
are under active conservation
management

 **2**

PROTECTED AREAS
patrolled over 760 days/nights
by forest patrol teams, covering
91,770 kilometers
(825 days/nights in FY24)

 **>4,280**

HECTARES
of degraded forest improved
through restoration efforts
(265 hectares in FY24)

FORESTS PROGRAMME

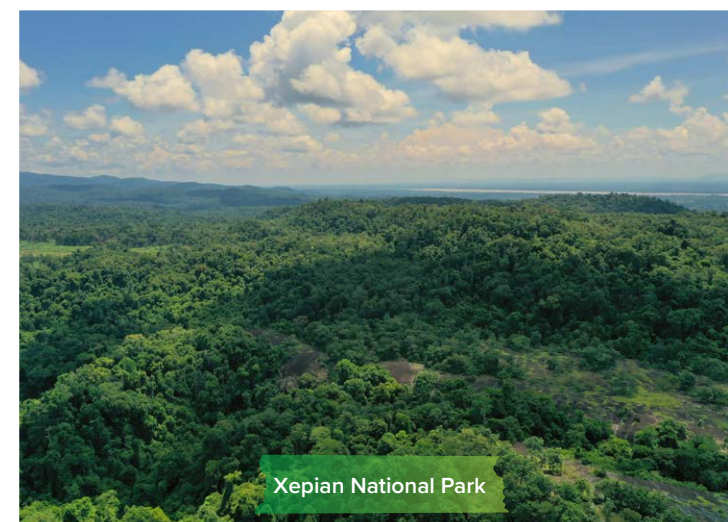
OVERVIEW:

WWF-Laos' forest programme is committed to halting deforestation, restoring degraded ecosystems, and strengthening forest management in collaboration with the government, communities, local and international organization partners and other stakeholders.

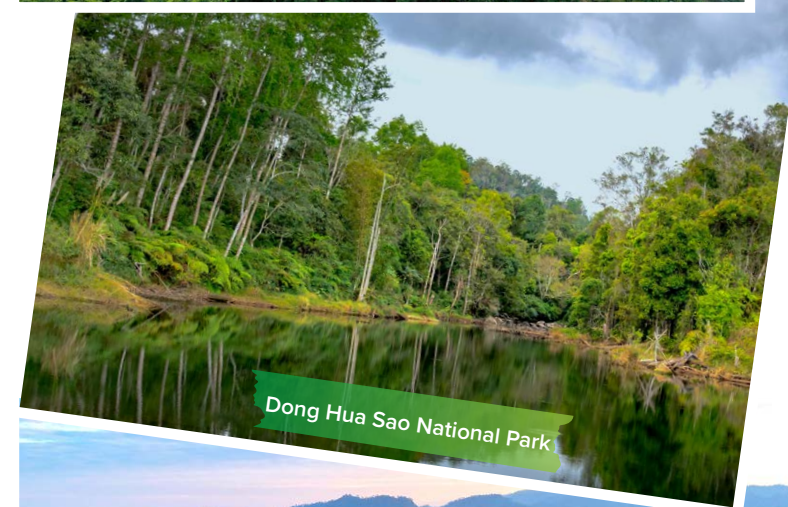
The programme focuses on minimizing forest loss in priority sites, enhancing protected area management, and reducing illegal resource extraction.

Support is provided to forest-dependent communities through livelihood development and climate resilience initiatives, including the promotion of sustainable rattan/bamboo and other non-timber forest products harvesting and production.

The programme also promotes sustainable forest management and agroforestry, improving value chains and fostering private partnerships to generate alternative incomes.



Xepian National Park



Dong Hua Sao National Park



Nam Poui National Protected Area

KEY ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

-  Enhance forest governance, National Protected Areas, and zonation
-  Strengthen forest law enforcement through community-based patrols
-  Monitor forests using Geographic Information System (GIS), remote sensing, and ground-truthing
-  Promote sustainable production of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and strengthen value chains
-  Scale up restoration, sustainable production, and improved livelihoods through partnerships
-  Support climate resilience and adaptation for forest-dependent communities
-  Implement Forest and Landscape Restoration at scale.
-  Promote inclusive forest management and stakeholder engagement
-  Raise awareness and build capacity on forest conservation among local communities and stakeholders



HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE



FISH CONSERVATION ZONES
established, bringing the total
to nearly 320 nationwide –
all established with WWF-Laos’
support over the past decade

(22 in FY24)



COMMUNITIES
monitored for fish catch to
improve management and
strengthen community-led
conservation



RIVER PATROLS CONDUCTED
across three freshwater
priority sites – strengthening
management

(283 times in FY24)



FISH CONSERVATION ZONES
ASSESSED AND EVALUATED
for effectiveness across

7 provinces



Fisherman in Siphandone

OVERVIEW:

The overarching goal of WWF-Laos' freshwater programme is to collaborate with the government and local communities to sustainably manage aquatic resources, benefiting both biodiversity and socio-economic development.

Our efforts focus on promoting sustainable fishing practices, community-based fisheries management, and strengthening fisheries law enforcement to manage vital freshwater ecosystems.

The protection of key freshwater species, such as the Mekong giant catfish, giant stingray and Asian giant softshell turtle, alongside other critical species, is a priority.

By enhancing the health and resilience of freshwater ecosystems, WWF-Laos aims to create lasting, positive impacts on both biodiversity and communities, fostering a sustainable future for aquatic resources.



A transboundary stretch of the Mekong, linking Phou Xieng Thong NPA in Laos and Pha Taem NP in Thailand



Siphandone Riverscape



Xebanghieng Riverscape

KEY ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

-  Promote sustainable fishing practices
-  Strengthen co-management of community fisheries
-  Enhance fisheries law enforcement.
-  Monitor fish catch and species trends
-  Support climate-smart alternative livelihoods and implement Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)
-  Establish Fish Conservation Zones (FCZs) and support community patrols
-  Promote integrated water resource protection and watershed management
-  Raise awareness and build capacity on freshwater conservation among local communities and stakeholders



HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE



ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE
cases investigated by
authorities with support
from WWF-Laos
(13 in FY24)



WILDLIFE SPECIMENS
confiscated by authorities
with support from WWF-Laos
(1,163 in FY24)



CAMERA TRAPS
deployed in 135 locations,
monitoring 81,000 hectares
across two protected areas
and recording 74 wildlife species
(476 in three protected areas,
63 species in FY24)



**NATIONAL
TIGER ACTION PLAN**
consultation and development –
moving into the final
stage of revision

WILDLIFE PROGRAMME

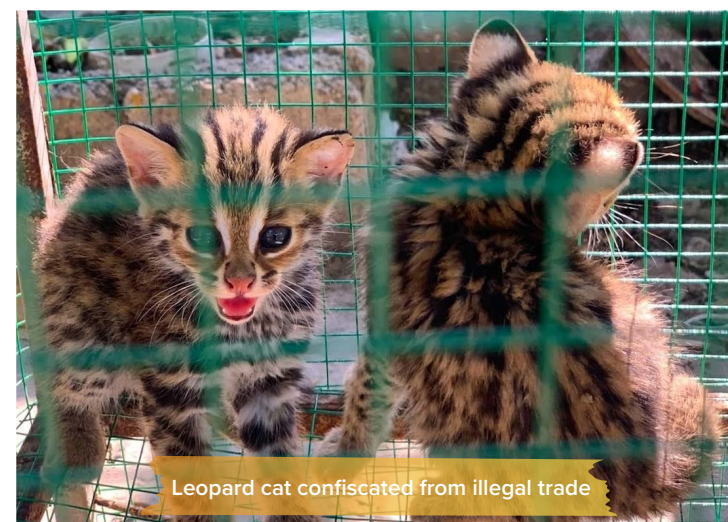
OVERVIEW:

WWF-Laos' wildlife programme focuses on the conservation of key species and the prevention of illegal wildlife trade. The programme aims to strengthen wildlife law enforcement and reduce demand for wildlife products to stop illegal hunting and trading.

Through enhanced local agency capacity, wildlife crime detection, investigation and prosecution have improved significantly. Interagency collaboration and efforts to disrupt illegal wildlife trade at both international and domestic levels, particularly in priority sites, market hotspots, and trade routes, have been successful.

Key activities include biodiversity monitoring, support for wildlife law enforcement, demand reduction through consumer awareness, and high-level advocacy. Cross-border collaboration and human-wildlife conflict mitigation are also critical elements.

Additionally, key knowledge gaps at priority sites are being addressed through research and monitoring.



Leopard cat confiscated from illegal trade



Asian golden cat captured by camera trap in Nam Poui NPA



Annamite striped rabbit captured by a camera trap in Xesap NP

KEY ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:



Support protected areas (PAs), habitat management, and wildlife protection



Strengthen wildlife law enforcement and disrupt illegal wildlife trade (IWT)



Reduce demand for wild meat and raise public awareness



Manage human-wildlife conflicts



Support policy development and wildlife law revisions



Promote cross-border collaboration and regional coordination



Support CITES compliance and reporting



Conduct wildlife monitoring and research to inform conservation actions



Raise awareness and build capacity on wildlife conservation among local communities and stakeholders



HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE



COMMUNITIES

trained and supported with climate-resilient livelihoods across priority sites



CITIES:

Luang Prabang and Vang Vieng, signed a declaration to join the Plastic Smart Cities Initiative



PROVIDED TECHNICAL

input and evidence to strengthen the implementation of the National Plastic Action Plan



ORGANIZED A NATIONAL dialogue on NDCs, highlighting sustainable agriculture, climate mitigation, and Nature-based Solutions



Drought along the Mekong in Laos

OVERVIEW:

WWF-Laos integrates climate change into all conservation efforts, recognizing that long-term success depends on climate-informed strategies.

With climate change exacerbating ecosystem degradation and causing livelihood losses, coping strategies such as poaching and agricultural expansion have emerged. In response, WWF-Laos has included climate vulnerability assessments as part of its risk mitigation strategy.

The focus is on promoting climate-resilient livelihoods through nature-based solutions, sustainable financing, and community adaptation. Efforts also target pollution reduction, especially plastic and waste management in cities and key conservation areas.

Strengthening civil society and cross-sector collaboration is key to advancing sustainability and climate resilience.



Community members in Siphandone prepare soil for planting corn and watermelon



Beneficiary of climate-resilient livelihood activities in Siphandone



Waste separation training for a target community in Luang Prabang City

KEY ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Conduct climate change vulnerability assessments
- Promote Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)
- Implement climate-smart livelihood interventions
- Support plastic and solid waste management efforts
- Establish baseline data on waste generation and management
- Support key cities in achieving Plastic Smart Cities status
- Strengthen climate-related policy and advocacy efforts
- Mainstream climate change into national and local development planning

2. EFFORTS AND MILESTONES AT PRIORITY SITES

WWF-Laos' conservation efforts in forests, freshwater, wildlife, and climate change—the four key conservation programme – are geographically focused on **THREE LANDSCAPES**:

ANNAMITES

MEKONG PLAINS

NAM POUI

Within these landscapes, we concentrate our work on eight priority sites chosen for their conservation significance, the pressures they face, and our capacity to make a meaningful impact. These priority sites are recognized for their high conservation value due to their unique ecosystems, critical habitats, and the presence of some of the world's most endangered species.

Additionally, these areas play a vital role in regional ecosystems and have significant socio-economic importance both nationally and regionally.

THE 8 PRIORITY SITES ARE:



NAM POUI
NATIONAL PROTECTED AREA



NONG KHAM SAEN
WETLAND



XEBANGHIENG
RIVERSCAPE



PHOU XIENG THONG
NATIONAL PROTECTED AREA



XESAP
NATIONAL PARK



SIPHANDONE
RIVERSCAPE



DONG HUA SAO
NATIONAL PARK



XE PIAN
NATIONAL PARK



NAM POUI NATIONAL PROTECTED AREA



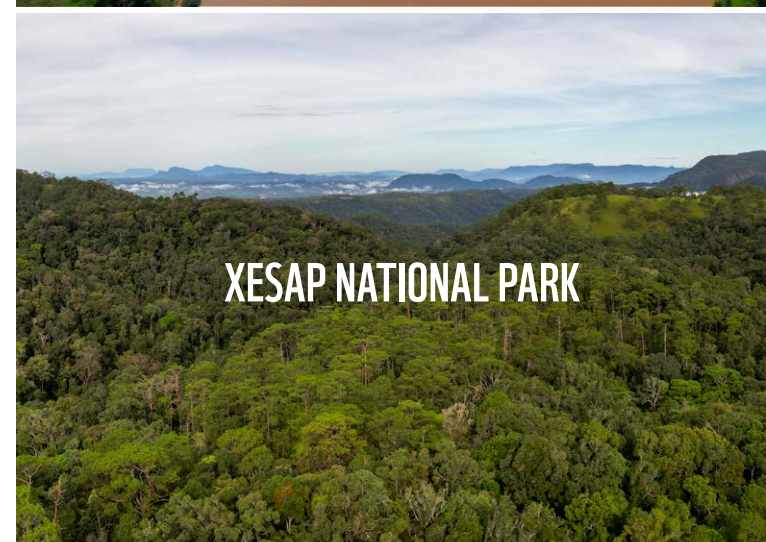
NONG KHAM SAEN WETLAND



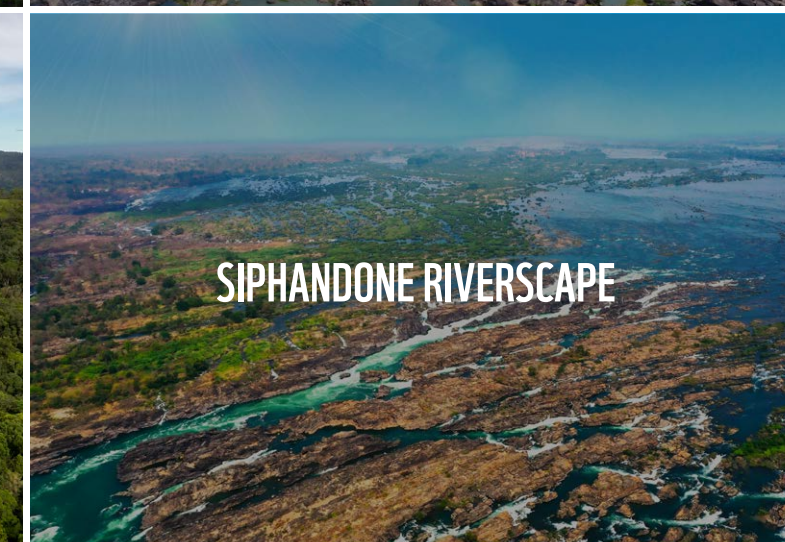
XEBANGHIENG RIVERSCAPE



PHOU XIENG THONG NATIONAL PROTECTED AREA



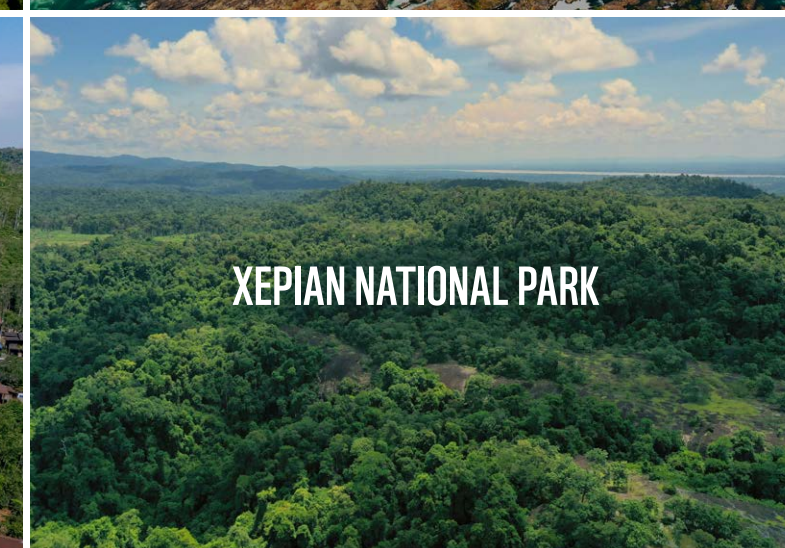
XESAP NATIONAL PARK



SIPHANDONE RIVERSCAPE



DONG HUA SAO NATIONAL PARK



XEPIAN NATIONAL PARK

OVERVIEW OF NAM POUI NATIONAL PROTECTED AREA

37 Communities live in and around this NPA



One of the few strongholds for Asian elephants in Laos



Holds one of the last populations of white-handed gibbons in Laos

~86

Bird species

~47

Mammal species



Recognized as an ASEAN Heritage Park

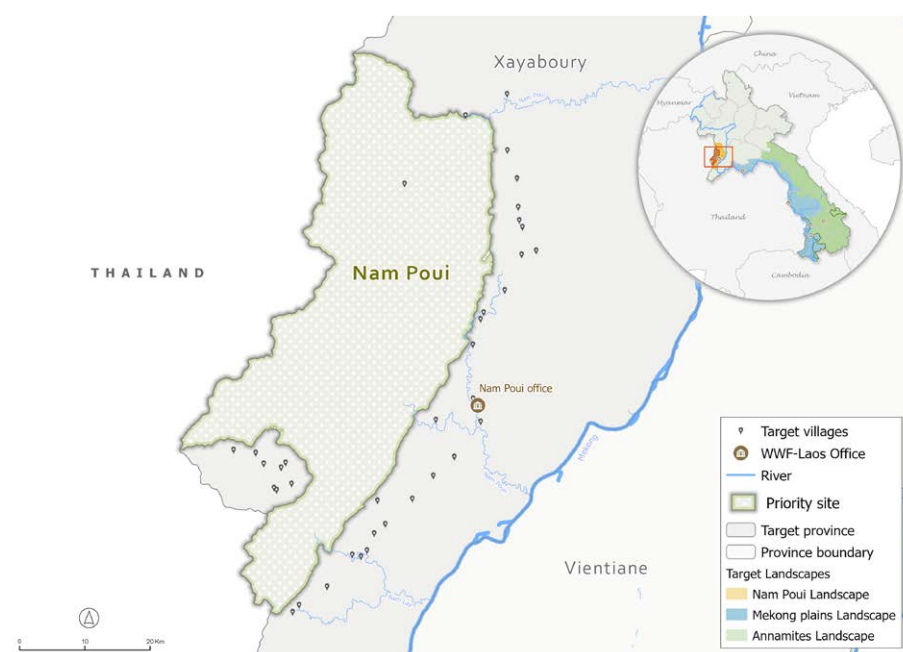
Nam Poui National Protected Area (Nam Poui NPA), situated in Sayaboury province, stands as one of the most expansive NPAs in Laos, encompassing 191,200 hectares. The Nam Poui NPA carries immense global significance as a sanctuary for biodiversity, preserving one of the last remaining strongholds for the Asian elephant in Laos.

Recent surveys, alongside camera trapping, have revealed the presence of numerous large and medium-sized mammals within the area. These include Asian elephants, gaur, Asiatic black bears, sun bears, clouded leopards, Asian golden cats, dhole, and the grey leaf monkey.

The site also has high potential for tiger recovery from across the border in Thailand.

CLICK HERE to read more about WWF-Laos' support for this conservation priority site

NAM POUI NATIONAL PROTECTED AREA



EFFORTS AND MILESTONES AT THIS PRIORITY SITE THROUGH COLLECTIVE PARTNERSHIP IN FY25 INCLUDE:

STRENGTHENED

5

forest patrol teams, with over 25 members, through capacity building on effective patrolling and related skills



SUPPORTED

27

instances of wildlife and forest law enforcement, leading to corresponding actions against illegal activities, with 80 people warned



SUPPORTED

2

communities around protected areas with land-use planning, covering nearly 70 hectares to strengthen resource management and reduce land-use conflicts



6-YEAR PROJECT

The Climate Adaptive River Basins Project in Sayaboury Province, including Nam Poui NPA, has been submitted as a full proposal for final review. If approved, implementation is expected to begin in 2026.

CONDUCTED

355

days/nights of patrolling, covering a distance of



4,770 kilometers

REMOVED

480

snare traps from the protected area, helping reduce threats and improve safety for endangered species



DISMANTLED

206

illegal logging and poaching camps found in the protected area



3-YEAR MOU SIGNED

WWF-Laos and the Department of Forestry established a new partnership through 2027 to strengthen collaborative management of Nam Poui NPA under the project "In Support of Collaborative Management of Nam Poui National Protected Area."

DEPLOYED

115

camera traps across 80 locations in Nam Poui, surveying 32,000 hectares and recording



49 wildlife species

COLLECTED

348

elephant DNA samples in Nam Poui NPA. Results will guide conservation planning, reduce human-elephant conflict, and provide insights on population and genetic diversity



TRAINED

45

local authorities, including patrol team members and border military personnel, on forest patrolling and incident reporting protocols



OPENED A FIELD OFFICE

in Nam Poui to support and coordinate project implementation in Nam Poui NPA

OVERVIEW OF NONG KHAM SAEN WETLAND

1 Last remaining natural wetland close to the Vientiane capital

86 Hectares

6 Communities with nearly 2,000 households

~175 Bird species

The 86-hectare Nong Kham Saen (NKS) wetland, surrounded by six communities and located near Vientiane, is one of the last remaining natural wetland close to the capital. It holds significant cultural value for local communities, especially as a site associated with the naga (dragon), that is believed to protect the city.

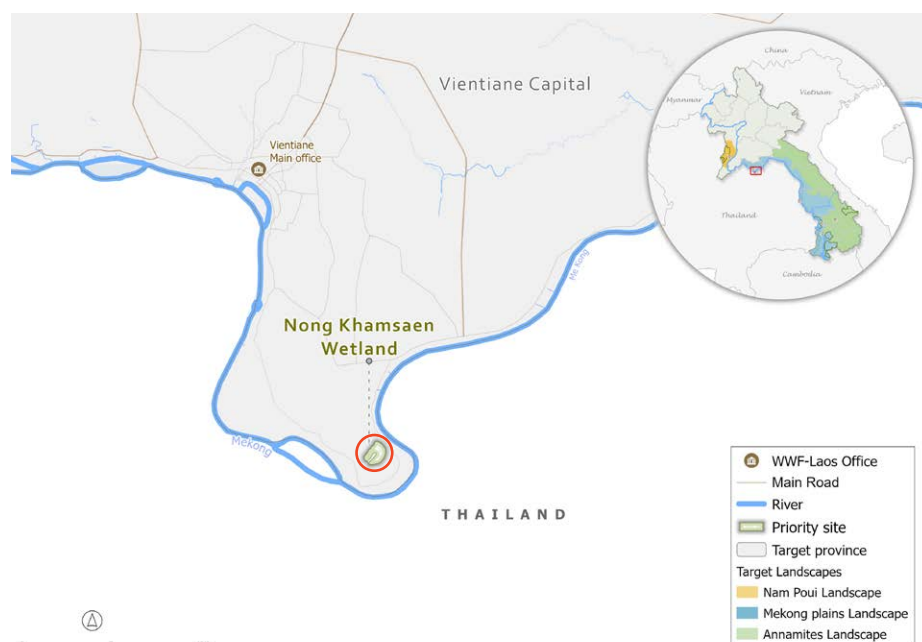
The wetland is a biodiversity hotspot, with over 175 bird species recorded in the area, as well as in the nearby spirit forests and agricultural lands. Combining high cultural importance, a rich freshwater ecosystem, and potential for environmental education, NKS plays a critical role in sustaining local livelihoods.

Although the wetland has shrunk from around 300 hectares in the 1970s, it remains an important conservation area, preserving ecological and cultural heritage of the region.



NONG KHAM SAEN WETLAND

CLICK HERE
to read more about
WWF-Laos' support
for this conservation
priority site



EFFORTS AND MILESTONES AT THIS PRIORITY SITE THROUGH COLLECTIVE PARTNERSHIP IN FY25 INCLUDE:



5-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN UNDER REVIEW

with full consultation of communities, government authorities, and development partners



SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

dyke embankment design, including sluice gate approved by the relevant authority – construction is now under consideration



ORGANIZED

two integrated consultation meetings to introduce the next phase of the project and activity plan



CONDUCTED 'FPIC'

Free, Prior and Informed Consent with surrounding communities and government stakeholders to guide development of the management plan



EDUCATION CENTER DESIGN AND CONCEPT FINALIZED

The center will showcase the cultural significance of Nong Kham Saen, welcoming schools and visitors for education and recreation.

OVERVIEW OF XEBANGHIENG RIVERSCAPE

360 Kilometers
in length

38 Communities live
alongside this
riverscape

5 Protected areas

~200 Fish species
found including:

 Mekong
giant catfish

 Asian giant
softshell turtle

 Mekong
giant stingray

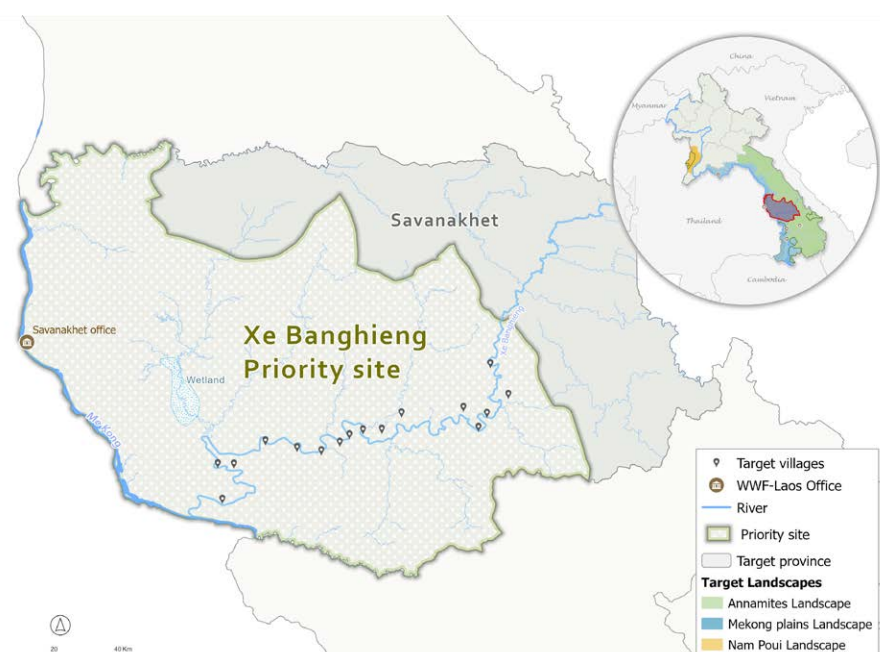
The Xebanghieng riverscape, spanning 360 kilometers, flows through 38 communities and nine districts in Savannakhet province before joining the Mekong river. Originating in the Annamite Mountains in Viet Nam, the river's catchment area covers 19,543 km², of which 3.5% in Viet Nam.

Passing through five National Protected Areas, the river is crucial for local communities, offering natural beauty, cultural heritage, and significant ecological value. It supports diverse wildlife, including wetland birds like Blyth's kingfisher and rare fish species such as the Mekong giant catfish.

The river is also home to critically endangered reptiles like the Asian giant softshell turtle and Siamese crocodile. Conservation efforts are vital to preserving the river's ecosystems and the livelihoods that depend on them.

CLICK HERE
to read more about
WWF-Laos' support
for this conservation
priority site

XEBANGHIENG RIVERSCAPE



EFFORTS AND MILESTONES AT THIS PRIORITY SITE THROUGH COLLECTIVE PARTNERSHIP IN FY25 INCLUDE:

CONDUCTED PATROLS

560 times in 19 villages, around fish conservation zones, safeguarding these areas and reducing illegal fishing, with one violation addressed under regulations.

CONDUCTED FISH CATCH MONITORING IN

25 communities, recording over 100 species. The data strengthens co-management with local fishers and informs actions to safeguard aquatic biodiversity and promote sustainable fisheries.

PROVIDED VETERINARY SUPPLIES WORTH OVER

\$6,000 to 16 target communities – helping farmers reduce costs, improve livestock productivity, and strengthen community resilience, including community water systems valued at over \$21,000.

CONDUCTED FISH IDENTIFICATION TRAINING

to strengthen the capacity of field staff and local partners to accurately identify species – supporting effective monitoring and sustainable fisheries management.

ORGANIZED

2 information sessions on giant freshwater stingray identification and conservation in **5** target communities, reaching 315 people.

INSTALLED

10 stingray information and conservation signboards in communities and 3 fisheries law signboards in market areas where stingrays were reported sold, alongside distributing infographic posters to raise awareness and strengthen protection.

CONDUCTED A CAMPAIGN ON ENDANGERED FISH SPECIES IN

7 schools, engaging over 800 participants – including students, teachers, and community members. The campaign covered fisheries regulations, prohibited species, sustainable fishing practices, and behavior change for a sustainable future.

ORGANIZED FISH SCALE COLLECTION TRAINING

for local partners, ensuring proper sampling protocols. Two collection rounds resulted in

300 samples from the Xebanghieng River area – now under analysis to study fish reproduction, growth, and habitat connectivity.

VACCINATED NEARLY

550 livestock across 12 target communities – improving animal health, reducing disease risks, and supporting more resilient livelihoods.

SUPPORTED OVER

20 weaving group members in a knowledge exchange and capacity-building program – enhancing skills, sharing experiences, and improving income opportunities.

DISSEMINATED FISHERY LAW HANDBOOKS

to target communities along the Xebanghieng River – raising awareness of regulations, strengthening understanding, and promoting enforcement of fisheries law.

OVERVIEW OF PHOU XIENG THONG NATIONAL PROTECTED AREA

120,000 Hectares

~70% Of forest cover

61 Communities live in and around this NPA

The only stretch of the Mekong along the Laos–Thailand border with NPAs on both sides

Recognized as an ASEAN Heritage Park

Covering an area of 120,000 hectares across Champasak and Salavan provinces, Phou Xieng Thong National Protected Area (PXT NPA) is known for its wild orchids, rocky outcroppings, and significant cultural and religious sites. PXT NPA also offers stunning views of Laos and Thailand. It is the only NPA in the country located along the Mekong river, and hosts a rich variety of animal and plant species, some endangered.

The Mekong river divides this area into two key habitats: PXT NPA in Laos and Pha Taem National Park in Thailand. This division establishes the area as a critical transboundary for biodiversity conservation, encompassing aquatic life, wildlife, and forest ecosystems.

CLICK HERE to read more about WWF-Laos' support for this conservation priority site

PHOU XIENG THONG NATIONAL PROTECTED AREA



EFFORTS AND MILESTONES AT THIS PRIORITY SITE THROUGH COLLECTIVE PARTNERSHIP IN FY25 INCLUDE:

INSTALLED

21 demarcation signs and 90 floating buoys in 7 target villages to reinforce fish conservation zone boundaries, and...

14 regulation signs to support effective enforcement of conservation rules.

eDNA ANALYSIS DETECTED

66 species across the transboundary between PXT and Pha Taem National Park, based on 70 samples collected in late 2024. Additional samples were collected in 2025 across 5 provinces in Laos, with results expected soon.

COMPLETED THE FIRST ASSESSMENT OF

61 FCZs across 7 provinces. Over 70% were found to be functional, with the review examining management practices, effectiveness, community ownership, and climate change impacts – revealing successes and areas for improvement.

TRAINED

25 community members in 5 target villages to support fish catch monitoring and strengthen community-led conservation.

SUPPORTED

30 selected households in 7 target villages with livelihood materials and training on climate-smart, nature-positive options – strengthening resilience, food security, and sustainable income.

ORGANIZED

4 transboundary exchange visits between Lao and Thai communities along the Mekong. Participants visited FCZs, observed patrolling practices, and shared experiences to strengthen fisheries management and sustainable livelihoods, agreeing on stronger joint action and coordination.

CONDUCTED PATROLS

2 times per week in and around fish conservation zones (FCZ), led by 7 teams with 70 members, safeguarding the FCZ and reducing illegal fishing activities.

PROVIDED PATROLLING EQUIPMENT TO

7 community patrol teams with training on techniques, safety, first aid, SMART, and data recording – strengthening monitoring, reporting, and protection of FCZs.

ESTABLISHED WASTE MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS IN

7 target villages. Developed through community discussions and endorsed by district authorities, the regulations designate disposal areas, prohibit improper waste handling, and strengthen local waste management, cleanliness, and environmentally friendly practices.

OVERVIEW OF XESAP NATIONAL PARK

202,300 Hectares

35 Communities live in and around this national park

~ **40** Mammal species

~ **307** Bird species

~ **59** Reptile species

~ **40** Amphibian species

Nestled in the Annamite mountain ranges, Xesap National Park (NP) is a biodiversity hotspot, home to some of the most iconic endemic species, including the elusive Roosevelt's muntjac, red-shanked douc, Annamite striped rabbit, and the stunning crested argus. Xesap is one of the few places where the legendary saola, known as the 'Asian Unicorn,' has been sighted, giving hope for population recovery.

Xesap spans 202,300 hectares, including the 49,000-hectare Pale area, a significant habitat for key species. Located in Salavan and Sekong provinces, Xesap is surrounded by over 35 communities.

Being one of seven national parks in Laos, it has been identified as one of the Global 200 eco-regions for priority biodiversity conservation. The park also supports over 300 bird species, nearly 60 reptile species, around 40 mammal species, and approximately 40 amphibian species.

[CLICK HERE](#)
to read more about
WWF-Laos' support
for this conservation
priority site



XESAP NATIONAL PARK



EFFORTS AND MILESTONES AT THIS PRIORITY SITE THROUGH COLLECTIVE PARTNERSHIP IN FY25 INCLUDE:

ESTABLISHED

9 new village patrol teams in Xesap NP, strengthening protection alongside 6 existing village patrols and 4 park-level teams, bringing the total to over **120** members

INSTALLED

283 demarcation signboards in 12 villages, helping clarify boundaries, reduce land-use conflicts, and strengthen community forest management.

SUPPORTED

9 communities in Xesap NP with land-use planning and Biodiversity Conservation Contracts to strengthen management, reduce land-use conflicts, and improve livelihoods.



MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVED

The 5-Year Plan for Xesap NP (2025–2030) aims to strengthen co-management and protect endangered species.

CONDUCTED

405 days/nights of patrolling, covering a distance of **87,000** kilometers

REMOVED

2,260 snares from the protected area, helping reduce threats and improve safety for endangered species.

DISMANTLED

99 illegal logging and poaching camps found in the protected area.

PROVIDED

\$249,500 in seed funding to 15 communities to support sustainable livelihoods and community-led conservation initiatives.

COMPLETED

A feasibility study in Phou Ahyon Key Biodiversity Area for the potential establishment of a new National Protected Area covering up to 86,000 hectares.

DEPLOYED

110 camera traps across 55 locations in Xesap's new expansion area, surveying 49,000 hectares and recording **25** wildlife species

COMPLETED SURVEYS IN

105 wildlife locations across five provinces and developed a five-year action plan to make one target district free from illegal wildlife trade.

PLANTED

34,200 native trees across 990 hectares of restoration areas in Xesap to restore forest cover, enhance biodiversity, and support community livelihoods.

CONDUCTED

4 trainings on protected area management for partners, covering SMART patrol, camera trap surveys, and community livelihoods.

OVERVIEW OF SIPHANDONE RIVERSCAPE

485 Square kilometers

~100,000

People depend on this riverscape

Literally meaning “4,000 islands”, Siphandone includes the Khone Falls, which is the largest waterfall complex in the world, formed by the Mekong river becoming very wide and more shallow. Here, the Mekong river becomes a maze of rivulets flowing between small and large islands, spanning 485 square kilometers before flowing into Cambodia.

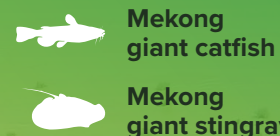
Located in Champasak province, Siphandone is known as one of the most unique riverscapes in Laos, rich with sediment and naturally protective barriers that have allowed a wide variety of species to flourish in the waters and surrounding forests while supporting human settlements.

Flooded and lowland forests, deep pools, rapids, river channels, and seasonally submerged islands have made Siphandone a biodiversity treasure trove. It is home to around 200 aquatic species, including the critical Mekong giant stingray, and was previously the last habitat for freshwater dolphins in Laos. It supports the livelihoods of over 100,000 people and is under consideration for Ramsar site designation.

Under consideration for Ramsar Site designation



~200 Fish species found including:



Mekong giant catfish

Mekong giant stingray

SIPHANDONE RIVERSCAPE

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more about WWF-Laos' support for this conservation priority site



EFFORTS AND MILESTONES AT THIS PRIORITY SITE THROUGH COLLECTIVE PARTNERSHIP IN FY25 INCLUDE:

ESTABLISHED

2 new fish conservation zones (FCZ), bringing the total in Siphandone to nearly 70 zones for safeguarding aquatic biodiversity, covering over 500 hectares.



CONDUCTED FISH CATCH MONITORING IN

6 communities – providing essential data to support sustainable fisheries management.



CARRIED OUT eDNA SURVEYS IN

12 communities to provide scientific evidence on fish diversity and distribution for long-term conservation.



SUPPORTED

112 households with training in animal raising and cultivation, organizing them into 12 production groups to strengthen livelihoods and resilience.



ORGANIZED TRAINING ON

women's Land Rights in 6 target villages in Siphandone, strengthening women's understanding and empowering their role in decision-making.



CONDUCTED

191 days and 188 nights of patrols, covering a distance of

567

kilometers (1,700 ha.), safeguarding the FCZ and reducing illegal fishing activities.

CONDUCTED

2

awareness-raising activities on endangered species, sustainable fisheries, and calls to protect key species during public events, including National Aquatic and Wildlife Day.

CONDUCTED

4

training sessions for partners included an exchange visit for river patrol teams and FCZ committees, along with SMART patrol and first aid – strengthening conservation knowledge and capacity.

COMPLETED

the Multi-Sectoral Adaptation Action Plan for Siphandone, now in effect to guide climate resilience, safeguard ecosystems, and support community livelihoods.



EFFECTIVELY MANAGED

100 hectares of village protected forest and over

300

hectares of flooded forest in Siphandone – the critical habitats that sustain biodiversity and local livelihoods.

PROVIDED

\$30,000

in seed funding to 6 communities, adding 42 new members and bringing the total to 497 – supporting sustainable livelihoods and community-led conservation initiatives.



ORGANIZED

3

workshop on ecosystem-based adaptation with provincial and district authorities to present solutions and identify implementation.

PLANTED

4,320

native, endangered, and fruit trees in Siphandone – restoring nearly

8 hectares of riverbank and community forest, reducing erosion, and supporting biodiversity.



OVERVIEW OF DONG HUA SAO NATIONAL PARK

93,893 Hectares

~50 Communities live in and around this national park



A vital watershed supporting water security and agriculture



A unique coffee landscape with shade-grown cultivation

Dong Hua Sao National Park, located in Champasak Province, encompasses the lowlands of the eastern Mekong plains and the iconic Bolaven Plateau, which ranges from 1,000 to 1,300 meters above sea level and spans approximately 93,893 hectares. Known for its cooler climate and fertile volcanic soil, the plateau is central to Laos's coffee production, serving as a major source of income for surrounding communities.

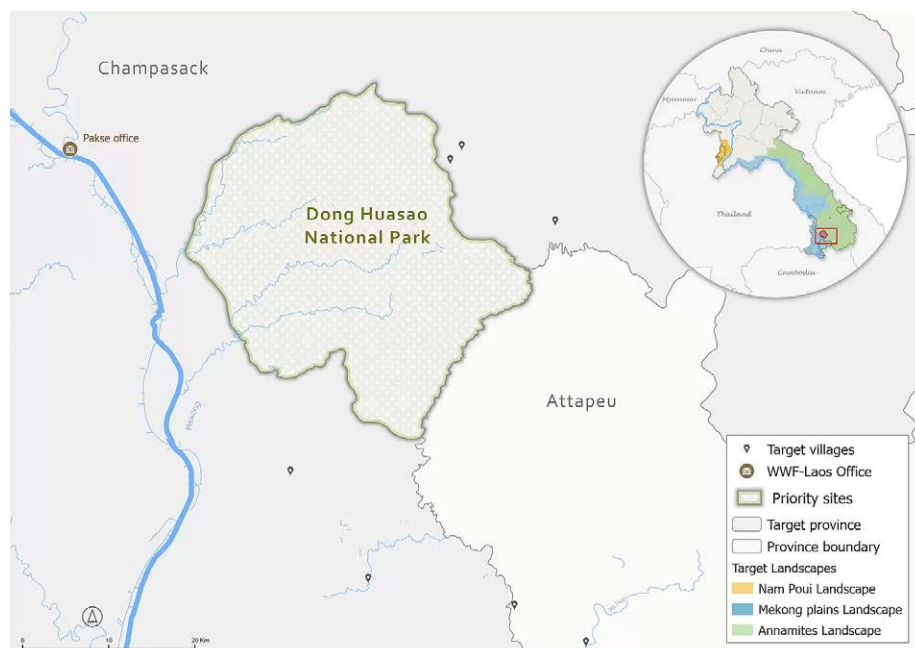
The park forms part of a unique natural coffee landscape, where shade-grown coffee cultivation coexists with rich forest ecosystems, supporting biodiversity and sustainable farming practices. As a vital watershed, Dong Hua Sao contributes to water security and agricultural productivity in the region.

Conservation efforts in the park are essential not only to protect its natural resources but also to promote eco-friendly livelihoods, climate resilience, and long-term sustainability for the communities that depend on it.

CLICK HERE
to read more about
WWF-Laos' support
for this conservation
priority site



DONG HUA SAO NATIONAL PARK



EFFORTS AND MILESTONES AT THIS PRIORITY SITE THROUGH COLLECTIVE PARTNERSHIP IN FY25 INCLUDE:

PLANTED

15,000 native trees in restoration areas, covering over

540



hectares of degraded forests improved through restoration efforts – enhancing forest cover, supporting biodiversity, strengthening community livelihoods, and building long-term climate

PROVIDED NEARLY

1,000 fruit trees to target communities located in the park, planted on almost



80

hectares as an agroforestry model – strengthening sustainable livelihoods and boosting household income.

CONDUCTED TRAINING ON FOREST MONITORING



for forest officials and related departments in Dong Hua Sao NP on the Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System and piloting Forest Foresight, strengthening capacity and equipping them with tools for improved forest monitoring.

ORGANIZED



3 awareness-raising activities on forestry laws, tree planting, and forest restoration in target communities of the national park, engaging over

250



villagers to strengthen knowledge and community participation in conservation.

SUPPORTED

3 communities with the Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP), covering over

17,500



hectares. With land-use mapping and forest management zoning finalized, PLUP will now guide key activities such as restoration, agroforestry, climate change adaptation, and forest monitoring to support sustainable land and forest management.

PROMOTED AGROFORESTRY



in three communities to support sustainable livelihoods. Most villagers already manage coffee farms, and with their strong interest in crop diversification, the project provided seedlings and technical guidance for sustainable farming.

OVERVIEW OF XEPIAN NATIONAL PARK

258,634 Hectares

~70 Communities live in and around this national park

~334 Birds species found including around seven endemic species



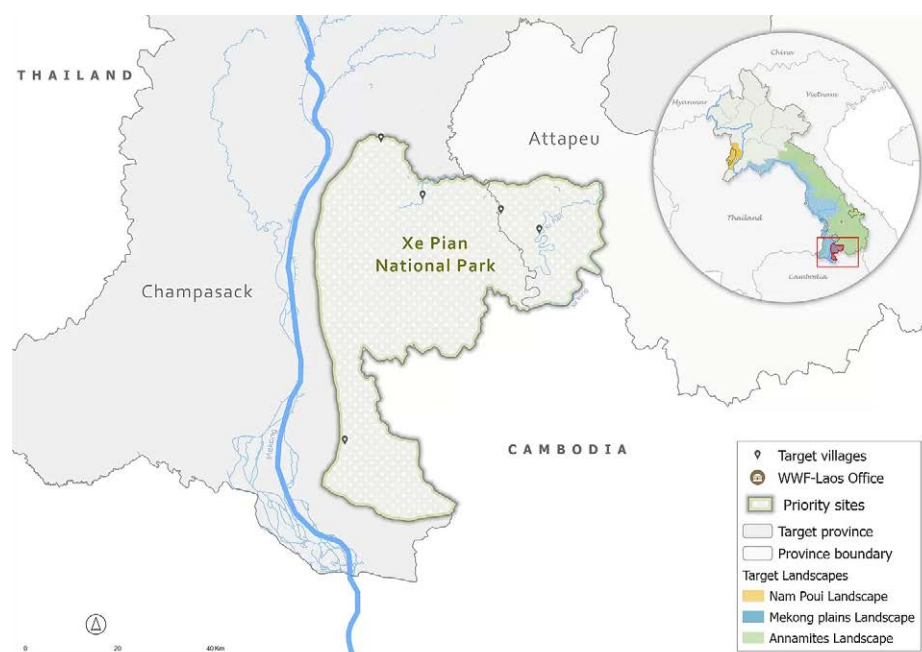
Host one of the two internationally recognized Ramsar Sites in Laos

Xepian National Park, spanning 258,634 hectares of lush forest in Champasak and Attapeu provinces, is a jewel of natural beauty and ecological diversity in southern Laos. It is one of the country's most important conservation areas and a key part of a global eco-region, connected to Virachay National Park in Cambodia.

The park includes the internationally recognized Ramsar site, Beung Kiat Ngong, which hosts valuable wetland complexes and supports diverse water bird and aquatic species. Xepian is home to over 300 bird species, the highest recorded in any protected area in Laos, with around seven species endemic to this landscape. Nearly 70 local communities live in and around the park.

CLICK HERE
to read more about
WWF-Laos' support
for this conservation
priority site

XEPIAN NATIONAL PARK



EFFORTS AND MILESTONES AT THIS PRIORITY SITE THROUGH COLLECTIVE PARTNERSHIP IN FY25 INCLUDE:

PLANTED

77,150



native trees in restoration areas, covering over

2,740

hectares of degraded forests improved through restoration efforts – enhancing forest cover, supporting biodiversity, strengthening community livelihoods, and building long-term climate resilience.

PROVIDED OVER

2,550



fruit trees to target communities located in the park, planted on almost

215

hectares as an agroforestry model – strengthening sustainable livelihoods and boosting household income.

CONDUCTED TRAINING ON FOREST MONITORING



for forest officials and related departments in Xepian NP on the Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System and piloting Forest Foresight, strengthening capacity and equipping them with tools for improved forest monitoring.

ORGANIZED



5

awareness-raising activities on forestry laws, tree planting, and forest restoration in target communities of the national park, engaging over

300



villagers to strengthen knowledge and community participation in conservation.

SUPPORTED

2

communities with the Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP), covering nearly

17,000



hectares. With land-use mapping and forest management zoning finalized, PLUP will now guide key activities such as restoration, agroforestry, climate change adaptation, and forest monitoring to support sustainable land and forest management.

PROMOTED AGROFORESTRY



in three communities to support sustainable livelihoods. Most villagers already manage coffee farms, and with their strong interest in crop diversification, the project provided seedlings and technical guidance for sustainable farming.

3.

STOP ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

CLICK HERE
to read more about
WWF-Laos' work
on IWT

The 'Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade' strategy aims to enhance and expand Laos' approach to preventing wildlife crime by strengthening the capacity of Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs) to lead investigations and carry out intelligence-led enforcement. In close collaboration with the Department of Forest Inspection (DoFI), provincial authorities, and relevant enforcement agencies, this strategy supports efforts to detect, seize, and confiscate illegally traded wildlife.

It also contributes to reducing demand for wild meat and wildlife products through coordinated actions and public awareness.

By supporting enforcement efforts at both the provincial and national levels, this approach strengthens wildlife protection and prosecution outcomes, helping to safeguard Laos' biodiversity and disrupt illegal wildlife trafficking networks across the region.

EFFORTS AND MILESTONES FROM THIS THEMATIC THROUGH COLLECTIVE PARTNERSHIP IN FY25 INCLUDE:

19



ILLEGAL WILDLIFE CASES investigated, with support from WWF-Laos, including 2 online wildlife sales cases, and 10 suspects were prosecuted.

905



WILDLIFE SPECIMENS from illegal trade were confiscated by authorities with support from WWF-Laos.

24



GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS trained on wildlife crime intelligence analysis, investigation, and prosecution procedures, with support from WWF-Laos.

705



KILOGRAMS OF WILDLIFE part and products seized, including exotic parrots, pangolin scales, elephant skin products, and wild meat species.

1



BEAR BILE FARM CLOSED with three bears rescued by wildlife authorities in coordination with Free the Bears, with support from WWF-Laos.

1



CAMPAIGN CONDUCTED A campaign was carried out along Laos–China railway stations from Vientiane to Boten, led by PROFEB with support from multiple partners, including WWF-Laos. The campaign reached over 5,570 people.



TIGER CONSERVATION ACTIONS

ORGANIZED A NATIONAL consultation on the Tiger Action Plan for Laos 2026–2036, with participation from government agencies, farm owners, and NGOs across the country.

DEVELOPED A TIGER inspection guideline in line with CITES recommendations, along with an SOP for the disposal of deceased captive tigers.

10 MALE TIGERS WERE STERILIZED in two captive farms, led by Save the Elephant Foundation (Thailand) with support from WWF-Laos, in line with CITES recommendations to prevent illegal breeding and trade.

4.

SUSTAINABLE RATTAN AND BAMBOO

CLICK HERE
to read more about
WWF-Laos' rattan
and bamboo
work

Since 2006, WWF-Laos has collaborated with communities and government officials in multiple provinces to create sustainable management and supply chains for rattan and bamboo. The project focuses on protecting forests while improving local livelihoods and safeguarding wildlife. Recently, efforts were centered on Xesap National Park and Phou Xieng Thong

National Protected Area, covering nine communities. Key activities include promoting sustainable forest management, enhancing forest-based livelihoods, and facilitating better knowledge-sharing to support policies for sustainable non-timber forest product (NTFP) value chains.

EFFORTS AND MILESTONES FROM THIS THEMATIC THROUGH COLLECTIVE PARTNERSHIP IN FY25 INCLUDE:



9 COMMUNITIES
now have forest
management plans
in place



BENEFITED OVER
1,059 households
through income
generation from
NTFP harvesting

199 households through
handicraft production
of rattan, bamboo,
pandanus, and
brooms



DEVELOPED
3 videos showcasing
project achievements as
part of the project closure.
Once finalized, the videos
will be published [here](#)



PROVIDED

750 rattan seedlings for
shoot production
320 redwood seedlings
for forest enrichment



ORGANIZED

1 training on business
plan development to
the village handicraft
group

3 field visits and exchange
meetings across three
target districts



CAPACITY BUILDING
for community patrolling
teams, using KOBO Toolbox
on mobile



COMPLETED
a rattan value chain assessment,
with key findings shared
with stakeholders and the
private sector

5.

PLASTIC REDUCTION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

CLICK HERE
to read more about
WWF-Laos' plastic
programme

Plastic pollution is threatening rivers, wildlife, and human health – contaminating our food, air, and water. Without urgent intervention, plastic pollution is projected to triple by 2040.

In Laos, WWF is working to reduce this growing threat through its plastic reduction and waste management program, currently active in Luang Prabang, Vangvieng, and Vientiane Capital. In partnership with local authorities, businesses, and communities,

the initiative focuses on raising awareness, reducing single-use plastics, and improving waste management practices. WWF-Laos also supports the implementation of the National Plastics Action Plan, aligning its efforts with national goals for sustainable urban development. Together, we are building cleaner, healthier cities and a future free from plastic pollution.

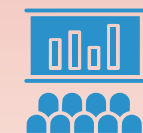
EFFORTS AND MILESTONES FROM THIS THEMATIC THROUGH COLLECTIVE PARTNERSHIP IN FY25 INCLUDE:



2

CITIES:

Luang Prabang and Vang Vieng, signed a declaration to join the [Plastic Smart Cities Initiative](#), partnering with WWF-Laos to tackle plastic pollution.



10

SCHOOLS

(six in Luang Prabang and four in Vang Vieng) joined a behavioral change campaign on single-use plastic reduction, waste management, and plastic pollution.



5

GOVERNMENT OFFICES

from each city (Luang Prabang and Vang Vieng) conducted baseline surveys and waste audits to strengthen waste management systems, build awareness, and promote lasting behavior change.



2

VILLAGES IN LUANG PRABANG

were selected as pilots to improve household waste segregation and boost recycling and recovery rates, especially for plastic bottles. Both villages have completed the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process.



25

WASTE-SEGREGATION BINS PROVIDED

to Luang Prabang city for use at public events such as the Boat Racing Festival, helping to improve waste management.



1

WORKSHOP ON HUMAN RIGHTS ON PLASTIC

for Plastic Smart Cities was conducted to raise awareness of human rights issues and promote more inclusive, responsible plastic waste management.

6.

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

WWF-Laos integrates key cross-cutting themes across its conservation programmes to ensure inclusive, impactful, and sustainable outcomes. The cross-cutting themes include gender equality, disability inclusion, public engagement, especially with youth – and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience.

We prioritize advocacy, behaviour change, policy engagement, and environmental education to raise awareness and drive lasting impact. Through strong partnerships, we promote good governance, transparency, and local ownership. An Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESSF) is also applied to reduce risks and uphold accountability.

By embedding these themes into every aspect of our work, WWF-Laos strives to build a future where both people and nature are empowered, inclusive, and thrive together.

CLICK HERE
to read more about
WWF-Laos' cross-cutting work

KEY EFFORTS AND MILESTONES FROM CROSS-CUTTING WORK IN FY25 INCLUDE:

COLLECTIVE EFFORTS – GREATER IMPACT



WWF-LAOS AND PARTNERS SUPPORT REVISION OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PLAN.

Co-organized a national consultation to revise targets, actions, and the monitoring framework for the updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The workshop engaged government agencies, CSOs, INGOs, development partners, and representatives of women and youth – strengthening inclusive and collaborative national biodiversity efforts.



WWF-LAOS AND PARTNERS SUPPORT LAO GOVERNMENT IN ADVANCING 'OECM'.

WWF-Laos, GIZ, IUCN, and the Department of Forestry held the first meeting on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in Laos – marking the start of capacity building, legal review, and piloting. Next steps include forming a national taskforce and hosting a national dialogue.



PROVIDED TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE LAO GOVERNMENT DELEGATION

WWF-Laos provided technical support to the Lao delegation at the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5), contributing to the development of a legally binding global plastics treaty.”



SUB-GRANTS PROVIDED TO CSOs.

Selected civil society organizations received sub-grants to advance conservation in WWF-Laos priority sites. Alongside funding, capacity building in financial management, reporting, and safeguards strengthened their capacity and ownership for effective, accountable delivery.



SUPPORTED 4TH NATIONAL DIALOGUE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

WWF-Laos co-supported the National Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue, which brought together representatives from government, civil society, the private sector, and development partners. The dialogue focused on rule of law, natural resource governance, and sustainable energy – highlighting the role of evidence-based policies in advancing sustainable development in Laos.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE



CONDUCTED COMMUNITY CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS.

WWF-Laos and partners conducted climate change vulnerability assessments across different priority sites, engaging communities to identify risks and co-develop adaptation strategies that strengthen resilience.



ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION (EBA).

WWF-Laos promoted the EbA approach across the conservation programme – integrating climate risks into project planning and empowering communities to adapt to long-term climate impacts.

INSPIRING GENDER-INCLUSIVE CONSERVATION



LAUNCH OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH.

In partnership with CSOs and development partners, WWF-Laos launched research exploring the links between gender-based violence, climate change, and environmental issues – providing insights to shape more inclusive climate action. [\[Read the report here\]](#)



GEDSI INCLUSION ACROSS CONSERVATION PROGRAMMES.

Promoted Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) by strengthening participation in fieldwork, decision-making, and leadership roles, with greater integration of disability inclusion – ensuring diverse voices drive conservation outcomes.



CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.

WWF-Laos joined the IWD campaign for the third year, highlighting gender inclusion and women's essential role in driving successful and inclusive conservation.



STRENGTHENING CAPACITY AND COMMITMENT TO GEDSI.

Our teams participated in diverse trainings on GEDSI approaches for conservation. In 2025, WWF-Laos piloted a GEDSI Audit as one of three Asia-Pacific offices – gaining valuable insights to strengthen team culture and embed GEDSI into conservation programming.

EMBEDDING SAFEGUARDS IN CONSERVATION



ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MITIGATION (ESMF) FRAMEWORK.

The ESMF is currently being developed, with one framework designed to cover multiple landscapes. It aims to strengthen safeguards and promote more responsible and inclusive conservation practices.



FPIC AND GRM GUIDANCE UNDER DEVELOPMENT.

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) tools and guidance are currently being developed. Once finalized, training will be organized for project teams and partners, with knowledge exchange from other WWF offices to strengthen safeguards in practice.



SAFEGUARDS POLICIES TRAINING CONDUCTED.

Training on the Grievance Mechanism and Indigenous Peoples' Rights, and safeguards was delivered during project annual meetings, inception or consultation workshops, and community engagements – ensuring communities are aware of their rights and the available grievance mechanism.

7.

ENABLING FUNCTIONS: OPERATIONS

Operational functions are essential to WWF-Laos' conservation impact, driving success and ensuring efficiency across all programmes. Through strategic resource management, strong governance, and financial oversight, these functions have enabled the smooth and effective implementation of conservation activities. Robust monitoring systems help track progress, while IT and data management support innovation and informed decision-making.

Capacity-building has strengthened the team, while clear internal and external communications – along with advocacy – have kept efforts aligned and impactful. From finance and human resources to procurement and administration, these enabling functions form the backbone of the organization. Together, they provide a solid foundation that supports collaboration, ensures compliance, and empowers WWF-Laos to achieve its mission: a future where people and nature thrive in harmony.

[CLICK HERE](#)
to read more about
WWF-Laos' operational
functions



KEY EFFORTS AND MILESTONES FROM THE OPERATIONAL FUNCTIONS IN FY25 INCLUDE:



RESOURCE ACQUISITION

- 20 proposals submitted
- 14 proposals approved with the value of over **\$8.5** million
- 11 proposals under consideration
- \$174** return for every \$1 invested in resource acquisition.
- Developed WWF-Laos' first Resource Acquisition Strategy for 2026–2030



FINANCE

- FINANCE RESTRUCTURED**
Finance restructuring shifted from a task-based to a program-based system, improving efficiency, transparency, and alignment with conservation priorities.



PROCUREMENT

- IMPROVEMENT PROCESS**
The procurement process was strengthened through a committee and threshold review, complemented by a refresher training session for all staff to reinforce transparency, accountability, and consistent application of WWF's procurement standards.



PEOPLE AND CULTURE

- BUDDY PROGRAM**
A Care & Share initiative to ensure a smooth start during their first two months. Experienced team members are paired with new colleagues to provide guidance, practical advice, and insights into WWF-Laos' culture and values. This initiative fosters confidence, connection, and readiness for success.
- WELL-BEING PROGRAM**
Organized monthly mental and physical exercises to support staff health and foster teamwork and togetherness. The goal is to reduce work-related stress, promote relaxation, and strengthen overall staff well-being.
- LEADERSHIP PASSPORT**
33 managers and senior leaders completed the 'IM-Pro' training, while 26 staff completed the 'LEAD' program. Both initiatives are designed to strengthen leadership capacity and ensure effective management across WWF.
- RECRUITING AND E-CONTRACT**
Transitioned from paper-based employment contracts to digital formats, making employment more efficient and easier to monitor.



COMMUNICATIONS

- NEW WEBSITE**
Launched WWF-Laos' **new website**, an up-to-date and user-friendly platform to showcase conservation efforts, share key resources, and present who we are and what we do in Laos.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- MICROSOFT 365 MIGRATION**
Successfully completed Project MARA Phase 1 for WWF-Laos, with the migration of mail, calendar, files, and folders to Microsoft 365. This effort, carried out as part of WWF-International's plan and requirement, improves efficiency, strengthens systems, and better supports daily operations and communication.
- CYBERSECURITY TRAINING**
Achieved 100% completion of Cybersecurity Awareness Training for all staff, strengthening digital safety and safeguarding WWF-Laos' information systems.



IMPACT AND INNOVATION

- KNOWLEDGE HUB**
Launched an internal site as a one-stop platform for documents, enabling departments and projects to store and access key resources – strengthening efficiency, knowledge sharing, and collaboration across WWF-Laos.
- UPDATED PMEL SYSTEM**
Implemented a Project Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (PMEL) system across the conservation programme, with standardized data collection and monitoring in all priority sites and operational functions.
- DIGITAL M&E SYSTEMS**
Implemented Digital Monitoring Systems (DMS) for Evidence-Based Action. The DMS has become a vital tool for WWF-Laos, enabling teams to analyze field data through dashboards, strengthen decision-making, and increase the efficiency of conservation initiatives across the organization.



ADMINISTRATION

- GREEN OFFICE INITIATIVES**
Strengthened Green Office practices with increased use of solar energy, bio-fertilizer production, paper reduction through digitalization, carbon offset measures, no-food-waste actions, and a ban on single-use plastics – applied at WWF-Laos offices and, where possible, in external meetings.
- FIELD OFFICES REGISTRATION**
Received Government approval and registration for four field offices to support project implementation and coordination with local authorities.
- E-REGISTRATION SYSTEM**
Implemented an E-Registration System, particularly for meeting participation, to streamline processes, reduce paper use, and improve efficiency. The system enhances accuracy, saves time, and enables WWF-Laos to manage records more effectively.

8.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

KEY CHALLENGES: THREATS TO CONSERVATION IN LAOS

These ongoing challenges and threats highlight the escalating and increasingly difficult-to-stop impact on biodiversity and its habitats, including the following:



Wildlife and aquatic animal trade is shifting from physical markets to rapidly growing online sales channels.



Climate change in Laos is driving droughts, storms, floods, and heatwaves – threatening biodiversity, ecosystems, and the communities who depend on them.



Land conversion for cassava and slash-and-burn farming drives deforestation and biodiversity loss.



The environment is not prioritized enough in national development policies



Ineffective law enforcement



Illegal logging, wildlife trade and illegal fishing



Habitat loss to infrastructure development



Unsustainable agricultural and farming expansion



Unsustainable use of natural resources



Inadequate and under-resourced protected area management



Impacts of climate change on ecosystem

URGENT ACTIONS NEEDED:

Through our four conservation programme, we are swiftly adapting to restore nature – not just focusing on the present, but also looking towards the future. By building stronger partnerships and collaborations, we are bending the curve for biodiversity and habitat loss in Laos.



Enhancing forest governance and law enforcement, supporting community patrols, and implementing landscape restoration. Emphasizing forest monitoring, climate resilience, and the use of GIS and remote sensing for effective management.



Promoting sustainable fishing practices and community fisheries co-management. Establishing fish conservation zones, strengthening law enforcement, and advancing climate-smart livelihoods to protect vital freshwater ecosystems.



Strengthening wildlife law enforcement, reducing wild meat demand, and mitigating human-wildlife conflicts. Key actions include cross-border collaboration, biodiversity monitoring, and high-level advocacy to drive societal behavioral change and policy support.

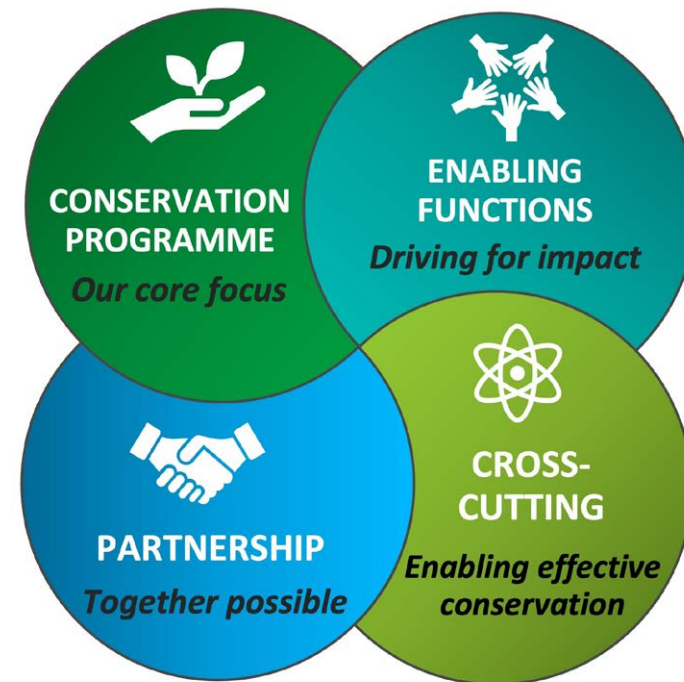


Conducting climate vulnerability assessments and promoting sustainable infrastructure. Focus areas include waste management, green financing, policy advocacy, and developing nature-based and bankable solutions.

9. STRATEGIC PLAN 2026–2030

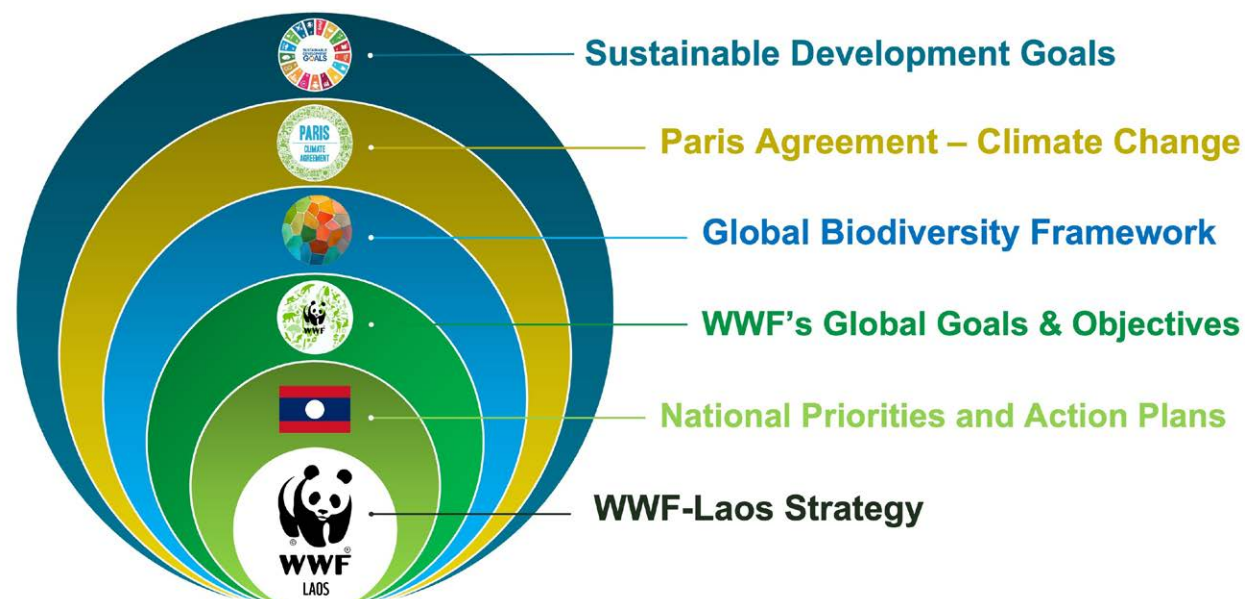
As our 2021–2025 strategic plan concludes, we are preparing to launch a new integrated 5-year strategy (2026–2030). Our goal is to bend the curve of biodiversity and habitat loss, contribute to the WWF Roadmap 2030, support national conservation priorities, and strengthen resilience and sustainable livelihoods.

INTEGRATED STRATEGY FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE



Building on the foundation of the past five years, our 2026–2030 conservation efforts across Forests, Freshwater, Wildlife, and Circular Resilience – the four key thematic areas – will be strategically focused within three priority landscapes, eight priority sites, and three urban areas.

TOWARD 2030: ALIGNMENT



10. ACKNOWLEDGMENT: PARTNERSHIPS FOR COLLECTIVE IMPACT

WWF-Laos' conservation achievements are the result of not just our efforts, but also the strong partnerships we've built over the past three decades with the Lao government and other partners. Our conservation programme has been implemented through collaborative efforts with various ministries, departments, offices and communities. We also collaborate closely with key conservation organizations and civil society organizations in Laos to achieve our shared goal of a sustainable future, where the people of Laos can thrive and live in harmony with nature.

BELOW ARE SOME OF THE KEY PARTNERS OF WWF-LAOS AS 2025



MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE AND
FORESTRY

Particularly the Department of Forestry, Department of Forest Inspection, Department of Livestock and Fisheries, and National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute



MINISTRY OF
NATURAL RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT

Particularly the Department of Environment and Department of Water Resources



NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY
OF LAOS

Particularly the Faculty of Environmental Science, Faculty of Forestry, Faculty of Natural Sciences, and Faculty of Water Resources



PARTNERED
WITH NEARLY
10
LAO CIVIL SOCIETY
ORGANIZATIONS (CSO)

Our local CSO partners include the Association for Environmental Protection and Community Empowerment, the Green Community Alliance, the Wildlife Conservation Association, the Lao Microfinance Association and Gender Development Association



COLLABORATED
WITH OVER
5
INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS
IN LAOS

By collaborating with iNGOs in Laos, particularly with key social and conservation-based organizations, we have expanded our reach and impact, strengthening our efforts through a broader network of partners. Recognizing that conservation success requires collective effort, we believe that together, we can achieve even greater progress toward our conservation targets, including addressing cross-cutting issues like gender, climate change, and social inclusion.



FINANCIALLY
SUPPORTED BY OVER
20
GENEROUS DONORS
WORLDWIDE

Thanks to the generosity of over 20 donors, including contributions from WWF network offices, intergovernmental organizations and the private sector, we have been able to significantly advance our conservation efforts. Their support has been instrumental in driving our mission forward, allowing us to address critical environmental challenges and make a huge impact.

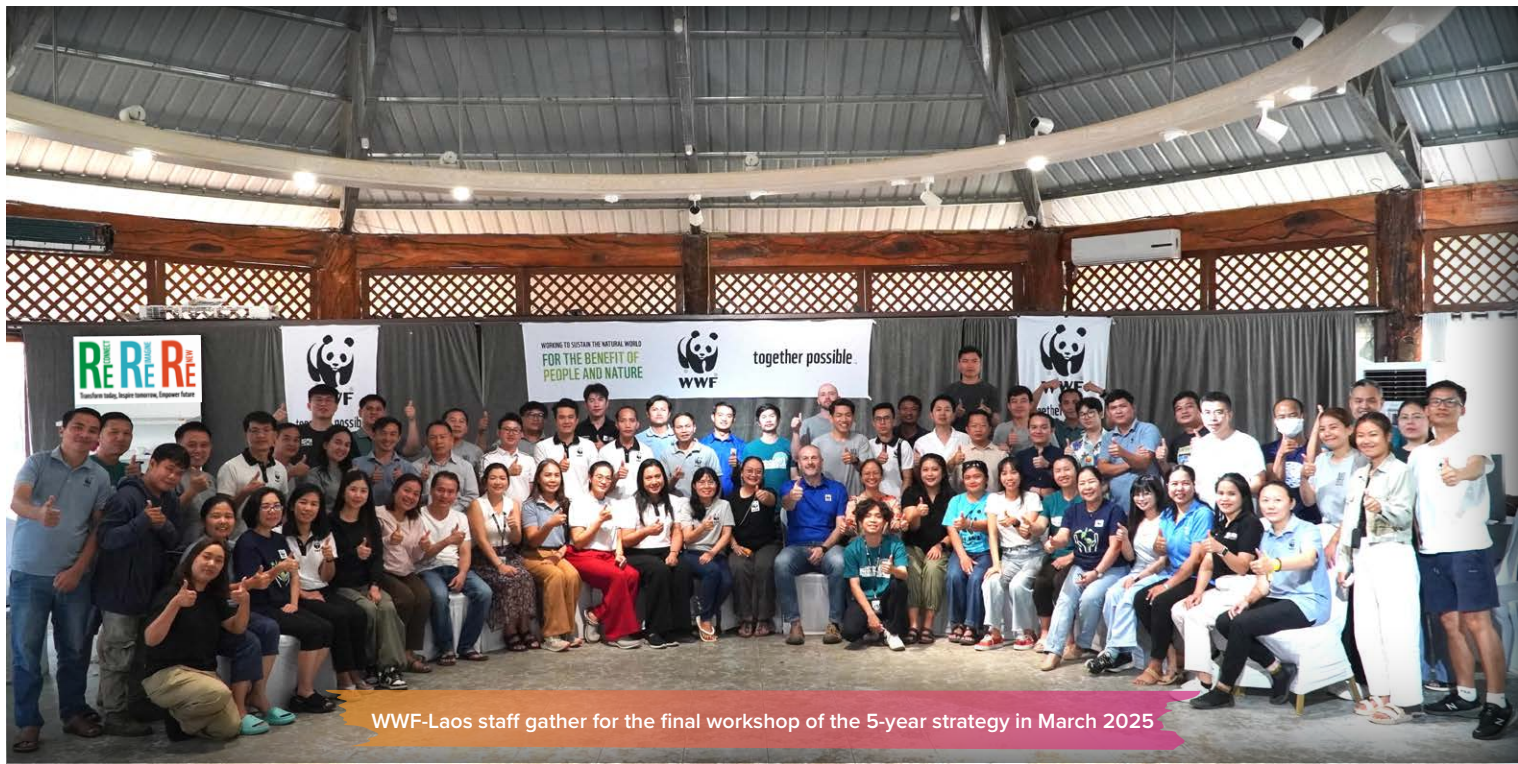


together possible™

**FOR A FUTURE WHERE THE
PEOPLE OF LAOS CAN THRIVE
AND LIVE IN HARMONY
WITH NATURE.**

↪ **CLICK HERE** TO READ OUR FY24 ANNUAL REPORT

↪ **CLICK HERE** TO READ OUR QUARTERLY CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS



WWF-Laos staff gather for the final workshop of the 5-year strategy in March 2025



Team building during WWF-Laos all-staff retreat, March 2025



WWF-Laos annual staff retreat, 2025



TOGETHER, WE MAKE
CONSERVATION POSSIBLE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED
PARTNERSHIP AND TRUST.



FY25 ANNUAL REPORT

This report highlights key milestones at a glance and does not include detailed information. For more details, contact us at:

wwf-laos@wwf.org.la

© 2025

**WWF-Laos: House No. 39,
Unit 05, Saylom Village,
Chanthabouly District,
Vientiane Capital, Laos.
Tel. +856 21 216080
www.wwf.org.la**

together possible™

©1986 Panda symbol WWF –
World Wide Fund for Nature
(Formerly World Wildlife Fund)
® “WWF” is a WWF Registered
Trademark. WWF International,
Rue Mauverney 28,
1196 Gland, Switzerland.
Tel. +41 22 364 9111
www.panda.org

Back cover image: A villager carries
freshly harvested rattan shoots from
the garden – Laos. © WWF-Laos