WWF

LAOS



2025-2026

ANNUAL REPORT

A year of progress.
A future of hope.



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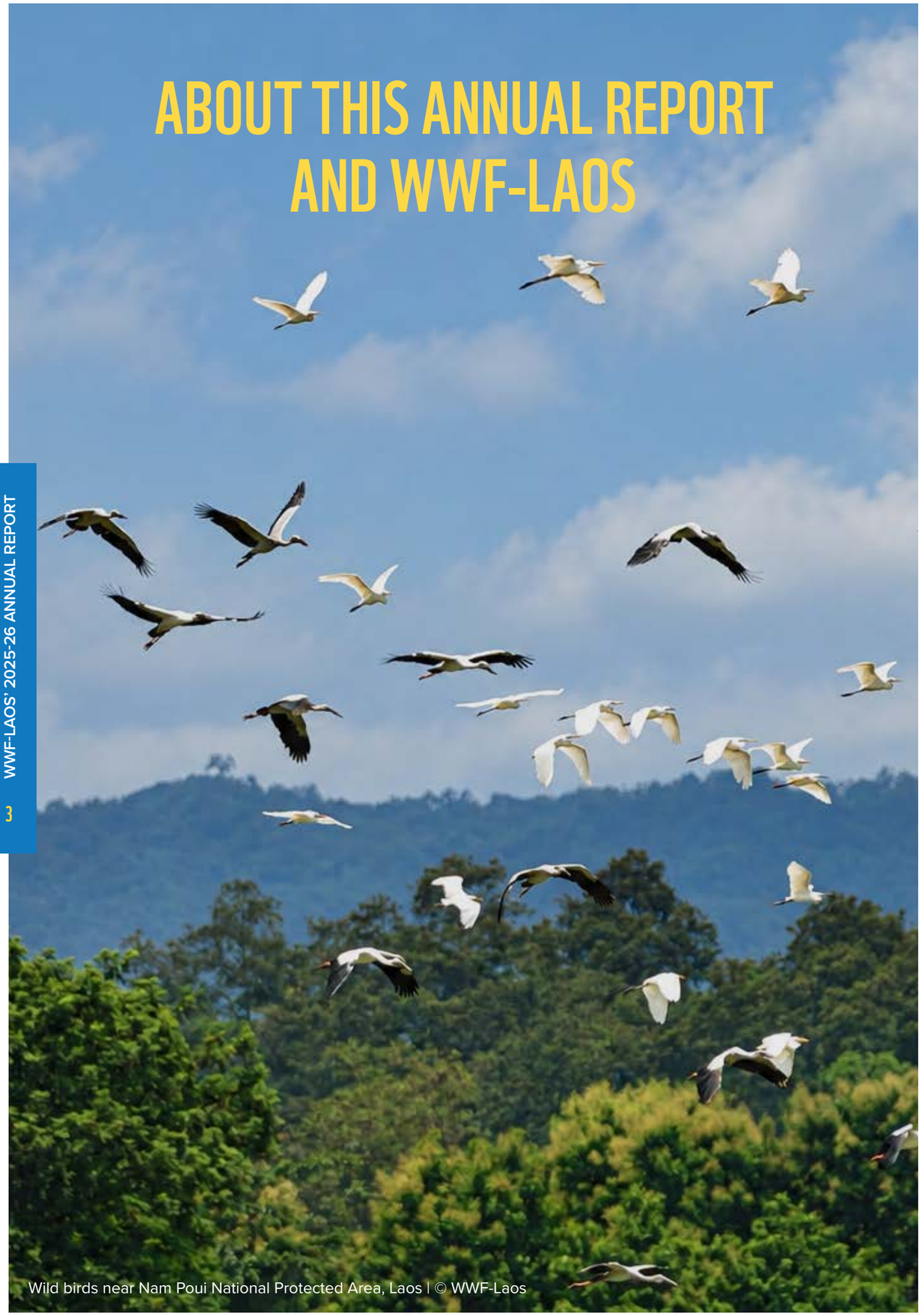


WWF-LAOS ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2025 TO JUNE 2026

A community member harvesting coffee near Dong Hua Sao National Park, Laos | © WWF-Laos
Front cover photo: Xe Pian National Park, Laos | © WWF-Laos

ABOUT THIS ANNUAL REPORT AND WWF-LAOS



Wild birds near Nam Poui National Protected Area, Laos | © WWF-Laos

ABOUT THIS ANNUAL REPORT

12 MONTHS COVERING THE PERIOD FROM JULY 2025 TO JUNE 2026 | FY26

This report showcases the key achievements, conservation impacts and milestones made possible through our strong partnerships with communities, government, donors and other stakeholders across Laos.

Covering FY26 (July 2025 – June 2026), this report reflects our collective progress across WWF-Laos' four thematic areas – Forests, Freshwater, Wildlife and Circular Resilience – as well as our work across priority landscapes and sites, nature-based solutions, and key cross-cutting areas.

It highlights how our work, partnerships and actions are contributing to protecting biodiversity, strengthening the resilience of communities and ecosystems, and advancing lasting conservation impact for people and nature across Laos.

ABOUT WWF-LAOS

WWF is an independent conservation organization with a global network active through local leadership in over 100 countries. 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 field offices across the country and more than 75 staff members working with communities, government and other partners to deliver effective conservation.

WWF-Laos is part of WWF's Southeast Asia subregional office and is supported by WWF offices worldwide.

Our mission in Laos is to build a future where the people of Laos can thrive and live in harmony with nature.

Click here to explore WWF-Laos' Five-Year Strategy

3 MAIN LANDSCAPES

3 FOCUS CITIES

4 KEY SPECIES GROUPS

75+ STAFF

8 KEY PRIORITY SITES FOR CONSERVATION

OUR VISION

We envision a vibrant and sustainable future for Laos, shaped by inclusive conservation that protects biodiversity, ensures equitable benefits, and nurtures harmony between people and the environment.

OUR GOAL

We aim to achieve significant conservation progress across our priority landscapes by preventing local extinction, protecting and restoring critical forests, improving freshwater ecosystem health, and helping communities adapt to climate change through nature-based solutions – all through strong partnerships and collective action.

4 KEY CONSERVATION THEMATIC AREAS:

- FORESTS
- FRESHWATER
- WILDLIFE
- CIRCULAR RESILIENCE

FOREWORD



Heron Holloway
Country Director, WWF-Laos

Forests are not grown in a year. But the first year matters most, because it is when you prepare the ground, choose what to plant and put in place what young trees need to thrive.

FY26 was that kind of year for WWF-Laos. It was the first year of our new five-year strategic plan, and my first as Country Director. I inherited a strong plan, developed by our full team of more than 75 colleagues across operations and conservation, in our Vientiane office and in our field offices closer to nature itself. A good plan, a committed team and the energy to deliver are the conditions in which things grow.

It was also our 25th anniversary year, and a year of firsts. We carried out WWF-Laos's first elephant collaring, in Nam Poui National Protected Area, and began our first projects funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Behind the scenes, we worked to improve staff retention and streamline our processes, and early indications from our recent internal audit are positive.

There were challenges. We had to end our presence in Xebanghieng after delivering a four-year project, and we are still seeking further funding to continue the work that was showing great results: community patrol teams, established and trained by WWF, recording just one fishery violation across 567 patrols in 2025, and fish catch monitoring showed the number of species rising from 114 in 2022 to 178 in 2025.

We have also not yet launched comprehensive work on food systems or value chains, nor secured a sustainable finance opportunity. Seeds of opportunity have been planted, and I hope to see them sprout next year.

We are establishing baselines to track our progress against the strategy's targets. This is demanding work in Laos, but it will allow us to show our impact more robustly each year, and I hope next year's report will begin to show how we are progressing.

A huge thank you goes to all WWF-Laos staff for the energy and dedication they give each day, and to the local communities who put their trust in us. We also thank our donors, partner organisations and the Government of Lao PDR for supporting us in achieving significant progress.

We have planted many shoots, and we look forward to nurturing them with you in the years ahead.

Together possible.



WWF-Laos staff retreat 2025 in Luang Prabang, Laos | © WWF-Laos

746,000 hectares across four protected areas are actively managed under conservation management plans with support from WWF-Laos

92 forest patrols conducted over 711 days, covering **5,388** kilometres across protected areas

3,028 snares removed from protected areas

240 illegal hunting and logging camps dismantled

2,680 hectares of freshwater ecosystems under active protection and co-management across priority sites, including through fish conservation zone management

1,700 river patrols conducted, covering **3,634** kilometres

81,140 native and fruit trees planted in forest restoration areas

106 hectares of degraded forest improved through restoration efforts

400 camera traps deployed across two protected areas for wildlife monitoring, helping track species and strengthen conservation management

137 wildlife crime cases detected by authorities with support from WWF-Laos

1,702 kilograms of illegally traded wildlife specimens confiscated or seized

5.9 tonnes of plastic leakage prevented across three cities through plastic reduction and improved waste-management initiatives

2 cities committed to reducing plastic leakage by 30% through Plastic Smart Cities declarations

10 Years of National Tiger Recovery Action Plan finalized and launched

10+ awareness campaigns conducted, covering wildlife conservation, sustainable fisheries and plastic pollution



YEAR IN REVIEW: JULY 2025 TO JUNE 2026

A 12-MONTH SNAPSHOT IN NUMBERS

A herd of wild elephants in Nam Poui National Protected Area, Laos | © WWF-Laos

SPOTLIGHT MOMENTS IN FY26



WWF CELEBRATES 25 YEARS IN LAOS

From early biodiversity surveys in the 1980s to a country programme working across forests, freshwater, wildlife and circular resilience, WWF's journey in Laos has evolved alongside the country's conservation priorities.

In 2001, WWF-Laos officially opened its doors with just 10 staff and a formal conservation partnership with the Lao government. Today, more than 75 colleagues work across the country, advancing conservation for people and nature.

Over 25 years, WWF-Laos has grown alongside changing conservation needs – building long-term partnerships, working with communities, strengthening conservation approaches, and connecting local action with national and regional priorities. Twenty-five years is more than a milestone. It reflects the achievements, effort and shared commitment of many people. It gives WWF-Laos a strong base to build on, and a responsibility to keep delivering for Laos's people and nature.



NATIONAL TIGER RECOVERY ACTION PLAN

More than a decade after Laos' last confirmed wild tiger record, a new national roadmap is bringing renewed hope for their future return.

In March 2026, the Government of Lao PDR approved the National Tiger Recovery Action Plan 2026–2035, setting a 10-year framework to create the conditions needed for tiger recovery.

The plan identifies Nam Poui National Protected Area as the country's Priority 1 landscape, with strong potential to support the natural return of tigers from neighbouring populations in Thailand. It focuses on securing habitats, restoring prey populations, strengthening law enforcement and monitoring, engaging communities, and improving regional cooperation.

Supported technically and financially by WWF-Laos, the plan is an important step from ambition towards coordinated action – helping restore healthy forests and creating the conditions for wild tigers to one day roam again in Laos.



ELEPHANT COLLARING

Between late 2025 and early 2026, two wild Asian elephants in Nam Poui National Protected Area were fitted with GPS collars – a first for WWF-Laos and a first for this important stronghold of Asian elephants in Laos.

The milestone opens a new window into the lives of Nam Poui's wild elephants, helping conservation teams better understand their movements, habitat use and interactions with the wider landscape. This knowledge provides a stronger foundation for protecting the population and the habitats they depend on.

Led by the Department of Forestry with support from WWF-Laos and partners, the operations brought together conservation expertise from Laos and Thailand. Data collected from the collars will strengthen long-term monitoring, support more informed protected-area management, and help guide efforts to reduce human-elephant conflict in and around Nam Poui.

By understanding where elephants move and the landscapes they depend on, conservation teams can better target actions that support both wild elephants and local communities.



LAUNCHING THE FIRST GEF-SUPPORTED PROJECT

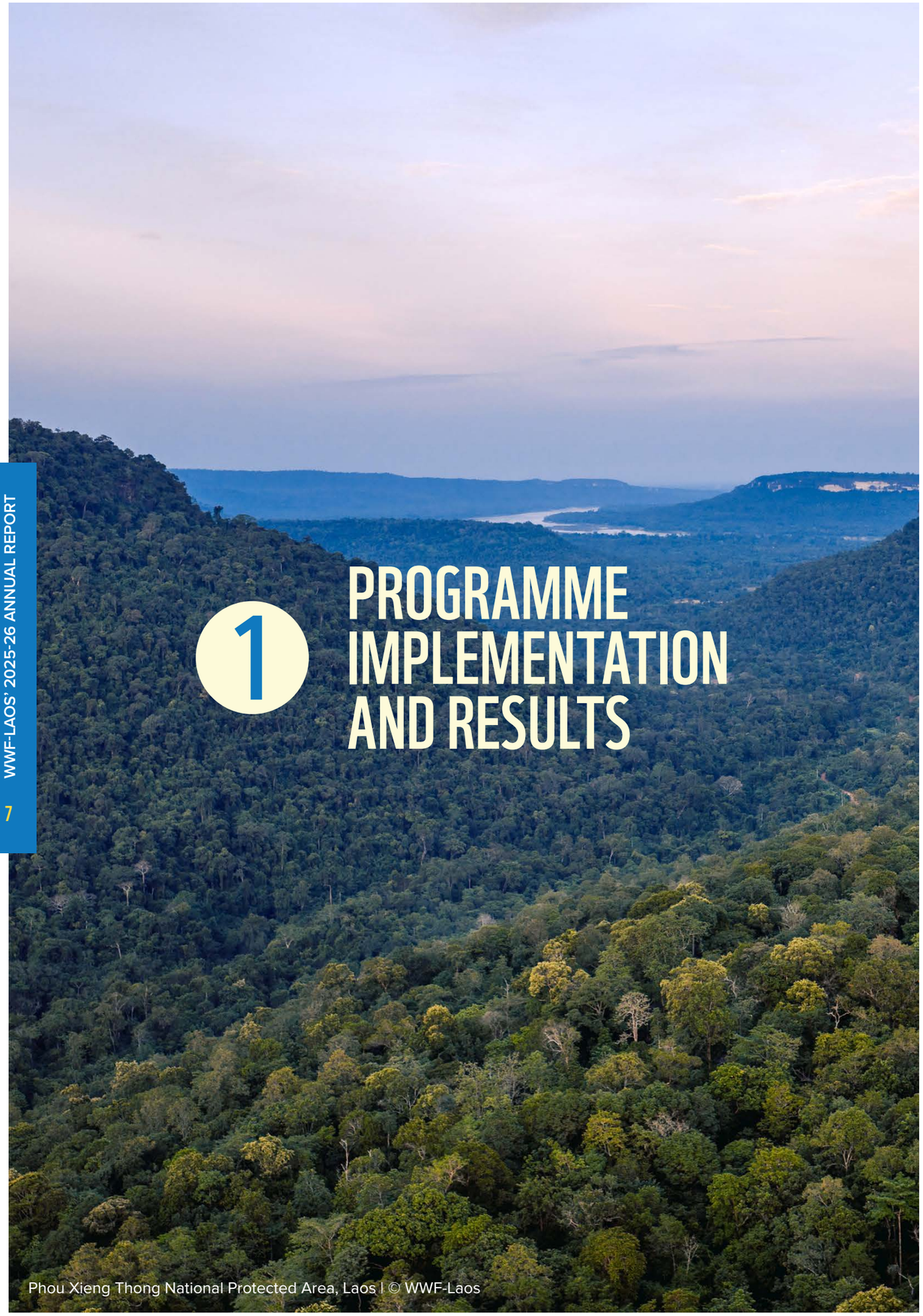
FY26 marked a significant milestone for WWF-Laos with the approval of the Climate Adaptive River Basins of Sayaboury Province (CARBS) project – the first project for which WWF-Laos has received support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

This six-year project opens a new chapter for WWF-Laos, bringing together climate adaptation, freshwater conservation and community resilience at a landscape scale.

From 2026 to 2031, the CARBS project will work across four river basins, six districts and 18 villages in Sayaboury Province, benefiting more than 19,000 people. Working alongside government partners and local communities, the project will strengthen integrated river basin management, reduce climate-related risks and support more resilient and diversified livelihoods.

The CARBS project also represents an important step forward for WWF-Laos – establishing a new partnership with GEF and creating opportunities to expand climate resilience and conservation action in Laos.

Click here to find out more
Click here to find out more
Click here to find out more
Click here to find out more



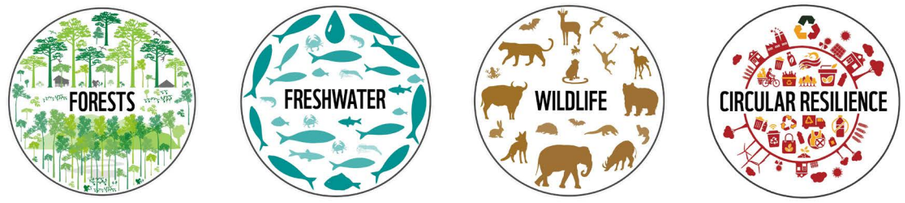
1 PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND RESULTS

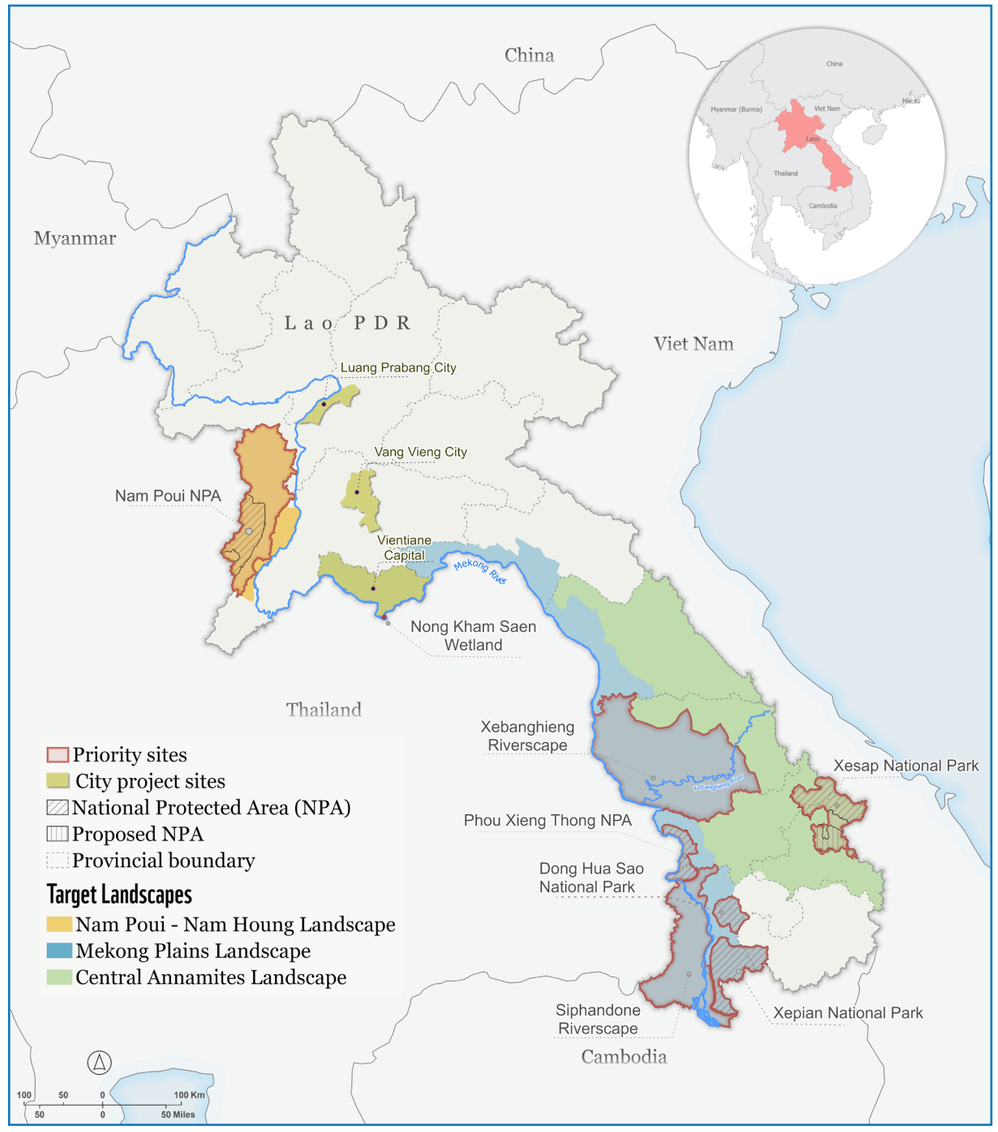
Phou Xieng Thong National Protected Area, Laos | © WWF-Laos

Our conservation programme in Laos is implemented across four key thematic areas: **Forests, Freshwater, Wildlife, and Circular Resilience.**

While each thematic area 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, eight key priority conservation sites, and three cities where WWF focuses its work. The efforts and activities in these areas are carried out in partnership with local communities and 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.







FY26 HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

81,140

TREES PLANTED
native and fruit trees
across forest priority sites

746,000

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

92

FOREST PATROLS CONDUCTED
over 711 days by forest patrol teams,
covering 5,388 kilometres across
forest priority sites

106

HECTARES
of degraded forest improved
through community-led enrichment
planting, contributing to a total
of 2,113 hectares under active
forest restoration

GOAL

Our long-term goal is to ensure that key forest habitats and resources across WWF-Laos priority sites are protected and sustainably managed to conserve biodiversity, reduce carbon emissions, and improve the livelihoods of nature-dependent communities.

Key Objectives and Goals:

- Effective protection and governance of critical forests
- Forest landscape restoration
- Strengthening community livelihoods through forest-based economies
- Sustainable financing for long-term conservation impact

EXPECTED OUTCOMES BY END OF 2030

50%

Of key forest habitats are protected and sustainably managed through protected area zonation and strengthened governance, reducing deforestation and degradation by 70% by 2030

2,500

Hectares of degraded forest land within WWF-Laos priority sites are under restoration to support biodiversity conservation and provide ecosystem services that enhance local community well-being

30%

Of target communities in and around WWF-Laos priority sites have improved livelihoods and economic opportunities through sustainable forest-sourced supply chains and nature-positive, climate-smart agricultural practices

1

Sustainable financing mechanism for biodiversity conservation is well defined and piloted in WWF-Laos priority sites



FY26 HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

2,680

HECTARES
of freshwater ecosystems under active protection and co-management across freshwater priority sites, including through fish conservation zone management

1,700

RIVER PATROLS CONDUCTED
in three freshwater priority sites
mainly through fish conservation
zone management

620

COMMUNITY MEMBERS TRAINED
in ecosystem-based adaptation,
natural resource management
and resilient livelihoods

134

FISH SPECIES RECORDED
through community-based fish
catch monitoring and surveys
across freshwater priority sites

GOAL

Our long-term goal is that aquatic biodiversity is maintained or improved, and the resilience of river-dependent and climate-vulnerable communities is enhanced.

Key Objectives and Goals:

- Recovery of native endangered aquatic species
- Protection and restoration of key freshwater habitats
- Building community climate resilience and livelihood diversification
- Policy advocacy and multi-stakeholder engagement

EXPECTED OUTCOMES BY END OF 2030

20%

Recovery or growth of native endangered aquatic species through improved fisheries management practices, compared to 2025 baseline data

30%

Increase in freshwater ecosystem protected areas (in hectares) within WWF-Laos priority sites, with these areas restored and protected to maintain ecosystem services in the face of increasing climate change impacts, compared to the 2025 baseline

Improved adaptive capacity of river-dependent and climate-vulnerable communities within WWF-Laos priority sites through diversified income sources and the application of climate-smart, nature-positive agricultural practices, compared to the 2025 baseline

Key stakeholders within WWF-Laos priority sites are actively engaged in addressing freshwater ecosystem degradation and sand mining through policy advocacy at national and sub-national levels

WILDLIFE

FY26 HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

137

ILLEGAL WILDLIFE CASES DETECTED
including online cases; 14 investigated and six convictions secured

1,702

KILOGRAMS OF WILDLIFE SPECIMENS
confiscated or seized with support from WWF-Laos

400

CAMERA TRAPS DEPLOYED
across two protected areas for wildlife monitoring

TIGER ACTION PLAN LAUNCHED
10-year national plan finalized for tiger conservation and recovery in Laos

GOAL

Our long-term goal is to ensure that populations of eco-regional and national priority species are maintained or increased in WWF-Laos priority sites.

Key Objectives and Goals:

- Combating wildlife crime
- Restoring and sustaining wildlife populations
- One Health

EXPECTED OUTCOMES BY END OF 2030

50%

Reduction in illegal wildlife crime incidents along identified trade routes within priority landscapes, compared to the 2025 baseline

Habitats and key migratory corridors essential for the conservation of priority species and their prey are preserved in WWF-Laos priority sites, compared to 2025 baseline levels

Risks of retaliation against wildlife, as well as the social, economic, and health impacts associated with human-livestock-wildlife interactions, are mitigated



CIRCULAR RESILIENCE

FY26 HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

5.9

TONNES OF PLASTIC LEAKAGE PREVENTED
across three cities through plastic reduction and improved waste-management initiatives

2,550

STUDENTS REACHED
across 12 Plastic Smart Schools, strengthening environmental awareness and sustainable waste-management practices

OVER US$ 6 MILLION SECURED
in co-financing to scale circular economy and plastic pollution reduction efforts in Laos

2

CITIES SIGNED DECLARATIONS
for Plastic Smart Cities commitment in Luang Prabang and Vang Vieng, with each city targeting a 30% reduction in plastic leakage

GOAL

Our long-term goal is to reduce plastic pollution and its impacts on the environment and human health in Laos through decreased use of single-use plastics and improved waste management systems.

Key Objectives and Goals:

- Reducing single-use plastic consumption
- Improving plastic waste management systems

EXPECTED OUTCOMES BY END OF 2030

The quantity of plastic waste generated by the hospitality and tourism sectors decreases in target priority cities

The rate of plastic waste disposed of inappropriately decreases, while the rate of plastic waste recovered for recycling increases



2 EFFORTS AND MILESTONES AT PRIORITY SITES

WWF-Laos' conservation programme – working across four key thematic areas of Forests, Freshwater, Wildlife and Circular Resilience – is geographically focused on three landscapes:

CENTRAL ANNAMITES **MEKONG PLAINS** **NAM POUI-NAM HOUNG**

Within these landscapes, we concentrate our work on eight priority sites chosen for their conservation significance, the pressures they face, and our collective 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 at both national and regional levels.

THE 8 PRIORITY SITES ARE:

DONG HUA SAO
NATIONAL PARK

NONG KHAM SAEN
WETLAND

NAM POUI
NATIONAL PROTECTED AREA

PHOU XIENG THONG
NATIONAL PROTECTED AREA

SIPHANDONE
RIVERSCAPE

XEBANGHIENG
RIVERSCAPE

XE SAP
NATIONAL PARK

XE PIAN
NATIONAL PARK



















DONG HUA SAO NATIONAL PARK

OVERVIEW

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 metres above sea level and spans approximately 93,893 hectares. Known for its cooler climate and fertile volcanic soil, the plateau is central to Laos' 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

FY26 EFFORTS AND MILESTONES AT THIS PRIORITY SITE THROUGH COLLECTIVE PARTNERSHIP INCLUDE:

PLANTED

13,050 native and fruit trees in restoration areas, covering **15** hectares of degraded forest, helping restore forest cover, support biodiversity and community livelihoods, and strengthen long-term climate resilience.

ASSESSED TREE SURVIVAL IN

3 villages that received support for forest restoration and tree planting, recording an average survival rate of **60%** survival rate, with generally healthy growth, while identifying areas requiring further maintenance.

STRENGTHENED

park monitoring and patrol capacity through technical training, lessons learned, and the provision of field equipment.

COMPLETED ASSESSMENTS

3 communities around the park now able to identify climate vulnerabilities, understand local risks and priorities, and inform community-level adaptation planning to strengthen resilience and help communities better prepare for climate impacts.

ENGAGED

10 stakeholders in validating climate change adaptation plans for 3 villages, helping ensure plans reflect local climate risks, priorities and community needs.

TRAINED

13 government officials from forest and national park management units in Geographic Information System (GIS) and Google Earth Engine tools to strengthen forest monitoring.

COMPLETED AND LAUNCHED

2 videos: one on forest restoration and another on agroforestry. The videos help showcase conservation approaches and results while supporting awareness and knowledge sharing among partners and communities.



NONG KHAM SAEN WETLAND

OVERVIEW

1 Last remaining natural wetland close to Vientiane Capital

103 Hectares

6 Communities, with nearly 2,000 households, live around the wetland

~175 Bird species

The 103-hectare Nong Kham Saen wetland, surrounded by six communities and located near Vientiane, is one of the last remaining natural wetlands close to the capital. It holds significant cultural value for local communities, especially as a site associated with the *naga* (dragon), which 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, Nong Kham Saen 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 the ecological and cultural heritage of the region.

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

FY26 EFFORTS AND MILESTONES AT THIS PRIORITY SITE THROUGH COLLECTIVE PARTNERSHIP INCLUDE:

DELINEATED

103 hectares covering Nong Kham Saen wetland and its buffer zone across six villages, expanding the previously delineated 86-hectare area.

COMPLETED

7 kilometres of protective embankment around Nong Kham Saen wetland, strengthening protection and management of the wetland.

PLANTED

500 tree seedlings along the embankment around Nong Kham Saen wetland, helping restore vegetation, strengthen the surrounding landscape and support the wetland's long-term ecological resilience.

LAUNCHED PLASTIC-FREE INITIATIVES

3 schools supported by baseline waste assessments, waste separation bins, teacher capacity-building, and awareness and learning activities with students.

IMPROVED WATER MANAGEMENT

through the installation and repair of water gates, improving water-flow management, with communities now responsible for managing and maintaining the sluice gates and dyke as part of locally led wetland conservation.

ADVANCED ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FACILITIES

with environmental education signage and bird-watching tower designs completed, and preliminary designs for the Environmental Education Centre presented for community and stakeholder feedback.

EXPANDED CIRCULAR WASTE MANAGEMENT

beyond schools to temples and surrounding communities, engaging monks and community members in waste separation and more sustainable waste practices in and around Nong Kham Saen.



NAM POUI NATIONAL PROTECTED AREA

OVERVIEW

37 Communities live in and around this protected area

47 Mammal species

86 Bird species

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

One of the few strongholds for Asian elephants in Laos

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, dholes, and Indochinese grey langurs.

Nam Poui has also been identified in the National Tiger Recovery Action Plan as one of the sites with the highest potential for tiger recovery, including through the possible natural movement of tigers from neighbouring Thailand.

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

FY26 EFFORTS AND MILESTONES AT THIS PRIORITY SITE THROUGH COLLECTIVE PARTNERSHIP INCLUDE:

STRENGTHENED RANGER MOBILITY

9 motorbikes provided through Rally for Rangers. These motorcycles improve access to remote areas, supporting patrols, wildlife monitoring and law-enforcement activities.

DEPLOYED

100 camera traps across Nam Poui NPA to monitor wildlife-livestock interactions and better understand potential disease-transmission pathways under the One Health approach.

ADVANCED THE ONE HEALTH APPROACH

11 villages surveyed to identify potential wildlife and livestock health risks, complemented by SMART Health for Rangers and village surveillance training.

FITTED GPS COLLARS

2 wild elephants were fitted with GPS collars for the first time in Nam Poui NPA, an important stronghold for Asian elephants in Laos.

STRENGTHENED TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION

1st meeting of Nam Poui and Doi Phu Kha counterparts, bringing Laos and Thailand together to advance cooperation on elephant movement, wildlife corridors, patrol infrastructure, SMART patrols and cross-border monitoring.

CONDUCTED FOREST PATROLS

33 patrols | **206** days | **2,958** kilometres

across three forest patrol teams and two Rapid Response Teams, strengthening protection across Nam Poui NPA.

REDUCED ILLEGAL THREATS

278 snares removed and destroyed

125 illegal camps dismantled

These efforts helped reduce threats to wildlife across the protected area.

DOCUMENTED

317 threat incidents, including cases related to hunting and illegal natural-resource activities. 22 cases involving natural-resource offences were detected, with 7 prosecuted and 15 under prosecution.

RAISED CONSERVATION AWARENESS

in communities around Nam Poui NPA, including through outreach at the Elephant Festival, engaging people on elephant conservation, biodiversity and the importance of protecting forests.

PHOU XIENG THONG NATIONAL PROTECTED AREA



120,000 Hectares

70% Forest cover

61 Communities live in and around this NPA

Only stretch of the Mekong River – along the Laos-Thailand border – with protected areas on both sides

Recognized as an ASEAN Heritage Park

OVERVIEW

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 landscape for biodiversity conservation, encompassing aquatic life, wildlife, and forest ecosystems.

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

FY26 EFFORTS AND MILESTONES AT THIS PRIORITY SITE THROUGH COLLECTIVE PARTNERSHIP INCLUDE:

ESTABLISHED FISH CONSERVATION ZONES

7 zones | **60** hectares | **36** signs installed

These no-fishing zones are managed by community committees, with agreed regulations and clear guidance in place to support their protection.

CONDUCTED SMART PATROLS

497 patrols | **2,000** kilometres | **70** people trained

Strengthened law enforcement through SMART patrols, detecting six threats in fish conservation zones, including fishing traps and nets, which were collected and destroyed.

MONITORED FISHERIES

2,830 trips | **25** fishers | **4,871** kilograms of catch

Alongside strengthened fish conservation zone management and sustainable fisheries practices, catch per unit effort increased by 131%, from 0.42 to 0.97 kg/hour, with the monitored catch worth approximately LAK 249 million (around US$32,000).

ADVANCED TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION

A partnership between WWF-Laos and WWF-Thailand brought together fisheries representatives from both governments to exchange knowledge on fisheries co-management across project areas on both sides of the Mekong.

MONITORED FISH BIODIVERSITY

118 fish taxa detected | **78** fish species identified | **4** priority endangered species detected

eDNA monitoring provided an updated picture of fish biodiversity in this part of the Mekong, helping track priority endangered species and inform conservation management.

STRENGTHENED COMMUNITIES AND LIVELIHOODS

207 households | **7** livelihood interventions | **414** participants

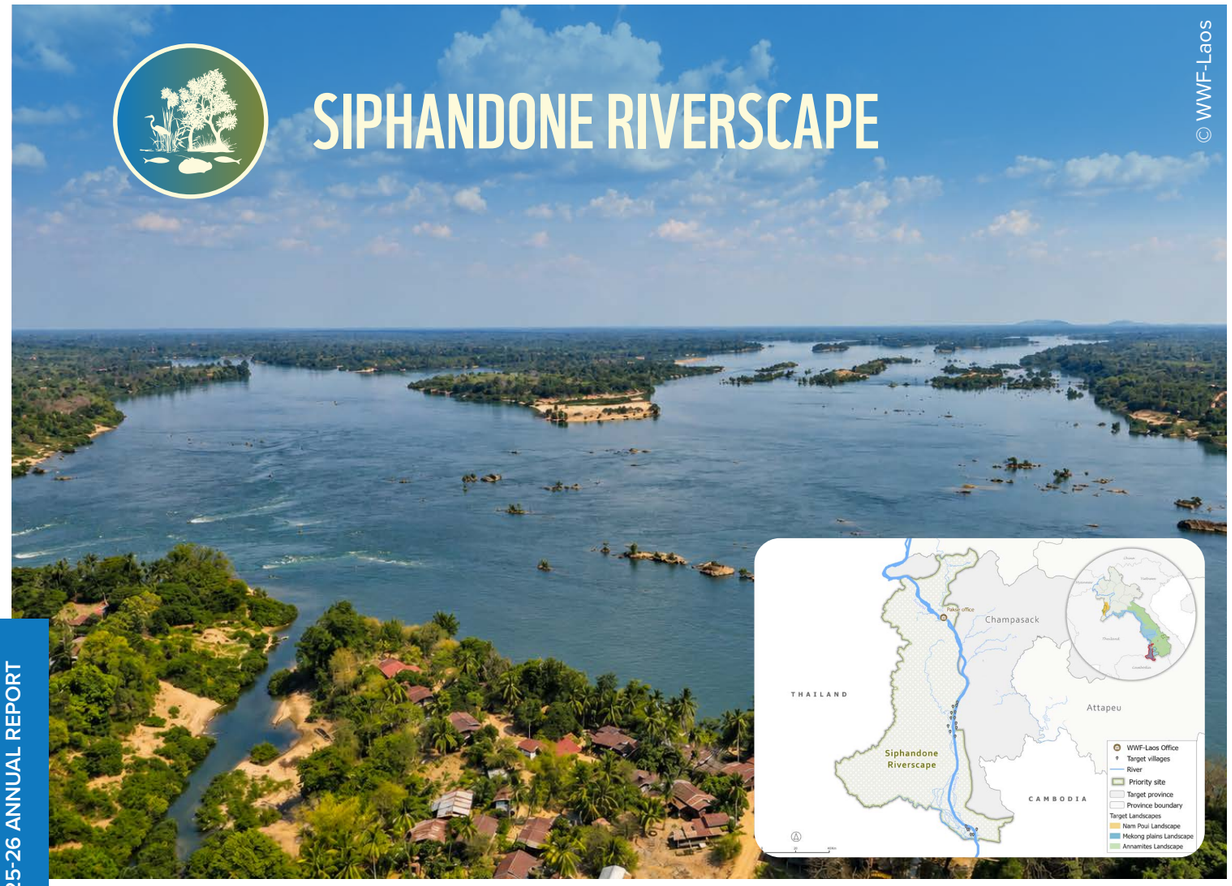
Nature-positive livelihoods supported sustainable production, from poultry and vegetable farming to weaving and fish processing, while fisheries law and awareness of fish conservation zone regulations reached more than 290 community members, including 130 women.

BOOSTED FISHERIES POLICY

Supported national fisheries policy processes through dissemination of the revised Aquatic Animals and Fisheries Law and a technical workshop on aquatic species classification.

INCREASED COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Natural resource management decision-making increased from 14.92% to 82.87%, while acceptance of fish conservation zones remained high at 89.17%.



OVERVIEW

485 Square kilometres

100,000 People depend on this riverscape

Under consideration for Ramsar Site designation

200 Fish species found include:

- Mekong giant catfish
- Mekong giant stingray

Literally meaning "4,000 islands", Siphandone includes the Khone Falls, the largest waterfall complex in the world, formed by the Mekong River becoming very wide and shallower. Here, the Mekong River becomes a maze of rivulets flowing between small and large islands, spanning 485 square kilometres 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 critically endangered 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.

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

FY26 EFFORTS AND MILESTONES AT THIS PRIORITY SITE THROUGH COLLECTIVE PARTNERSHIP INCLUDE:

EXPANDED COMMUNITY-LED PROTECTION

511 hectares under community-led protection across 7 villages

Includes 17.7 hectares of fish conservation zones, 5.5 hectares of riverbank management areas and 481.5 hectares of flooded forests, through a participatory process involving 254 community members.

STRENGTHENED FRESHWATER PROTECTION

637 patrols | **464** days (246 nights) | **1,634** kilometres | **47** people trained

Regular SMART patrols helped strengthen protection of fish conservation zones, riverbanks, flooded forests and other important freshwater habitats across Siphandone.

INSTALLED CONSERVATION BOUNDARY SIGNS

159 signs including 33 for fish conservation zones, 114 for flooded forests, and 12 for riverbank management areas.

RESTORED RIVERBANKS AND HABITATS

232 metres of riverbank supported through native vegetation planting and erosion-control measures.

Tree monitoring across six villages recorded a 66% survival rate, with around 700 additional locally selected seedlings secured to support restoration.

MONITORED FISHERIES

1,205 trips | **21** fishers | **5,704** kilograms of catch

Monitoring involved 21 fisher households providing evidence on local fisheries and the effectiveness of fish conservation zones, with recorded catches generating approximately LAK 184 million across all 21 households (around US$8,500) in sales.

STRENGTHENED CONSERVATION CAPACITY

47 patrol members and partners trained

Refresher training strengthened skills in SMART monitoring, standard operating procedures and first aid, with 97% of participants meeting or exceeding the required competency standard.

PROMOTED SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

4 campaigns, across village and national levels promoted Fisheries Law compliance, responsible fish release practices, invasive-species prevention and protection of Mekong biodiversity.

ADVANCED SPECIES AND HABITAT CONSERVATION

Community Turtle Conservation Teams established, with additional funding secured for softshell turtle conservation. Traditional knowledge, GIS analysis and community fieldwork guided conservation priorities, while the GEDSI Action Plan strengthened inclusive participation across conservation activities.



OVERVIEW

360 Kilometres in length

38 Communities live alongside this riverscape

5 Protected areas

200 Fish species found include:

- Mekong giant catfish
- Asian giant softshell turtle
- Mekong giant stingray

The Xebanghieng riverscape, spanning 360 kilometres, 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 km^2, of which 3.5% is 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 for 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

4 YEARS 2022-26 EFFORTS AND MILESTONES AT THIS PRIORITY SITE THROUGH COLLECTIVE PARTNERSHIP INCLUDE:

The project in Xebanghieng Riverscape ended midway through FY26, following four years of implementation. This section highlights key achievements across the full project period.

ESTABLISHED

16 Fish Conservation Zones across 16 villages along the Xebanghieng River, covering

145 hectares of river area, with regulations in place to protect fish populations and their habitats.

ESTABLISHED

190 Fisheries Management Committee members, including community patrol teams, across 16 target villages, providing essential patrol equipment and strengthening capacity to conduct river patrols and enforce fisheries laws and regulations.

CONDUCTED

1,232 river patrols, helping strengthen protection of fish conservation zones, prevent illegal fishing, and safeguard other important freshwater habitats across 16 target villages.

REDUCED FISHERIES VIOLATIONS

70% reduction in fisheries violations compared with the baseline, with just one violation recorded across 567 patrols in 2025.

RAISED COMMUNITY AWARENESS

34 times across 16 target villages, covering fish conservation zone regulations through videos, audio and other materials to improve community understanding of fisheries conservation.

REDUCED POVERTY

13% TO 5%

AND FOOD INSECURITY

22% TO 7%

These results show improvements among households in target communities that directly benefited from project-supported livelihood activities by the end of the project.

SUPPORTED

373 women with diversified, non-fishing livelihood activities, helping strengthen household incomes, build more climate-resilient livelihoods and reduce reliance on fishing and pressure on freshwater resources.

INCREASED COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDING

16% TO 93%

of the benefits of fisheries co-management, alongside improved understanding of fisheries laws and regulations.

RECORDED

178 fish species in 2025, up from 114 in 2022, through Fish Catch Monitoring, strengthening evidence on fish diversity and fishing pressure.

IDENTIFIED CLIMATE ADAPTATION

13 villages assessed through Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments, identifying priorities for climate adaptation, sustainable livelihoods and community resilience.



OVERVIEW

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, Xe Sap 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.

Xe Sap is also where the last sighting of the legendary saola – known as the 'Asian unicorn' – was recorded.

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

As one of Laos' seven national parks, Xe Sap lies within the Annamite Moist Forest Ecoregion, recognised as a globally important area for biodiversity conservation. The park also supports at least 307 bird species, at least 59 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

FY26 EFFORTS AND MILESTONES AT THIS PRIORITY SITE THROUGH COLLECTIVE PARTNERSHIP INCLUDE:

STRENGTHENED FOREST PROTECTION

59 patrols | **505** days | **2,430** kilometres

Four park ranger teams and 10 village patrol teams worked together to safeguard critical areas of Xe Sap NP from illegal activities.

REDUCED ILLEGAL THREATS

2,750 snares removed and destroyed

115 logging and poaching camps dismantled

Helped reduce threats to wildlife across the national park.

DOCUMENTED

244 hunting incidents, including 14 wildlife-crime and human-confrontation cases involving 32 individuals for enforcement follow-up.

INSTALLED

721 demarcation signs across 18 villages, covering Total Protection, Controlled Use and Buffer Zones to support clearer park management.

NEW OFFICE APPROVED

Government approval secured for the new Xe Sap NP office, with construction underway.

EXPANDED COMMUNITY CONSERVATION FINANCE

15 villages | **1,064** member households | **1.22** billion LAK in savings (US$ ~55,000)

Through Village Development Funds, communities gained access to loans and financial benefits to support local livelihoods, while annual monitoring assessed progress and helped ensure livelihood activities remain aligned with conservation objectives.

COMPLETED WILDLIFE SURVEYS

300 camera traps were deployed across 150 stations in three survey blocks – Block 1 alone identified 35 wildlife species, including threatened and endemic species.

BOOSTED SMART ENFORCEMENT

Advanced SMART Crime Analysis capacity among relevant WWF-Laos staff through mentorship in threat mapping, crime scripting and threat forecasting.

PLANTED

17,090 native and fruit trees in restoration areas, covering 18 hectares in six villages.

MONITORED DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES

Continued monitoring of development activities within Xe Sap NP to support effective park management and inform appropriate management responses.



OVERVIEW

258,634 Hectares

67 Communities live in and around this national park

334 Bird species found, including around seven endemic species

Hosts one of the two internationally recognized Ramsar Sites in Laos

Xe Pian 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, Bueng Kiat Ngong, which hosts valuable wetland complexes and supports diverse water bird and aquatic species.

Xe Pian is home to at least 334 bird species, the highest recorded in any protected area in Laos, with around seven species endemic to this landscape. There are around 67 local communities living in and around the park.

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

FY26 EFFORTS AND MILESTONES AT THIS PRIORITY SITE THROUGH COLLECTIVE PARTNERSHIP INCLUDE:

PLANTED

51,000 native and fruit trees in restoration areas, covering **73** hectares of degraded forest in five villages, helping restore forest cover, support biodiversity and community livelihoods, and strengthen long-term climate resilience.

ASSESSED TREE SURVIVAL

5 villages received support for forest restoration and tree planting recorded an average survival rate of **66%** with generally healthy growth while identifying areas requiring further maintenance.

STRENGTHENED

Park monitoring and patrol capacity through additional technical training and field equipment.

COMPLETED AND LAUNCHED

2 videos: one on forest restoration and another on agroforestry. The videos help showcase conservation approaches and results while supporting awareness and knowledge sharing among partners and communities.

COMPLETED ASSESSMENTS

6 communities around the park identified climate vulnerabilities, understanding local risks and priorities, and informing community-level adaptation planning to strengthen resilience and help communities better prepare for climate impacts.

ENGAGED

29 stakeholders in validating Climate Change Adaptation Plans for six villages in Xe Pian NP, helping ensure plans reflect local climate risks, priorities and community needs.

TRAINED

30 government officials from forest and national park management in GIS and Google Earth Engine tools to strengthen forest monitoring.

STORY OF CHANGE

Published a feature story of a community member leading a family-run nursery, highlighting how local action is contributing to forest restoration, sustainable livelihoods and stronger community participation in conservation around Xe Pian NP.



3 COMBATING ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

OVERVIEW

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 Natural Resources and Environment Inspection, 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 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.

CLICK HERE to read more about WWF-Laos' support for this programme

FY26 EFFORTS AND MILESTONES THROUGH COLLECTIVE PARTNERSHIP INCLUDE:

137 ILLEGAL WILDLIFE CASES
detected, including online cases; 14 investigated and six convictions secured, including a landmark tiger-trafficking conviction.

945 KILOGRAMS OF WILDLIFE SPECIMENS
from illegal trade were confiscated and destroyed by authorities.

117 OFFICIALS TRAINED
across seven provinces through three trainings on wildlife crime laws, evidence handling, online and financial crime investigation. A national Manual on Financial Investigation Related to Wildlife and Forest Resource Crimes was also officially endorsed, strengthening capacity to investigate wildlife and forest crime.

757 KILOGRAMS OF PANGOLIN SCALES SEIZED
along with a leopard carcass and tiger bones, and transferred to the CITES Management Authority following closure of the case.

1 BEAR BILE FARM CLOSED
in Oudomxay Province, with all 27 bears relocated to a sanctuary.

5 AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS CONDUCTED
across two provinces, reaching nearly 1,300 people in 16 villages, while an online campaign reached over 64,000 people and generated more than 2,000 engagements.

STRENGTHENED CROSS-BORDER WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT
Advanced bilateral cooperation with Thailand and China, including a new direct information-exchange mechanism with Thailand on wildlife crime cases.

SUPPORTED WILDLIFE FARM REGULATION
Contributed to the approval of Prime Minister's Order No. 25, strengthening tiger and macaque farm inspections and enforcement, including requirements for farm closure or conversion.

10 YEARS OF NATIONAL TIGER RECOVERY ACTION PLAN (2026-2035)
was approved, strengthening long-term action for tiger conservation and recovery, while guiding coordinated efforts to protect tiger habitats across high-potential recovery sites in Laos.

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



Plastic signage in Luang Prabang, one of the target cities under the Plastic Smart Cities initiative in Laos | © WWF-Laos

4 BUILDING PLASTIC SMART CITIES

OVERVIEW

WWF-Laos envisions a future where plastic pollution is significantly reduced to protect people, wildlife and ecosystems. Our plastic and waste management work supports the National Plastics Action Plan and the Plastic Smart Cities initiative in urban and rural areas.

By promoting sustainable alternatives, reducing single-use plastics, and strengthening effective waste management systems, we aim to prevent plastic leakage into nature. These efforts are integrated across WWF-supported projects and communities, contributing to a healthier environment, reduced pollution, and improved well-being for both people and wildlife – supporting Laos' transition toward a cleaner, more sustainable future.

In Laos, WWF is working to reduce this growing threat through its plastic reduction and waste management activities, currently active in Luang Prabang, Vang Vieng, 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.

CLICK HERE to read more about WWF-Laos' support for this programme

FY26 EFFORTS AND MILESTONES THROUGH COLLECTIVE PARTNERSHIP INCLUDE:

40 HOTELS ENGAGED IN RESOURCE-EFFICIENCY ASSESSMENTS

representing around 67% of the target and establishing baseline data to guide future plastic reduction and sustainability improvements.

1st NATIONAL PLASTIC & MARKET ANALYSES INITIATED

Laos' first Material Flow Analysis and Market Systems Analysis initiated to strengthen evidence base for plastic reduction, sustainable alternatives and future investment.

56 WASTE DISPOSAL SIGNS AND BINS INSTALLED

across Luang Prabang and Vang Vieng to encourage proper waste disposal and reduce littering.

STRENGTHENED THE LASTING LAOS CERTIFICATION SCHEME

by reviewing and expanding sustainability standards to support more environmentally responsible tourism businesses.

ESTABLISHED A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM

bringing together the Department of Environment, WWF-Laos, Plan International Laos, Swisscontact and private sector partners to tackle single-use plastic pollution and strengthen waste management in Laos.

2 MILLION EUROS CO-FINANCING SECURED

from the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM), strengthening WWF-Laos' capacity to scale plastic pollution reduction, sustainable tourism and circular economy solutions.

60 GOVERNMENT & STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVES ENGAGED

through national consultations, strengthening coordination and ownership of circular economy and sustainable tourism actions.

ESTABLISHED

a Small Matching Grants Programme, creating opportunities for tourism businesses, entrepreneurs and communities to develop circular solutions and alternatives to single-use plastics.

CONNECTED LAOS TO GLOBAL PLASTIC ACTION

enabling knowledge and good-practice exchange with plastic reduction initiatives across five other countries.

PARTICIPATED IN PLASTIC FREE JULY

through a month-long social media campaign promoting single-use plastic reduction and sustainable everyday choices.



Government officials, NGOs, CSOs and development partners at the National Dialogue on Sand Governance in Laos | © WWF-Laos

5 ENGAGING CIVIL SOCIETY

FY26 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES

WWF-Laos works with civil society organizations (CSOs) to strengthen local leadership and bring community voices and knowledge into conservation.

BUILT STRONGER CSO PARTNERSHIPS

Formally partnered with six Lao civil society organisations to strengthen locally led conservation and community action:

- Association for Environmental Protection and Community Empowerment (AEPCE)
- Gender Development Association (GDA)
- Green Community Alliance (GCA)
- Lao Microfinance Association (LMFA)
- Rural Development Agency (RDA)
- Wildlife and Conservation Association (WCA)

6 CSO PARTNERSHIPS

LAUNCHED THE ToPP PROGRAMME

The Together for People and Planet programme brought six CSO partners together with WWF-Laos to build capacity and advance locally-led solutions for people and nature.

STRENGTHENED CSO CAPACITY & INCLUSION

Provided capacity building on impact monitoring, storytelling, reporting, financial management and procurement, including Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and gender analysis, to strengthen programme delivery and promote more inclusive conservation.

SHARED MEKONG LEARNING

Supported Lao CSO partners to share achievements, lessons and impact stories with partners from five Mekong countries through a regional Impact Sharing Workshop.

6 STRENGTHENING POLICY

FY26 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES

Strong policies are important for lasting conservation. WWF-Laos works alongside government, civil society and other partners, sharing conservation knowledge and experience to support national policy discussions and planning. In FY26, this included important processes related to biodiversity, climate, conservation areas, natural resources and national development.

44 to 22 NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

~100 POTENTIAL OECM SITES

78% OVERALL NBSAP TRACKER SCORE

300 PEOPLE ENGAGED ON OECMs AND NBSAP

75% HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH SCORE

STRENGTHENED NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PLANNING

Supported the revision of Lao PDR's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), helping streamline the number of national biodiversity targets from 44 to 22 and strengthening participation from civil society, communities and other stakeholders.

ADVANCED OECM RECOGNITION

Supported the development of national criteria and coordination for Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs), with nearly 100 potential sites identified across forests, wetlands, karst landscapes and other important ecosystems.

COMPLETED SAND MINING RESEARCH

Completed a national assessment, delivered policy recommendations, and convened a national multi-sector dialogue with around 200 participants, alongside provincial consultations, public engagement and regional knowledge exchange.

EXPANDED REGIONAL LEARNING

Connected Lao partners with conservation practitioners across the Mekong region, including Thailand, to exchange experience and strengthen practical knowledge on OECMs and biodiversity conservation.

BUILT POLICY CAPACITY

Engaged and built the capacity of more than 300 stakeholders through OECM and NBSAP processes.


A community member feeding chickens provided through project livelihood support in Phou Xieng Thong NPA, Laos | © WWF-Laos

7 KEY 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 people are empowered and included, and where people and nature thrive together.

FY26 KEY EFFORTS AND MILESTONES ACROSS THESE THEMES INCLUDED:

CLIMATE CHANGE

- **EMBEDDED CLIMATE ACTION ACROSS PROGRAMMES**

  Integrated climate adaptation and resilience across WWF-Laos' 2026–2030 Strategy, linking forest restoration, freshwater and watershed protection, nature-based solutions and community livelihoods.

- **ADVANCED NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS**

  Promoted forest restoration, healthy watersheds and sustainable livelihoods that strengthen community resilience to climate change.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- **FORMALIZED A NEW STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

  Signed the first MoU for the GEF-funded project with the Department of Water Resources, establishing a six-year partnership to strengthen climate resilience across four river basins in Sayaboury Province.

- **EXPANDED PARTNERSHIPS**

  Progressed four new MoUs covering plastics, climate resilience, forest restoration and wetland conservation projects, with formal partnerships expected to be established by early 2027.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

- **PROMOTED SUSTAINABLE FARMING IN PRIORITY SITES**

  Supported agroforestry, sustainable farming and climate-resilient livelihood practices across WWF-Laos' priority sites, helping communities improve livelihoods while reducing pressure on forests and other natural resources.

- **EXPANDED SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS**

  Supported communities with more sustainable livelihood options, including farming, livestock, fisheries and forest-based products – helping diversify local income and reduce dependence on natural resources.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

- **INTEGRATED FINANCE INTO CONSERVATION PLANNING**

  Integrated longer-term financing into WWF-Laos' 2026–2030 strategy and conservation planning, supporting more sustainable investment in wildlife recovery and protected-area management.

GENDER EQUALITY, DISABILITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

- **ADVANCED GEDSI ACROSS WWF-LAOS**

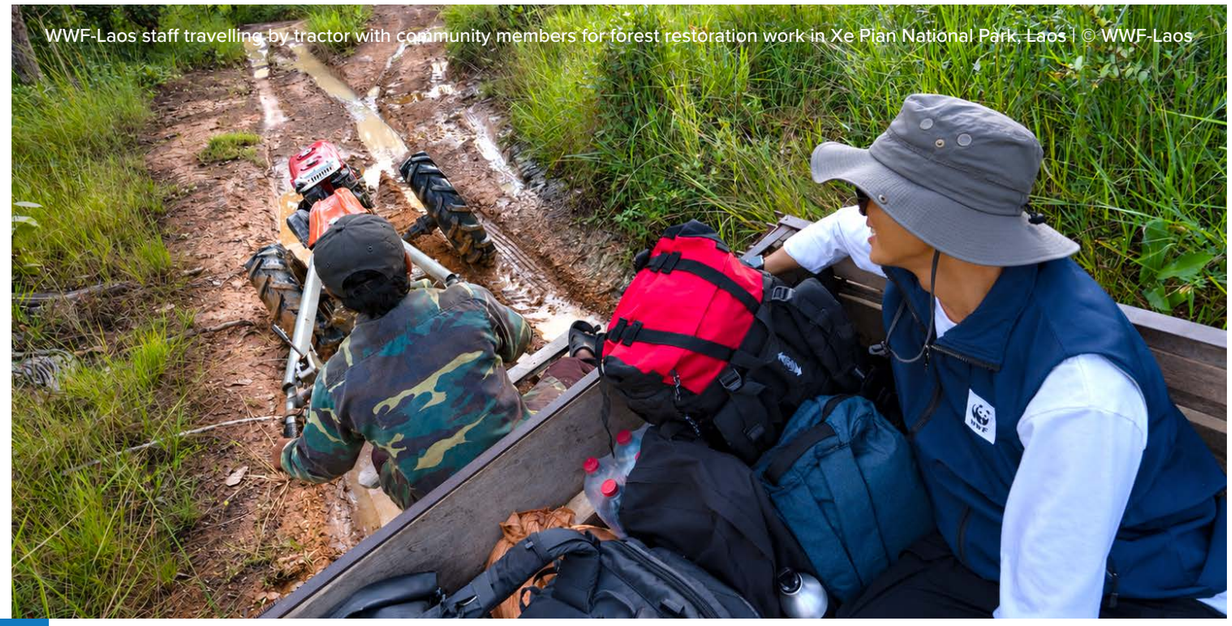
  Built staff capacity to integrate Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) across conservation programmes and operations, bringing together colleagues from different teams and functions.

- **CONDUCTED WWF-LAOS' FIRST PSEAH TRAINING**

  Delivered WWF-Laos' first dedicated training on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH), strengthening staff capacity to prevent, identify and respond to safeguarding risks.

- **STRENGTHENED CHILD SAFEGUARDING**

  Strengthened staff understanding of child safeguarding principles and responsibilities, supporting safer and more inclusive conservation programmes and organizational practices.


WWF-Laos staff travelling by tractor with community members for forest restoration work in Xe Pian National Park, Laos | © WWF-Laos

8 ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Enabling functions are essential to delivering WWF-Laos' conservation impact, helping our programmes operate effectively, efficiently and responsibly.

Through smart resource management, strong governance and transparent finance, these functions strengthen decision-making and collaboration, while clear communications and advocacy help keep our efforts aligned.

From finance and people and culture to operations, resource acquisition, communications, impact and innovation, governance and safeguarding, these functions provide the foundation that enables WWF-Laos to deliver its work and contribute to a future where people and nature thrive in harmony.

Here are some of the key enabling functions that support our work.



KEY EFFORTS AND MILESTONES FROM OUR ENABLING FUNCTIONS IN FY26

RESOURCE ACQUISITION

- **US$ 14.7 MILLION**
  Income secured across 21 funded grants.
- **95% EXTERNAL FUNDING**
  With 5% from the WWF network.
- **SECURED NEW FUNDING**
  Secured WWF-Laos' first projects funded by the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), and its second GEF-funded project, while strengthening engagement with funding partners in Asia.
- **EXPLORED PARTNERSHIPS**
  Engaged with UNIDO, ADB and the World Bank to explore potential partnerships, collaboration and funding opportunities to support future conservation initiatives in Laos.

FINANCE

MANAGED ANNUAL BUDGET
Effectively managed income and expenditure, ensuring responsible financial oversight, efficient resource allocation, and support for programme delivery across WWF-Laos.

IMPROVED COST RECOVERY
Strengthened approaches to project costing, direct cost recovery and accounting processes to support greater financial sustainability.

ADVANCED DIGITAL FINANCE
Finalized and piloted digital financial guidelines, making financial processes clearer, more consistent and easier for staff and project teams to use.

STRENGTHENED REPORTING
Improved donor financial reporting and advanced a Country Office Financial Dashboard for stronger monitoring and decision-making.

PEOPLE AND CULTURE

DIGITALIZED SYSTEMS
Rolled out online modules for employee profiles, recruitment, leave, performance and learning.

BUILT & RETAINED TALENT
Recruited 20 positions and reduced staff turnover, helping strengthen team capacity, retain experienced staff and ensure greater workforce stability across the organisation.

INVESTED IN PEOPLE & LEADERSHIP
The majority of staff engaged in performance reviews and completed learning and development plans.

SUPPORTED WELLBEING & SAFETY
Delivered monthly wellbeing activities and essential First Aid, Fire Drill, Health & Safety, and Security training, achieving a 74% Work Well Index and 69% staff satisfaction.

IMPACT AND INNOVATION

DIGITIZED IMPACT MONITORING
Achieved 100% Panda Impact digitization, improving the quality and reliability of conservation reporting.

HARMONIZED M&E SYSTEMS
Integrated project M&E frameworks and indicators into one master framework, reducing duplication and strengthening reporting.

ADVANCED DATA & INNOVATION
Introduced real-time IWT monitoring using KoboToolbox and Power BI, while expanding automated reporting.

BUILT IN-HOUSE CAPACITY
Completed the One Health Baseline Assessment and strengthened staff skills in Panda Impact, GIS Hub and camera-trap monitoring.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY

EXPANDED DIGITAL REACH
Unique website visits grew from 3,756 (FY25) to 44,680 (FY26) while Facebook followers increased by 8% to 22,300.

RAISED WWF-LAOS' PROFILE
Increased visibility of WWF-Laos' conservation results through strategic storytelling, campaigns, media engagement and digital communications.

ADVANCED ADVOCACY
Started integrating advocacy into WWF-Laos' work through planning, capacity building, participation in national-level discussions, and collaboration with key partners.

BROUGHT NEW STRATEGY TO LIFE
Launched and promoted the WWF-Laos 2026–2030 Strategy through engaging visuals, communications materials and digital content.

SAFEGUARDS

BUILT SAFEGUARDS CAPACITY
Delivered practical safeguards training for communities, CSO partners and government counterparts, covering stakeholder engagement, gender equality, child safeguarding and grievance mechanisms.

ENHANCED THE SAFEGUARDS FRAMEWORK
Revised WWF-Laos' Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), combining national experience with regional safeguards expertise.

IMPROVED COMMUNITY GRM
Conducted Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) refresher training for projects, strengthening community and local authority understanding of how to raise concerns and provide feedback.

ADVANCED FPIC PRACTICE
Built the capacity of six CSO partners to apply Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and conduct more inclusive and informed community consultations.

OPERATIONS

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

UPGRADED DIGITAL SYSTEMS	Completed migration to WWF's global Microsoft system and upgraded devices to Windows 11, improving collaboration, security and reliability.
ACHIEVED 100% CYBERSECURITY TRAINING	All staff completed mandatory cybersecurity awareness training, strengthening digital security practices across WWF-Laos.
IMPROVED STAFF DIGITAL SKILLS	Conducted practical Microsoft 365 training to strengthen staff skills and improve the use of digital tools in daily work.
PROMOTED RESPONSIBLE AI USE	Adopted WWF International's AI Use Policy, providing clear guidance for staff on the responsible and secure use of AI.

PROCUREMENT

BUILT A NETWORK OF TRUSTED SUPPLIERS	Strengthened relationships with reliable suppliers that meet WWF-Laos standards for quality, fair pricing, timely delivery and responsible business practices.
SUPPORTED PARTNER PROCUREMENT	Supported CSOs and project partners to better understand and follow WWF and donor procurement requirements.
STRENGTHENED PROCUREMENT CHECKS	Carried out regular checks across projects to ensure purchasing is fair, properly documented and provides good value for money.

ADMINISTRATION

SUPPORTED SMOOTH OPERATIONS	Supported travel, meetings, field missions and the timely delivery of materials and equipment, helping teams work effectively across Vientiane and field offices.
PROMOTED GREEN OFFICE PRACTICES	Rolled out Green Office practices across WWF-Laos, promoting better waste separation and more environmentally responsible office practices.
MAINTAINED A SAFE WORKPLACE	Recorded zero workplace incidents across WWF-Laos offices, helping ensure a safe and secure working environment for all staff.



An aerial view of Paklay District, Laos, where the Nam Lay River meets the Mekong River | © WWF-Laos

9 CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Nature under pressure – but recovery is possible.

Laos remains one of the most biodiverse countries in Southeast Asia, with forests, rivers and wetlands that sustain extraordinary wildlife and millions of people. Yet these natural systems are under growing pressure.

Habitat loss and degradation, unsustainable resource use, infrastructure and resource development, wildlife crime, pollution and climate change are increasingly interconnected. Addressing them requires more than protecting individual species or places – it requires working across landscapes, river basins, communities, markets and policies.

But there is also a reason for hope.

Across Laos, stronger national commitments, community-led conservation, improved science and monitoring, new partnerships and greater recognition of the value of nature are creating opportunities to change course.

KEY CHALLENGES

Wildlife crime and unsustainable hunting

Illegal wildlife trade, hunting and snaring continue to threaten wildlife, while trafficking increasingly extends into online markets.

Capacity, financing and enforcement gaps

Conservation continues to require stronger management capacity, monitoring, coordination, enforcement and long-term financing.

Unsustainable agriculture and land-use change

Agricultural expansion and changing land use are placing increasing pressure on forests, soils, freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity.

Forest loss and habitat degradation

Forest conversion and degradation continue to reduce and fragment important habitats, threatening biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Unsustainable use of natural resources

Unsustainable use of natural resources is placing increasing pressure on forests, freshwater ecosystems, wildlife and the communities that depend on them.

Climate change and extreme weather

Rising temperatures, changing rainfall, droughts, floods and other climate impacts are increasing pressure on ecosystems and vulnerable communities.

Pollution and waste

Plastic waste, chemicals and other forms of pollution are putting growing pressure on terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems.

Pressure on freshwater ecosystems

Unsustainable fishing, habitat alteration, resource extraction and changing river systems threaten freshwater biodiversity and fisheries that communities depend on.

Limited integration of biodiversity into development planning

Biodiversity and ecosystem values need stronger integration into development planning, investment and decision-making to avoid or reduce impacts on nature.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION



Healthy forests, healthy communities

Strengthen protected area and forest management, restore degraded ecosystems, support community stewardship, improve monitoring and enforcement, and promote sustainable management and financing of forests.



Stop the trade, keep wildlife alive

Protect priority species and habitats, strengthen monitoring and law enforcement, reduce illegal wildlife trade and snaring, mitigate human-wildlife conflict, and support the recovery of threatened wildlife.



Rivers for life

Strengthen community fisheries management, protect critical freshwater habitats and species, improve river-basin management, and build climate resilience for freshwater ecosystems and the people who depend on them.



Clean nature for a better future

Reduce single-use plastics, improve waste management, promote more sustainable production and consumption, and strengthen climate adaptation and nature-based solutions.

SCIENCE SHOWS THAT RECOVERY IS POSSIBLE. With stronger partnerships, community leadership, better science and sustained investment, today's challenges can become opportunities for lasting change.

10 PARTNERSHIPS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION AND LASTING IMPACT ARE BUILT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP.

Across Laos, we work alongside government, communities, civil society, donors and development partners, academia and experts, and the WWF network to turn shared ambitions into lasting results for people and nature.



Built on partnership. Growing through collaboration. Looking to the future.

TOWARDS 2030

WWF-LAOS' STRATEGY 2026–2030: FOR A THRIVING FUTURE

FY26 marked the first year of WWF-Laos' new strategic plan 2026–2030, setting our direction for the next five years of conservation action. Through our four conservation thematic areas – Forests, Freshwater, Wildlife and Circular Resilience – we are working to protect and restore nature, strengthen resilience and deliver lasting benefits for people and nature.

These ambitions cannot be achieved alone. Strong partnerships, community leadership, science, innovation and sustainable financing will be essential as we move towards 2030. Together with our partners, we will turn shared commitments into action and build a thriving future for people and nature.


A young wild Asian elephant in Nam Poui National Protected Area, Laos | © WWF-Laos

TOGETHER, WE ENVISION A THRIVING AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR LAOS.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP.

CLICK HERE to learn more about WWF-Laos' work



WWF-LAOS

FY26 ANNUAL REPORT

This report highlights key milestones and is not a comprehensive reporting of all achievements. For more detailed information, contact us at: wwf-laos@wwf.org.la

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together possible™

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