



LAOS

# HELPING PEOPLE & NATURE TO THRIVE

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS 2019, WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE IN LAOS





## WILDLIFE



## FOREST



## FRESHWATER

# OUR FOCUSED ACTIVITIES

Over the past few years, WWF has been focusing conservation work in Laos across 3 main thematic areas - Wildlife, Forest and Freshwater.

The 3 key strategies for our conservation work are (1) Landscape Planning & Management: Protect High Conservation Value Forests & Wildlife habitat;

(2) Wildlife & Protected Areas: Combat poaching and illegal wildlife trade, and illegal timber flows;

(3) Responsible Investments, Production & Consumption: Increase the area of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified forest, and promote sustainable production.

# Nam Poui

Read more  
about activities  
in Nam Poui NBCA  
[HERE](#)



Once known as “The Land of a Million Elephants”, today only a few hundred wild elephants can be found in Laos. WWF has identified Nam Poui National Biodiversity Conservation Area (Nam Poui NBCA) in northwest Laos as a top priority for elephant conservation.

Threats to the elephant include loss of habitat as a growing population results in encroachment into its ancestral home. As this occurs, elephants may wander from the forest onto farmers’ land, destroying crops and damaging property, leading to human-elephant conflict.

Habitat loss also creates the danger that elephants are unable to follow ancient migratory routes. Small, fragmented populations then become isolated, unable to connect with other herds. One of the greatest consequences of this is low breeding success and high juvenile mortality, and in some cases this leads to inbreeding.

The government’s partnership with WWF-Laos focuses to restore, maintain and increase the population of Asian elephant within Nam Poui. To do this, increased monitoring and data collection on wild elephants is conducted, guidelines for land use management are being set out, making patrols more effective, and decreasing human-elephant conflicts.



# Nam Poui NBCA

---

0 elephant killed

2% increase in elephant population

19 trips of patrolling, with total 95 days

750 km. of patrolled distance

61 illegal activities detected and reported

191,200 ha. of Nam Poui under protection

790 households received land-use planning support

1,175 villagers educated on protected area regulations



# Nam Poui NBCA



25

species identified; including endangered species



28

camera traps set up



12,124

wildlife photos taken





# illegal wildlife trade

Read more about  
illegal wildlife trade  
project activities  
[HERE](#)



The Government of Lao PDR is committed to protecting and enhancing its natural forests and their associated wildlife. However, the Government of Lao PDR has historically had a relatively inconsistent and fragmented approach to forest and wildlife crime, particularly those involving domestic timber, and wildlife products originating from outside Lao.

This has facilitated the emergence of Laos as a transit country for the illegal trade of wildlife products coming from Africa and ultimately destined for China and Vietnam. The high level of regional tourism, and the ban on the sale of illegal wildlife in China, has also resulted in Laos becoming a consuming country for items such as ivory, rhinoceros horns and tigers.

WWF is working to support and strengthen wildlife law enforcement in Laos, and to strengthen cross-border cooperation with neighbouring countries in order to reduce illegal wildlife trade in key markets and retail hubs in Laos. This is done by expanding capacity to detect discourage, and disrupt organised criminal networks, and prosecute those members involved in illegal wildlife crime. The focus has been placed on the provinces of Vientiane capital, Oudomxay, Luang Namtha and Bokeo. However, in the future other provinces will be supported to tackle wildlife crime or emerging criminal activities.

WWF is pleased to support the Government of Lao PDR in implementing actions that reduce the sale and availability of illegal wildlife and wildlife products. WWF's anti-wildlife crime programme for the Greater Mekong Region is also empowering local officials and communities to report and disrupt wildlife poaching and illegal wildlife trading in markets which are contributing to a loss of biodiversity and local populations of endangered species.



# Support to strengthen wildlife law enforcement in Laos and cross-border cooperation with neighbouring countries



Continue to inform Lao wildlife laws to villagers/sellers in local markets

**6**

new markets investigated for illegal wildlife trading

**18,000**

units of anti-wildlife trade pamphlets distributed targeting international borders, airports, Special Economic Zones and tourist sites

**40**

law enforcement officers attended cross-border cooperation meetings

**1,487**

ivory products (228 kg) confiscated

**105**

officers trained on wildlife law enforcement, seizures, and investigation skills

**15**

live pangolins seized and released to the wild



# Central Annamites

Read more about  
CarBi project  
activities  
[HERE](#)



© Bounpone. S / WWF-Laos

The Central Annamites mountain range, stretching over 10,000sq.km of core forest between Laos and Vietnam, is home to both humans and rare species such as duoc and saola. It is one of the biggest contiguous natural forests in continental Asia, and a storehouse of rich biodiversity and unique endemism.

Through innovative and transformational conservation interventions, WWF is supporting governments in Laos and Vietnam to meet their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Carbon and Biodiversity project (CarBi 2) is a transboundary project that contributes to the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of ecosystems and the conservation of biological diversity in the Central Annamites.

In Laos, the project will help conserve the biodiversity and ecosystems in and around the forest complex of Xesap National Biodiversity Conservation Area.



# Carbon and Biodiversity Phase 2 / Forest Restoration / Leading the Change

4

patrolling teams

45

illegal camps destroyed

3,316

native tree  
species planted

139

days of patrolling

72

people warned  
for trespassing in the  
restricted area

4,600

fruit-tree seedlings  
distributed to 305  
families

768

km. of Central Annamites  
patrolled

96

camera traps  
retrieved

464

people directly  
benefited from the  
National Biodiversity  
Conservation Area  
interventions

1,236

snare removed

2

Green schools  
established

# Rattan & Bamboo

Read more about  
Rattan and Bamboo  
project activities  
[HERE](#)



Rattan is a naturally renewable palm that grows in the tropical regions of Africa and Asia and is used for furniture, handicrafts and building material, among other uses. A forest product that is relatively easy to harvest and has multiple uses, it can help alleviate pressure on natural forests by providing local communities with an alternative source of income.

Rattan is an invaluable part of rural people's livelihoods in Laos but over-harvesting and land conversion is causing a rapid decline of natural rattan.

WWF has been working with communities and government officials in Bolikhamxay Province and neighbouring Xekong and Saravan provinces since 2006 – and in southern Laos since 2009 – to develop a viable and sustainable management and supply chain model that ensures the forest is protected while also contributing to local livelihood.

The project provides capacity building, funding and training to villagers on rattan harvesting and production.

It is part of wider WWF efforts in the Greater Mekong region – particularly Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam – to establish a sustainable rattan supply chain from natural forests and create income from non-timber forest products.

In Laos, villagers have been trained to manage their inventory and harvest, split and weave rattan that's sold domestically and is also exported to countries like Thailand, Switzerland, Sweden and the US.



# Sustainable Rattan-Bamboo Production and Harvesting Project Phase 5

10,949

ha. of Forest Stewardship Council certified rattan forest maintained

1,964

ha. of rattan and bamboo forest inventoried in Sekong province

13

tons of Forest Stewardship Council rattan harvested

18,000

rattan seedlings provided to the villagers

166

households benefited from rattan nursery and plantation

8

village handicraft groups established with 132 households

6

business links with 2 village harvesting groups and 5 village handicraft groups

7

villages received training on forest conservation and management

5

villages received land-use planning

382

households got direct benefit & income from rattan



# Freshwater

More about our two  
freshwater projects:  
[Middle Mekong](#) and  
[Siphandone](#)



The Mekong River provides millions of tons of fish each year which makes up more than 75% of the animal, and 35% of the protein intake of the population. The people living along the Mekong are thus dependent on the river.

WWF is working in three provinces along the middle Mekong main stem with the overall objective to contribute to the overall socio-economic development of the Lao PDR, particularly that of agriculture and forestry, through the management and sustainable use of fisheries and aquatic natural resources in the Mekong River.

This is being done by working to improve transboundary freshwater natural resources management via the creation of fish conservation zones, fisheries management committees and village patrolling units, support local livelihoods and the development of alternative sources of income to reduce pressure on freshwater natural resources, including aquaculture, and raising awareness of communities to better understand the benefits of fish conservation and fisheries management, and supporting more effective patrolling of the river.



# Management and Sustainable Use of Fisheries and Aquatic Natural Resources in Siphandone Phase 2

## Fisheries Community Co-Management in the Middle Mekong Phase 1

14

new fish conservation zones established with a total of 109.6 ha.

1,323

days and 762 nights of river patrolling

165,195

fingerlings released to the fish conservation zones

20

fishing equipments removed from fish conservation zones

15

illegal fishing activities stopped

507


households got direct benefit & income from project livelihoods

Provided study tours for villages on fish conservation zone management, fish processing and small livestock raising.



Laos has lost an unimaginable amount of its forest and wildlife over the past decades. Consequently, today's generation only knows the names of some species from stories. Despite this seemingly dismal state, there is still hope - a hope to save the remaining fauna and flora that are endangered and under threat - a hope that the people of Laos will act now for Lao forests and wildlife, speaking together with a voice that will inspire protection of Laos' biodiversity.

Now is the time that all of us should work for conservation by taking action to promote a sustainable natural landscape in Laos, ultimately advocating for harmony between people and wildlife. Together, we can be stewards of WWF's mission to conserve nature by reducing the most critical threats impinging on natural diversity in Laos and on earth.

A white cat is standing in a forest, looking towards the camera. The background is a dense forest with green foliage.

**Because together, anything is possible.**

WWF-Laos is supporting the government of Laos to promote sustainable use of natural resources and to ensure the conservation of the most biodiverse areas within the country. We use the most accurate scientific information available to find solutions to today's pressing conservation issues. To achieve our goals, we work to build relationships with government, other conservation-focused organizations, industry, and communities.

More about WWF-Laos can be found [HERE](#)











# CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS 2019, WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE IN LAOS

## 2001

Although the WWF-Laos Country Office was officially established in 2001, WWF began working in Laos in the late 1980's.

## 40+

WWF-Laos is made up of over 40 dedicated staff working from one of our 3 offices in Vientiane, Pakse and Savannakhet.

## \$2 million

(approx.) financial support for 2019



## 03

Our 3 main areas of Practice are: Wildlife, Forest and Freshwater

# OUR MISSION IS TO STOP THE DEGRADATION OF THE PLANET'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND TO BUILD A FUTURE IN WHICH HUMANS LIVE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE.

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS 2019, WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE IN LAOS



Working to sustain the natural  
world for the benefit of people  
and wildlife.

**together possible™**

© 1986 Panda Symbol WWF – World Wide Fund for Nature  
(formerly World Wildlife Fund) © “WWF” is a WWF Registered  
Trademark.

WWF-Laos: PO Box 7871, House No.39, Unit 05, Saylom  
Village, Chanthabouly District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR.  
Tel: +856 21 216080 | [wwf-laos@wwf.org.la](mailto:wwf-laos@wwf.org.la) | [www.wwf.org.la](http://www.wwf.org.la)