



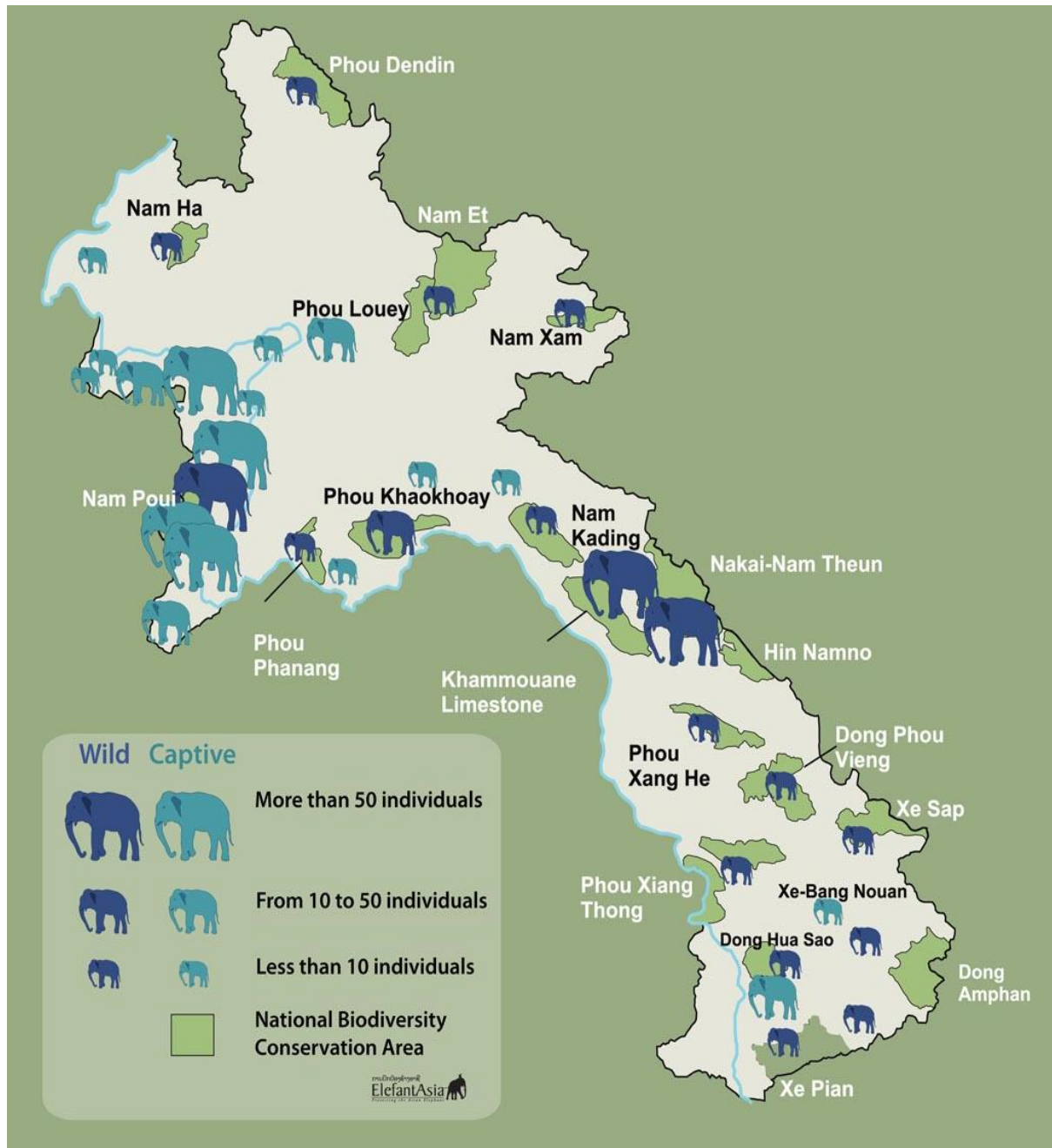
**Lao People's Democratic Republic**  
**Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity**

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

No. 0650 /MAF

Vientiane, Date: 03 JUN 2020

## **National Ivory Action Plan of Lao PDR**



**Year: 2020-2025**

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## **Abbreviation**

AWG	= ASEAN Working Group
CITES	= Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COP16	= Sixteenth (16th) Conference of the Parties
DCNEC	= Department of Combating Natural Resources and Environmental Crime
DNA	= Deoxyribonucleic Acid
DoF	= Department of Forestry
DoFI	= Department of Forestry Inspection
ICCWC	= International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
IT	= Information Technology
IWT	= Illegal Wildlife Trade
IWTC	= Illegal Wildlife Trade Combatting
IWTT	= International Wildlife and Timber Trafficking
LA	= Law Enforcement Authority
Lao-WEN	= Lao-Wildlife Enforcement Network
LCD	= Lao Customs Department
LENS2	= Second (2nd) Lao Environment and Social Project
LETAG	= Law Enforcement Technical Advisory Group
MA	= Management Authority
MAF	= Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
MIKE	= Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants
NCB	= National Central Bureau
NDF	= Non-Detriment Findings
NIAP	= National Ivory Action Plan
NPA	= National Protected Area
OSPP	= Office of the Supreme People's Prosecutor
PM	= Prime Minister
RILO	= Regional Intelligence Liaison Office
SA	= Scientific Authority
SC	= Standing Committee
SOMTC	= Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime
UNGA	= United Nations General Assembly
UNODC	= United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USAID	= United States Agency for International Development
US-INL	= United States Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
WARN	= Wild Animal Rescue Network
WCS	= Wildlife Conservation Society
WE	= Wildlife Enforcement
WWF	= World Wide Fund for Nature

## Preface

The Government of Lao PDR has a clear and comprehensive policy on the control, inspection, conservation and protection of aquatic and wildlife resources in a sustainable way by advocating people to be aware of the importance of the work and encourage their active participation. It has issued the Law on Aquatic and Wildlife No. 07/NA, dated 24 December 2007, the outstanding of Prime Minister issued Order No. 05/PM, dated 08 May 2018 on the Strengthening Strictness of the Management and Inspection of Prohibited Wild Fauna and Flora, at the same time, focusing on the agriculture and forestry sectors has adopted legislation, conducting the implementation which will be including National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP). This National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) has been developed in support of Lao PDR's commitment to implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wildlife (CITES) in Lao PDR and it is based on the evaluation and assessment of the implementation of the recent work on the control of the trafficking of endangered wildlife of fauna and flora, the future objectives and goals, as well as the detailed plan and implementation which will be a reference for concerned departments at central to local levels.

The main objective of this NIAP is to reinforce the Law on Aquatic and Wildlife No. 07/NA, dated 24 December 2007, and the commitments and responsibilities of Lao PDR to CITES. The Department of Forestry is the coordinating body at the central level (under the Agreement of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, No. 1137/MAF, dated 23 May 2018), particularly for the implementation of the results of the SC69 meeting and the COP16 meeting. The meetings have recommended that Lao PDR and other member countries to strengthen the prevention of trafficking endangered wildlife, flora and their parts, including products of endangered wildlife and flora as defined in the list of CITES, particularly the prevention of illegal trade of ivory and ivory products.

The Department of Forestry, as the coordinating of NIAP of Lao PDR, would like to thank the Second Lao Environment and Social Project (LENS2) at the Department of Forestry, United State Agency International Development (USAID), and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), for providing financial support for the development of this NIAP. Once again, on behalf of the Department of Forestry, I would also like to urge other direct responsible departments (who are mentioned in the Agreement of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry No. 1137/MAF, dated on 23 May 2018) and other concerned departments at the central and local levels to participate in the revision, roll out and implementation of this NIAP with strong responsibility and commitment. All people shall contribute to the prevention of trafficking of endangered wildlife and flora.

Vientiane Capital, date:



Director General,  
Department of Forestry





**Lao People's Democratic Republic**  
**Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity**

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

0650  
No: /MAF

Vientiane, date: 03 JUN 2020

**Decision**

**Approval and the Promulgation**  
**on National Ivory Action Plan of Lao PDR During 2020-2022**

- Pursuant to the Aquatic and Wildlife Law Ref. No. 07/NA, dated 24th December 2007;
- Pursuant to the Degree of Prime Minister Ref. No 99/PM, dated 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017 on the function and the roles of the ministry of Agriculture and Forestry;
- Pursuant to the Agreement of the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Ref. No. 1137/MAF, dated 23rd May 2018 on the Steering Committee and Secretariat of CITES Lao PDR;
- Pursuant to the request letter of the Department of Forestry Rel. No. 2107/DoF, dated 2020.

**Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry issues the Decision:**

- Article 1** Officially approve and promulgate the "National Ivory Action Plan of Lao PDR during 2020-2022"
- Article 2** Assign the Department of Forestry to be the main focal point and to cooperate with all stakeholders from central to local levels for the successful implementation of this "National Ivory Action Plan of Lao PDR During 2020-2022.
- Article 3** Offices, departments, institutes, division, units of each ministry, provincial and capital department of agriculture and forestry, district of agriculture and forestry office and other concerned departments shall acknowledge, and provide their cooperation for the successful implementation of this NIAP.
- Article 4** This Decision is effective from the date of signature.

**Minister of Agriculture and Forestry**

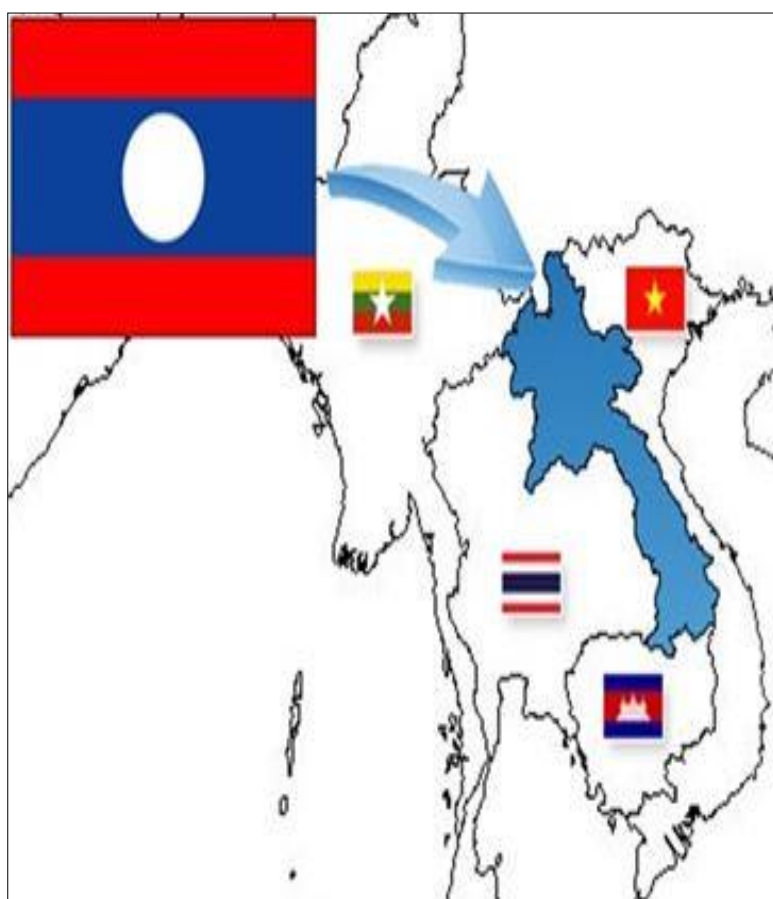


**Liane THYKEO, Ph.D**

## I. Status of implementation

Lao PDR has been actively implementing the NIAP since 2015 and has made a number of achievements. As a result, international confidence towards Lao PDR have improved and this can be seen in the results of the SC69 meeting, where: 1) the meeting agreed and approved the progress of Lao PDR in the implementation of the NIAP, which is in line with the guidelines; and 2) the meeting continued to support Lao PDR in the implementation of the NIAP, particularly on necessary and urgent measures to maintain the progress of the implementation.

### 1.1 Background



Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) is located in Southeast Asia and shares the border with five countries: China and Myanmar in the North, Vietnam in the East, Thailand in the West and Cambodia in the South. Lao PDR has a total area of 236,800 square kilometers, with a population of 6.901 million (as of 2017), and divided into 17 provinces and 1 Capital, 145 districts and 8.531 villages. The population comprises of about 50 different ethnic groups. The majority of the population is living in low land area, along the Mekong and its tributaries.

The main livelihood activities are cultivation and livestock raising. The national income per capita is 1,996 USD (United Nations, 2108) and the economic growth is an average 6.5-7% per year (<https://www.lsb.gov.la/en/all-statistical-yearbook/#.XMpRsS2BSm>)

As commonly known, Lao PDR in the past was named Lane Xang Kingdom or “Land of Million Elephants”. Historically, the country had a large population of elephants. Elephant is important and is the symbol of the country. They are loved and respected by

the people. However, the population of the elephants has seen a recent dramatic decrease. If they are not protected and conserved, they will be extinct in the near future.

The currently, number of population of wild elephants has decreased due to various reasons. The most recent data reveals that the population have 820 elephants of total, which includes 500 wild elephants and 320 domestic elephants

(<https://www.laotradeportal.gov.la./index.php?r=site/index>).

Lao PDR has been a member of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) since 30th May 2004. Since then Lao PDR has performed its commitments, for instance: the development of the National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) 2015 – 2016, which was managed by the Department of Forestry Resource Management under the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment, in close collaboration with other concerned departments, such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Department of Forestry and Department of Forest Inspection), Ministry of Industry and Commerce (Department of Import And Export), Ministry of Finance (Department of Customs), Ministry of Public Security (Department of Combating Natural Resource and Environmental Crime, and Department of International Police), People's Supreme Prosecution (Department of General Inspection), Ministry of Science and Technologies (Institute of Ecology and Bio-technology) and other local authorities throughout the country.

In July 2017, the government assigned the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry as the central body for the management of CITES in Lao PDR in capacity building general, improvement and implementation of NIAP in particular.

## **1.2 Legislation and Procedures:**

- Finalization and enforcement of the Penal Code No 118/President, dated 26th June 2017;
- The Agreement of the Prime Minister No. 18/PM, dated 26 March 2018, on the establishment of the responsible committee for the CITES;
- The Order of the Prime Minister No. 05/PM, dated 8 May 2018, on enhancing the control and the inspection of protected wildlife and flora;
- The Announcement of the Cabinet of the Prime Minister Office No. 64/CPMO, dated 15 January 2018 on the result of the participation in the CITES SC69 meeting;



- The Agreement of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry No. 0188/MAF, dated 8 February 2019 on the establishment and management of zoos, wildlife farms, centres for rehabilitation and breeding of wildlife and wild flora farms;
- Finalization of the Action Plan of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry No. 0654/MAF, dated 30 March 2018 on the prevention and control of crime on wildlife and aquatic, from the present until 2025;
- Completion of the three year-report on the implementation of NIAP and the implementation of CITES (2016-2018);
- Completion of the data collection for the draft of the action plan on the protection of elephant population in a sustainable way;

### **1.3 Law Enforcement and Cooperation:**

- Completed the development and improvement of the coordinating mechanism regarding law enforcement in order to strengthen internal collaboration through the agreement among CITES MA, CITES LA and CITES SA;
- Concerned officers in Lao PDR have discussed about the improvement of the list of aquatic and wildlife species of Lao PDR;
- From July to September 2018, the Prime Minister Order no. 05/PM was disseminated in three regions: a). for southern region, in Champasack province, in July 2018; b). for central region, in Luangprabang province, in August 2018; and c). for northern region, in Bokeo province, July 2018;
- In June 2018, the law enforcement departments arrested two illegal wildlife traders outside the Nam Et-Phou Louey National Protected Area, for transporting an Asian golden cat and 4 Asiatic black bear paws. The case was sent to district court and was punished and fined in the amount of 84 million lao kip or 10,500 usd;
- From 26-28 July 2018, a multi-agency team composed of DOFI, POFI in Bokeo province, Army, Police, Prosecutors, and Administration of the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone conducted an inspection of shops in Donxao market in the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone, which resulted in the confiscation of suspected ivory products.;
- DCNEC conducted an investigation on a Vietnamese ivory workshop in Vientiane Capital. This resulted in the arrest of 1 Vietnamese owner on 2 August 2018 found with more than 10kg of worked ivory, rhino horn parts, and elephant skin. The case was submitted to the prosecutor to proceed with prosecution on 28 September 2018;



- On 4 August 2018, Savanakhet Customs confiscated 18 turtles, 19 pangolins and 43 snakes (king cobras and other snake spp.) from a bus traveling from Savanakhet to Champasak province;
- On 17 August 2018, Savanakhet Customs with local police confiscated 266kg of snakes (32 individuals consisting of king cobras and other snake spp.) and 48 turtles;
- On 17 August 2018, DOFI and POFI-Luang Prabang conducted an inspection of 2 shops in Luang Prabang airport, based on verified information provided, and confiscated 6kg of identified ivory products. Investigation of owners is ongoing for next steps;
- In September 2018, Xone District police confiscated a clouded leopard being transported by a local wildlife trader around the Nam Et Phou Louey National Protected Area. The suspect is in jail awaiting prosecution;
- From 24 September to 2 October 2018, DOFI and POFI-Luang Prabang province, in cooperation with local police, inspected retail shops in Luang Prabang, which resulted in the confiscation of more than 20kg of identified ivory products, which included 1.25kg of elephant skin, and 0.6 kg of pangolin scales from 4 retail shops. Investigation of the Chinese business owners is ongoing for next steps;
- From 22-23 October 2018, DOFI and POFI-Oudomxay cooperated with Oudomxay Police had investigation of a wildlife-related case involving 2 ivory tusks, 1 rhino horn, and several mounted trophies of prohibited and protected species in Lao PDR. The case was related to a narcotics case intercepted by the police in July 2017;
- In November 2018, based on an investigation conducted by DCNEC in Vientiane Capital, one suspect was arrested with various wildlife parts seized (elephant tusks, live monitor lizards, suspected tiger bones, dead pangolins and dried geckos. Investigation is on-going;
- On 5 November 2018, Savanakhet PoFI confiscated non-timber forest products including (wild orchids) and wildlife (snakes, civet, porcupine, and other reptiles) from a Vietnamese vehicle;
- From 10-17 December 2018, a multi-agency team composed of DoFI, PoFI-Bokeo, and other agencies conducted a road checkpoint in Ban Dan and an inspection of retail shops in Chinatown in the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone and in Tonpheung District. This resulted in the confiscation of various wildlife and non-timber forest products from the road checkpoint, and at least 8kg of various wildlife parts and products, including elephant skin and pangolin, from

2 retail shops in Chinatown and in Tonpheung District. Investigation and interview of the retail shop owners will continue;

- From 24-28 December 2018, law enforcement authorities including DoFI, PoFI-Luang Prabang, and local police, based on verified information provided, conducted a search of 3 Chinese retail shops in Luang Prabang. This resulted in the confiscation of at least 98kg of wildlife parts and products, which included 88kg of identified ivory products, and with rhino horn, pangolin, tiger and bear parts. 1 Chinese national from 1 retail shop was arrested and interviewed and a criminal case was referred to the prosecutor on 24 January 2019. Criminal cases against 2 Chinese and 1 Lao suspects implicated in the 2 other retail shops have been referred to the prosecutor on 31 January 2019;

#### **1.4 Prevention and Awareness Raising:**

- From 23-30 December 2018, the Department of Forestry conducted a CITES and wildlife law and regulation awareness meeting in 3 districts of the Luang Prabang province included Districts of Luang prabang, Pakxieng and Phonxay from District Agriculture and Forestry Offices, Police, Army, Culture and Tourism District Offices, and District Administration Offices to attended the meeting;
- CITES-awareness boards and messages have also been set-up in Wattay Vientiane airport, Savannakhet airport, Savannakhet friendship bridge, and 5 districts in Savannakhet province (Phin, Songkhon, Thapangthong, Phalanxay, and Xonnabuly);
- During the Lunar New Year from 4-10 February 2019, a multi-agency enforcement team actively inspected and provided wildlife crime prevention flyers to shops, tourists and travelers in 5 provinces – Vientiane Capital, Luang Prabang, Oudomxay, Luang Namtha, and Bokeo;
- In July 2018, DOFI and POFI-Luang Prabang installed wildlife crime prevention messages in Luang Prabang airport. This was followed by the installation of similar messages in bus and boat transit points in Luang Prabang.

#### **1.5 Management of Stockpiles:**

- In the past the management and the storage of wildlife pieces and products which are seized as legal evidence during the process of investigation and prosecution process have been kept in the concerned departments such as: forestry officers, custom officers and police. When the prosecution process is

completed, the seized evidence is continuously kept with the concerned department. This is due to the fact that there is no existing storage system and place.

### 1.6 Capacity Development:

- On 24 January 2019, a consultation meeting of the committee was organized to discuss about reporting the implementation of illegal wildlife trade prevention. The purpose was to present strength, weakness, difficulties and challenges, and to summarize recommendations and feedbacks, and then report to the government about the use of law in the real practice to conserve wildlife, the improvement of law on aquatics and wildlife and other laws that are related to this work;
- On 15 February 2019, a consultation workshop was held in Lao Plaza Hotel, Vientiane capital, to discuss the draft of NIAP 2019-2020. Concerned departments participated in the workshop based on Agreement No. 1137/MAF, dated 23 May 2018. The workshop was supported by WCS and USAID;
- On 17 October 2018, the **amended Penal Code** was published in the Lao Official Gazette which has been 2 phase includes: (a) criminalization of possession and trade of prohibited wildlife with a maximum penalty of 5 years; and (b) introduction of aggravating circumstances, such as the commission of the offense in an organized group, as a professional offence, recidivism, and causing substantial damage, that increases the imprisonment penalty for import, export, transit and transshipment of wildlife and aquatic animals in contravention of laws and regulations related to CITES from 3 months to 5 years to 5 to 10 years;
- From 20-21 December 2018, a seminar on strengthening the enforcement of the amended Penal Code to combat wildlife and forest crime was facilitated by UNODC for participants from relevant government departments such as the Department of Combating Natural Resource and Environmental Crime, Department of Forest Inspection, Customs Department, and the Prosecutor's Office;
- From 13-14 August 2018, on the Wildlife trafficking investigation training which provided participants with techniques on the investigation process, prosecuting offenders, surveillance of suspects, interviews and interrogation of suspects relation identification of wildlife products;
- From 18-21 September 2018, Law enforcement training in Xiengkhuang Province organized by DOFI and WCS, under US-INL support, with participants from Xiengkhuang province and district officers from Forest Inspection, Prosecutor,

Police, and Border Army– providing techniques for information collection, inspection, investigation, arrest, evidence management and case preparation and presentation to the prosecutor;

- Department of Combating Natural Resource and Environmental Crime (DCNEC) Illegal Wildlife Trafficking workshop for 160 participants from the environmental crime police divisions in 4 provinces (Xayabouly, Oudomxay, Khammouane, and Champasak) to increase understanding of wildlife crime, strengthen law enforcement and coordination, and strengthen legal mechanism to combat wildlife crime;
- From 31 October to 2 November 2018; Training on information management and specialized information collection and investigation techniques organized by DOFI and WCS, under US-INL and UK embassy support, for participants from Forest Inspection, Environmental Crime Police, Customs Department, Cybercrime Police, and State Inspectorate and Anti-Corruption Authority
- From 14-17 January 2019, Experiences exchange practices and learning workshop on the Law enforcement between Forest Inspection officers of Luang Prabang and Bokeo;
- From 21-22 January 2019 Illegal Wildlife Trade Monitoring Workshop (on Social Media) organized by WARN in Thailand, with WCS-supported participants from Forest Inspection and Environmental Crime Police;
- On 7 February 2019, provincial inter-agency coordination meeting to discuss improving cooperation and coordination among agencies was organized by DOFI and WCS in Savanakheth Province;
- From 20 June to 10 July 2018, Seminar on Import and Export Management and Protection of Endangered Species for Officials from Developing Countries, organized by the State Forestry Administration in Beijing, China;
- In September 2018, participated in CITES SC70 in Sochi, Russia;
- In October 2018, the meeting on Illegal Wildlife Trade -IWT in London, England, the government was requested to improve the IWT situation in Lao PDR;
- From 6-8 November 2018, CITES meeting on sharing lessons on law enforcement in Zhangzhu, China, supported by CITES MA of China;

- From 28-30 November 2018, 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on “Revisiting Efforts to Reduce Demand for Illegal Wildlife Products: Showcasing Best Practice in Behaviour Change” in Bangkok, Thailand;
- On 25 January 2019, Lao PDR co-chaired with Thailand the Special Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement in Bangkok. The agenda included preparation for the Special Ministerial Meeting on Illegal Wildlife Trade to be hosted by in March 2019Thailand;
- From 21-22 March 2019, Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Illegal Wildlife Trade (SAMM-IWT) in Chiang Mai, Thailand;
- From 2-4 April 2019, the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement (AWG-CITES and WE) Meeting to consider the CITES list of wildlife species in Sandakan Sabah, Malaysia;
- From 25-26 April 2019, ASEAN meeting on cross-border crime of wildlife and timber in Bangkok, Thailand;
- In May to June 2018, the 19<sup>th</sup> senior meeting on cross-border crime of wildlife and timber in Naypyidaw, Myanmar;
- In August 2018, Lao PDR hosted a transboundary workshop in Oudomxay province with support from WWF to discuss cooperation to tackle illegal wildlife trade in the Mekong region with the participation of neighbouring countries China, Myanmar, Vietnam, international organizations and developmental partners;
- From 30-31 October 2018 during the Annual Meeting hosted by Vietnam in HaTinh Province to review progress of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Forest Protection Department of Vietnam and Forest Inspection Department of Lao PDR, it was discussed for neighbouring provinces of Lao PDR and Vietnam to develop MoUs to combat wildlife and timber trafficking occurring between the provinces.
- From 19-21 November 2018, Lao PDR participated in the inter-regional WIRE meeting in Kenya to improve cooperation between Asian countries and African countries to combat wildlife trafficking. Part of the outcome of the meeting was for the NCBs of participating countries to develop an inter-regional plan on combatting wildlife trafficking. Lao PDR will also cooperate closely with Vietnam on the issue;



- From 24-25 December 2018, Lao PDR hosted on consultation and experiences sharing meeting in Vientiane Capital, between Department of Environmental Crime Police of Lao PDR and Department of Implementation of Combatting Environmental Crime of Vietnam. The meeting was aimed at building the relationship and enhancing bilateral cooperation between Vietnam's and Lao's Environmental Crime Police. The meeting agreed to enhance the relationship, jointly strengthen coordination and cooperation on wildlife crime case investigation, intelligence sharing, capacity building, and patrolling at shared border points;
- On 11 September 2017, Lao PDR coordinated with UNODC to collect data based on the letter no. 71/326 on working together to combat illegal wildlife trade, which was adopted by UNGA on 11 September 2017;
- On 22 January 2019, Department of Forest Inspection organized a consultation meeting to provide technical advice on law enforcement to organizations and project that support strategic plan of Lao-WEN (CITES activities and law enforcement), as well as the implementation and collecting data that indicate the enforcement of ICCWC with partners. The participating technical officers provided information and data, improved the implementation of activities, supported Lao PDR and provided technical advice;

## **II. Vision, Objectives and Necessity**

### **2.1 Vision**

The vision until 2022 is to fulfill the commitments and obligations of Lao PDR as a member of CITES. The results of the SC69 meeting and the COP16 meeting recommended Lao PDR to prevent and combat crimes of the trade illegal on aquatic and wildlife in Lao PDR and to enhance regional and international cooperate to be able to collect statistics on domestic and wild elephants, controlling wildlife and plant illegal of the endangered. This will create chances for the increase of elephant population and to have clear database on elephants.

### **2.2 Objectives**

The overall objective is to continue working towards the fulfillment of the commitments and obligations of Lao PDR as a member of CITES, particularly in implementing the recommendations from the SC69 meeting and the COP16 meetings, which recommended Lao PDR and other member countries to concentrate on preventing the trade of endangered wildlife, flora and parts and products of endangered

wildlife and flora which are under the list of CITES, particularly the prevention of illegal trade of ivory and its products.

**The specific objectives of this NIAP are:**

1. As tool and reference for the implementation, monitoring, control, prevention of the illegal trade of ivory and products;
2. Continue sustain and strengthen progress from the NIAP 2015-2016 of Lao PDR, particularly to improve the management and monitoring work and to ensure that these are in line with laws and procedures of the government and in line with CITES;
3. Continue implementing the recommendations from CITES SC69 and SC70.

### **2.3 Necessity**

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there were more than 100,000 elephants in Asia. In currently, the population of elephants in the world and in the region has decreased by 15% (<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/asian-elephant>). The report and analysis show that the main reasons for the decrease of elephants are hunting and killing for the business purpose, particularly killing them for tusks, skins, bones, teeth and other pieces. For this reason, the SC65 meeting and the COP16 meeting have urged member countries to develop their own NIAP as reference for designing measures and mechanism for the prevention of illegal trade of ivory.

The development of the NIAP of Lao PDR is one of the operational plans to strengthen the commitment of member countries to implement CITES regarding prevention of the illegal trade of wildlife, flora and its parts and products, particularly ivory. At the same time, it also shows the efforts of Lao PDR in fulfilling its commitments toward CITES and the implementation of its policy on the prevention of illegal wildlife trade.

### **III. Action plan**

Through the implementation of NIAP of Lao PDR, we can assess the success and lessons learnt. Besides that, we can also identify challenges and issues that we can address and improve. In order to continue fulfilling the commitment of Lao PDR as a member country of CITES, to follow the recommendations of the SC meeting and to achieve the objectives and goals as defined by the government policy and the Chiang

Mai Declaration on 21-22 March 2019, in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The following tasks are outlined:

### **3.1 Tasks and activities**

#### **3.1.1 Legislation and procedures:**

- 1) Improve Wildlife and Aquatic Law of Lao PDR;
- 2) Draft regulation on the implementation of CITES;
- 3) Improve the roles of different departments;
- 4) Develop a strategic plan for implementing M&E of aquatic and wildlife control;
- 5) Develop a strategic plan and improve the role of DCNEC, the general police and the supreme prosecution office;
- 6) Develop an action plan for the prevention of illegal trade of wildlife (implementing WTC 2019 - DCNEC);
- 7) Develop regulations for the survey of elephant population, including birth and death registration;
- 8) Improve Decree no. 155/PM on Natural Resource for Medicines (Pharmaceutical Natural Resource) under the List of Medicinal Natural Resources, Group 1 (on the remove elephant).
- 9) Develop and implement strategic plan in accordance with the regulation and control system for the trade of ivory in Lao PDR;
- 10) Develop regulation for the operation related to wildlife farm, consumption and the trade of wildlife in the list of CITES, and develop manual for the management of wildlife;
- 11) Disseminate and promote the agreement on the establishment and management of zoos, wildlife farms and other documents related to the management of wildlife in Lao PDR from central to local levels;
- 12) Develop a technical manual for identifying DNA in line with law and regulation;
- 13) Develop regulations for collecting and monitoring case procedures related to aquatic, wildlife, flora and their products;

#### **3.1.2 Law enforcement and cooperation:**

- 1) Prevention, monitoring and control, studies, cancellation and prosecution;
  - 1.1 Continue to build capacity on prevention of wildlife trade in hotspots;
  - 1.2 Enhance prosecution related work at every level in order to raise awareness of illegal wildlife trade and send cases to prosecution office for further actions;

- a) Identify and monitor the offences against the list of endangered wildlife and other products;
  - b) Define regulation, control of documents and screen for fake documents;
- 2) Define wildlife species according to the law on aquatic and wildlife of Lao PDR;
- 3) Enhance the cooperation with other concerned departments such as: airlines, police, custom, and others (Lao airlines, freight forwards) in the airport and borders (Laos-Vietnam, Laos-China, Laos-Cambodia, Laos-Myanmar and Laos-Thailand) to prevent the illegal trade of wildlife and its products;
- 4) Check and control the illegal trade of ivory, ivory products and protected wildlife in local markets;
- 5) Law enforcement;
  - a) Continue to participate in the control activities of all concerned departments internally and internationally;
  - b) Scientific certification and sustainable development in accordance with CITES;
- 6) Case consideration and prosecution:
  - a) to permit, approve the evidence for case consideration and prosecution;
- 7) Coordinate with MA and CITES secretariat to develop scientific database;
- 8) Testify on the evidence and certify for prosecution and provide fairness with the offenders;
- 9) Develop plan for prevention and promotion through awareness raising in the public and education programs in secondary school and university.

### **3.1.3 Promotion and awareness raising:**

- 1) Disseminate and promote the announcement of the Prime Minister No. 05/PM and other orders that are related to the law on aquatic and wildlife of Lao PDR;
- 2) Disseminate and implement national action plan on aquatic and wildlife crimes until 2025;
- 3) Set up wildlife monitoring system and wildlife data base system to control wildlife in Lao PDR and in the list of CITES;
- 4) Implement the policy of CITES-MA that is related to customs, controlling legal and illegal trade, recording and monitoring CITES import and export with permission letter;

- 5) Coordinate with different sectors as regards law enforcement and cooperate with Vietnam, Thailand and other CITES member countries;
- 6) Participate in law enforcement technical workshop of CITES and ASEAN based on invitation;
- 7) Continue to cooperate with other member countries regarding law enforcement such as China, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam and work as a team of CITES to combat illegal trade of wildlife and timber. Other coordination work such as with Africa and China to facilitate information exchange and sharing best practices in order to improve the justice system and collaboration with concerned partners regarding illegal trade of wildlife;
- 8) Participate in the work concerning environmental police department of China based on invitation;
- 9) Continue exchange visit to Vietnam;
- 10) Review and report the progress of signing an agreement on law enforcement with China, Vietnam and South Africa;
- 11) Organize a meeting for environmental police and concerned departments on the prevention of crimes;
- 12) Cooperate and exchange information with member countries of international-police;
- 13) Disseminate and promote anti wildlife and flora crime;
  - a) Produce video for mass media and promotion;
  - b) Produce posters for promotion;
  - c) Training on producing tools for educational purpose;

#### **3.1.4 Management of stockpile and storage place:**

- 1) Continue the prosecution of illegal trade of ivory, ivory products and the protection of wildlife;
- 2) Collection of information and data on wild and domestic elephants in a timely manner;
- 3) Establish a museum for flora and wildlife
  - a) Set up Information Technology (IT) system and provide equipment for the implementation;
  - b) Train the staff of the Scientific Authority (SA) about the use of the system;
- 4) Establish storage place at the Institute of Ecology and Biotechnology;
  - a) Develop manual for the management the list of wildlife and flora species
  - b) Establish storage to keep pieces and products of ivory and others
- 5) Develop templates/forms for collecting data and data analysis



- 6) Procure equipment and support with tools for the implementation of CITES related works;
- 7) Purchase equipment and improve scanner system;

### **3.1.5 Capacity strengthening**

- 1) Meeting of the committee on wildlife protection, installing billboard at domestic airport, international airport and other border checkpoints;
- 2) Define national focal point for RILO for the investigation and information exchange in a timely manner and accurately;
- 3) Capacity development for staff of different department on law enforcement;
- 4) Consultation meeting for five concerned departments: department of forest inspection, department of forestry, police, custom, soldier and supreme prosecution;
- 5) Training on data collection, conducting survey on wildlife protection;
- 6) Meeting on wildlife trade at regional level, on law enforcement and prosecution;
- 7) More training on immigration control, e.g. custom, police and ivory control, in order to develop the cooperation among different concerned department;
- 8) Activities on promotion, awareness raising and the prevention of wildlife trade at international airports, domestic airports and border checkpoints of the wildlife trade prevention team as well as developing billboards;
- 9) Organize meetings to disseminate penal code at local level;
- 10) Disseminate and implement the agreement of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on the prevention of illegal wildlife trade at local level;
- 11) Develop data base and report system on mobile phone for department of forest inspection and forest inspection unit;
- 12) Develop data base for the wildlife management and improvement of species in Lao PDR;
- 13) Develop data base for the management of wildlife of CITES;
- 14) Analysis using satellite images and develop map regarding wildlife works;
- 15) Implement strategic plan to develop recommendation (as well as management system) to manage sample of wildlife that are kept in provinces and Vientiane capital;
- 16) Organize training on analysis of information source of criminal case/investigation of wildlife case/information management;
- 17) Support organizations to strengthen their capacity on the management of wildlife from central to local levels;

- 18) Training on the need of techniques for collecting wildlife data in the national protected areas in Lao PDR;
- 19) Participate in consultation meeting on management of wildlife and flora within and outside the country;
- 20) Strengthen the capacity for scientific unit in the laboratory to implement their work to support CITES SA;
  - a) Technical training on how to use the equipment and collect samples;
- 21) Participate in activities on law enforcement within and outside the country in special tasks;
- 22) Continue participate in seminars, training and others meetings abroad;
- 23) Network of committee of aquatic and wildlife law enforcement (Lao-Wen) participate in meeting, seminars, training and others abroad;
- 24) Training for technical staff on the use of GIS for wildlife data analysis;
- 25) Training on the use of tools in the survey and monitoring the illegal killing of elephants (MIKE);
- 26) Training on the use of equipment in the analysis and test in the laboratory.

### **3.2 Expected Outcome**

- 1) Lao PDR has fulfilled its commitment to CITES
- 2) There are tools, regulations and detailed plans in place for the implementation of monitoring, control, prevention of illegal trade of ivory and its products;
- 3) There is NIAP 2015-2016, particularly the improvement of the management and control in line with laws and regulation of the government and CITES;
- 4) Fulfilling the recommendation of the meetings of CITES SC69 and SC70.

## **IV. Measure for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation**

### **4.1 Measure for the implementation**

In order to successfully implement the NIAP and meet the objectives and goals, following measures as below:

#### **1) Enhance the coordination**

Effective coordination is one of the important criteria for the success of the implementation of NIAP of Lao PDR and it concerns many different stakeholders. Therefore, every stakeholder has to provide their cooperation in the implementation and frequently provide the information about the progress of the implementation by using

coordination mechanism and performing their assigned functions and roles. This is to ensure that the implementation has its focus, to avoid replication and to reduce the gaps of responsibility.

## **2) Enhance social contribution**

The support and the participation of all stakeholders in the society are one of many factors that contribute to the successful implementation of the NIAP, by providing information, actively contributing to the prevention and combat the illegal trade of ivory, ivory pieces and products.

## **3) Links with other plans and programs**

This NIAP is developed to fulfill the defined objectives and goals and has to be linked with the implementation of the plans and programs of other concerned departments.

## **4) Responsibilities**

A clear division of tasks and responsibilities based on functions, responsibilities and rights of each department from central to local levels and with close coordination is necessary for the successful implementation of this NIAP.

## **5) Development partners, member countries and international organization**

Development partners are important stakeholders in providing support financially and technically for the implementation of activities defined in this NIAP. Development partners should consider and define scope of their activities and measures based on their roles. At the same time, there is a need to enhance the coordination to make the support more focus and systematic and match with the requirement of the implementation of this NIAP.

## **6) The establishment of responsible committee**

The implementation of this NIAP of Lao PDR concerns different sectors at central and local levels. To ensure the effectiveness of the implementation of this NIAP, the establishment of the committee is therefore to be based on the agreement of the Prime Minister on the establishment of the CITES responsible committee no. 18/PM, dated on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018; and the agreement of the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, on behalf of CITES committee no. 1137/MAF, dated on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018, on the establishment of CITES steering committee and secretariat in Lao PDR (in case of requirement, there will be changes based on the agreement of the government).

## **7) Monitoring and Evaluation**

The monitoring and evaluation are necessary to ensure the implementation of this NIAP, because it will help to collect information and data about the progress, about

supporting factors and challenges and report to higher level for comments and guideline, and also report the progress to CITES periodically.

Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, on behalf of CITES MA, is the focal point for monitoring, evaluation, summary and report the progress of the implementation of this NIAP.

#### **V. Budget**

To ensure the successful implementation of the NIAP, 2019-2022, the total budget of 1,319,838 USD (one million three hundred nineteen thousand eight hundred thirty-eight dollars) is required. The detail of the required budget for the implementation of each activity is in the attached table.

Pillar	Action	Baselines (B) and indicators (I)	Milestones (Indicate milestones (M) in month and year)	Responsible national agency	Cost, funding availability and needs
<b>1. Legislation and regulations</b>	1.1 Develop and adopt regulations for the implementation of CITES Decree <sup>i</sup>	B: No specific legislative measures that adequately implement CITES; Government instruction exists to develop CITES regulations  I: Adoption of regulations to implement CITES	M1: May/June 2020 – updated draft version of Decree for consultation  M2: July 2020 – submission of legislative progress to CITES Secretariat  M3: July/August 2020 – Government adoption and issuance of the CITES Decree	DOF Decision 1137 on CITES Technical Committee	Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: X
	1.2 Review institutional mandates to improve enforcement to address illegal ivory trade within and transiting through Lao PDR, identifying barriers for prosecution and punishment and make recommendations on required revisions. <sup>ii</sup>	B: MAF Decision 2391 on Lao-WEN; MAF Decision on National Wildlife and Aquatic Crime Response and Action Plan 2025  I: Institutional mandates have been clarified and enforcement agencies implement their mandates accordingly	M1: June 2020 –Inter-agency meeting of relevant government agencies to initiate a review of institutional mandates and to identify barriers to effective prosecution.  M2: October 2020 –Inter-agency meeting to on the basis of the review conducted agree on strategic plans and mandates.  M3: December 2020 - Final strategic plans and mandates made available to relevant agencies for implementation.	DOFI DOF DCNEC OPP LCD SIA AMLIO	Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: X
	1.3 Develop strategic action plan to improve the institutional roles of the Department of Combatting Natural Resources and Environmental Crime (DCNEC), General Police and the Supreme Prosecution in the investigation and prosecution of ivory-related crime.	B: MAF Decision 2391 on Lao-WEN; MAF Decision on National Wildlife and Aquatic Crime Response and Action Plan 2025  I: Ministry of Public Security (MoPS) Decision on Strategic Action Plan on transnational wildlife crime to support objective of Lao-WEN	M1: May/June 2020 – DCNEC MoPS meeting  M2: October 2020 – MOPS Decision on Strategic Action Plan developed and adopted	DCNEC OPP	Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: X
<b>2. National level enforcement action and</b>	2.1 Improve capacity of multi-agency (Lao-WEN) enforcement officers through training courses in the following areas: a) conducting inspection and detection	B: Enforcement officers have limited capacity on relevant competency areas	M1: July to December 2020 – At least 1 training with checkpoint officers on CITES requirements/ permits	DOFI DOF DCNEC OPP	Costs: USD 30,000 CITES Secretariat, UNODC, WCS, WWF, US Embassy



Pillar	Action	Baselines (B) and indicators (I)	Milestones (Indicate milestones (M) in month and year)	Responsible national agency	Cost, funding availability and needs
inter-agency collaboration	regarding smuggled wildlife including species identification (e.g. genuine ivory from fake); b) CITES requirements and examination of [CITES] documents, including detection of documentation misuse and fraud; c) relevant laws and regulations on wildlife crime, including: Penal Code, CITES, Wildlife List, Wildlife and Aquatic Law, Criminal Procedure Law; d) wildlife crime investigation including crime scene management, forensic awareness, controlled deliveries, questioning use of technology, information management, intelligence analysis, judicial procedures, prosecution referrals, and case presentation in courts; e) inter-agency cooperation <sup>iii</sup>	I: Enforcement officers have improved capacity on ivory enforcement with training activities implemented	M2: July 2020 – March 2021 – At least 3 wildlife crime investigation and case preparation workshops  M3: September – December 2020 – At least 1 inter-agency cooperation training	LCD SIA AMLIO	- Vientiane  Additional Funding to be secured: X Not applicable: <input type="checkbox"/>
	2.2 Strengthen capacity of enforcement and border officers to detect illegal wildlife specimens, including illegal ivory specimens, through the provision of necessary tools, guides, manuals and technology, to assist in: clarifying CITES species, determining genuine from fake documentation, species identification guides and kits, mobile phone technology for reporting, scanner equipment, and other relevant materials <sup>iv</sup>	B: Officers have limited access to tools, guides, manuals and technology  I: Officers have increased access to tools, guides, manuals, and technology and use them successfully	M1: July 2020 – Tools to assist enforcement, e.g. ID guides, developed and distributed  M2: July 2020 – Wildscan <sup>v</sup> application completed and provided to officers  M3: August 2020 – Mobile Forensic equipment provided to DOFI and DCNEC with training	DOFI DCNEC LCD DOF	Costs: USD 10,000 LENS2, UNODC, WCS, WWF  Additional Funding to be secured: X Not applicable: <input type="checkbox"/>
	2.3 Strengthen implementation of the Penal Code, Wildlife and Aquatic Law, Prime Minister Order No. 05 (2018), and other relevant laws and regulations, in controlling, enforcing, investigating and prosecuting against illegal ivory trade in markets, and at ports and checkpoints. <sup>vi</sup>	B: Wildlife crime is penalized under Penal Code and WAL but implementation is often lacking  I: Increasing number of seizures, arrests and prosecutions of ivory-related and other wildlife crime offenses	M1: June 2020 – at least 1 inspection and operation conducted in markets, ports and checkpoints  M2: October 2020 – at least 10 inspection and operation conducted in markets, ports and checkpoints  M3: May 2021 – at least 12 inspection and operation conducted in markets, ports and checkpoints  M4: September 2021 – at least 16	DOFI DCNEC LCD OPP	Costs: USD 40,000 LENS2, WCS, WWF  Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: X

Pillar	Action	Baselines (B) and indicators (I)	Milestones (Indicate milestones (M) in month and year)	Responsible national agency	Cost, funding availability and needs
			inspections and operations conducted in markets, ports and checkpoints		
	2.4 Increase awareness of the seriousness of wildlife crime amongst prosecutors and judiciary <sup>vii</sup>	B: Awareness on wildlife crime amongst prosecutors and judiciary is limited  I: Improved awareness on wildlife crime amongst prosecutors and judiciary, with at least 3 workshops conducted	M1: October 2020 – at least 1 workshop for prosecutors/judiciary on wildlife crime conducted  M2: February 2021 – at least 2 workshops for prosecutors/ judiciary on wildlife crime prosecution conducted  M3: June 2021 – at least 3 workshops conducted	DOFI DCNEC OPP Courts	Costs: USD 30,000 UNODC, US Embassy – Vientiane, WCS, WWF  Funding to be secured: X Not applicable: <input type="checkbox"/>
	2.5 Improve the prosecution of ivory-related and other wildlife crime offenses, in line with the enforcement of the Penal Code, Wildlife and Aquatic Law, Prime Minister Order No. 05 (2018), and other relevant laws and regulations.	B: Wildlife crime is penalized under Penal Code and WAL but successful prosecutions are limited  I: Cases of prosecution referrals, prosecution, and conviction of wildlife crime offenses are tracked and increasing in number	M1: June 2020 – at least 2 wildlife crime cases have been referred for prosecution, prosecuted, or sentenced in courts  M2: December 2020 – at least 4 wildlife crime cases are prosecuted, or sentenced in courts  M3: July 2021 – at least 6 wildlife crime cases are prosecuted, or sentenced in courts	DOFI DCNEC OPP Courts	Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: X
	2.6 Develop the capacity and equipment of scientific officers to provide technical support to law enforcement and prosecution efforts against ivory-related and other wildlife crime cases, such as on: scientific identification of species; scientific/expert advice and testimony in case consideration and prosecution; forensic sampling and identification.	B: Technical and scientific capacity to support law enforcement needs is limited.  I: Scientific and technical officers with increased capacity to provide support to law enforcement needs, with equipment/ resources developed/ acquired.	M1: July 2020 – Meeting of stakeholders on capacity assessment and needs  M2: June 2021 – At least 1 training conducted, and equipment provided, as may be needed.  M3: July 2020 to December 2021 – Ivory sampling training for forensic analysis	CITES SA OPP	Costs: USD 50,000  Funding to be secured: X Not applicable: <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>3. International and regional enforcement collaboration</b>	3.1 Continue participating in relevant international and regional law enforcement seminars, trainings, meetings and operations that increase enforcement capacity and cooperation against ivory trafficking <sup>viii</sup>	B: Officers participate in relevant enforcement meetings.  I: Information and skills from relevant enforcement events	M1: July 2020 – DOFI participates in the ASEAN Working Group CITES/WE meetings  M2: August 2020 – MoPS/DCNEC participates in ASEAN SOMTC	DOFI DCNEC OPP LCD	Costs: USD 30,000  Funding to be secured: X Not applicable: <input type="checkbox"/>

Pillar	Action	Baselines (B) and indicators (I)	Milestones (Indicate milestones (M) in month and year)	Responsible national agency	Cost, funding availability and needs
		on ivory trafficking and cooperation opportunities are improved, and authorities actively participate in and contribute to regional or global operations initiated to address wildlife crime.	Working Group meetings on wildlife and timber trafficking  M3: December 2021 – Enforcement authorities from DOFI, Customs, DCNEC, and OSPP actively participated in at least 3 regional or international operations initiated to address wildlife crime.		
	3.2 Continue to cooperate with other Asian and African countries (e.g. China, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, South Africa) in combatting ivory trafficking and other wildlife crime by facilitating information exchange and sharing of best practices <sup>ix</sup>	B: Cooperation meetings have been facilitated with countries, and MoUs with some countries in place. Engagement in support on investigations is limited.  I: Information and best practices are made available and used to improve ivory investigation, enforcement, and other measures. Engagement in support on investigation is increased.	M1: December 2020 – At least one cooperation meeting conducted with key neighboring countries (Vietnam, Thailand, China)  M2: June 2021 – At least two cooperation meetings and/or study visits conducted, one with a key neighboring country, and one with an African country	DOFI DOF DCNEC OPP LCD	Costs: USD 20,000 UNODC, WCS, WWF  Additional Funding to be secured: X Not applicable: <input type="checkbox"/>
	3.3 Increase the use of international tools to exchange information and intelligence on transnational wildlife crime (e.g. INTERPOL Ecomessage, INTERPOL Notices, WCO-RILO). <sup>x</sup>	B: Use of international information exchange tools is limited.  I: Use of international tools is increased.	M1: April 2022 Information concerning transnational wildlife crimes detected have been shared using existing INTERPOL and WCO tools  M2: May 2022 – At least one INTERPOL Notice concerning wildlife crime were issued	INTERPOL NCB LCD DOFI DCNEC	Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: X
	3.4 Increase networking by the Scientific Authority laboratory unit to build capacity, exchange information and best practices on wildlife forensics with other established laboratories in other countries.	B: CITES SA or laboratory networking is limited.  I: Networking and cooperation with other countries and laboratories on testing, training, and equipment increase.	M1: November 2020 – Assessment of laboratory and needs and expertise conducted  M2: June 2021 – CITES SA or relevant laboratories in Lao PDR participate in study exchanges with other laboratories on wildlife forensics	CITES SA	Costs: USD 30,000  Funding to be secured: X Not applicable: <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>4. Outreach, public awareness and</b>	4.1 Continue raising awareness and conducting wildlife crime prevention at key airports, border checkpoints, and	B: Limited products/ activities to increase awareness and wildlife crime prevention	M1: June 2020 – At least 1 public outreach activity conducted	DOFI DOF	Costs: USD 20,000 UNODC, WILDAID, WWF, WCS

Pillar	Action	Baselines (B) and indicators (I)	Milestones (Indicate milestones (M) in month and year)	Responsible national agency	Cost, funding availability and needs
education	market areas <sup>xi</sup>	I: Activities being conducted and materials available to increase awareness	M2: December 2020 – At least 2 public outreach activities conducted  M3: June 2021 – At least 3 public outreach activities conducted		Additional Funding to be secured: X Not applicable: <input type="checkbox"/>
	4.2 Work with the public and education programs in secondary schools and universities on awareness raising on wildlife crime prevention, including prevention of illegal ivory trade, through production of materials for mass media, education materials, and posters.	B: Limited materials available to support awareness through public and education programs.  I: Materials to support awareness through public and education programs are readily available and used.	M1: June 2020 – Education materials and posters for schools developed.  M2: December 2020 – Education materials and posters developed for schools produced and distributed.  M3: March 2021 – Mass media (social media/ television /radio) materials developed, produced, and distributed.	CITES SA DOF	Costs: USD 20,000 UNODC, WWF, WCS, UK Embassy  Additional Funding to be secured: X Not applicable: <input type="checkbox"/>
	4.3 Cooperate with airlines and freight forwarders in airports and key border areas to prevent trafficking of ivory and other wildlife specimens.	B: Limited outreach and awareness with airlines and freight forwarders in Lao PDR  I: Programs and activities for engagement with airlines and freight forwarders are in place and actively implemented to increase awareness and prevent trafficking.	M1: August 2020 – Meeting of stakeholders to initiate discussions on preparing a plan on how to prevent trafficking of ivory and other wildlife specimens  M2: December 2020 – Draft plan is available for review and input by all stakeholders.  M3: March 2021 – Plan is agreed by all stakeholders and implementation of programs and activities commence	CITES SA DOFI	Costs: USD 30,000  Funding to be secured: X Not applicable: <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Reporting	5.1 Ensure reporting of information to MIKE and ETIS following reporting requirements (for ETIS using the <i>Ivory and elephant product seizure data collection forms in Annexes 1 and 2 to Notification to the Parties 2020/005</i> ), and by providing training to stakeholders on how to use the relevant forms <sup>xii</sup>	B: Not all known elephant deaths are reported to MIKE and not all ivory seizures are reported to ETIS.  I: All known elephant deaths are reported to MIKE and all ivory seizures are reported to ETIS using the prescribed templates.	M1: April 2022 – Reporting templates completed and submitted to MIKE and ETIS in accordance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18)	DOF DOFI DCNEC LCD	Costs:  Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: X
	5.2 Establish and maintain a robust system for the management of stockpiles of seized and confiscated ivory and other	B: Ivory and other wildlife specimens seized and confiscated are stored in	M1: July 2020 – Conduct a national inventory of all wildlife stockpiles including ivory	DOF DOFI CITES SA	Costs: USD 40,000  Funding to be

Pillar	Action	Baselines (B) and indicators (I)	Milestones (Indicate milestones (M) in month and year)	Responsible national agency	Cost, funding availability and needs
	wildlife specimens <sup>xiii</sup>	different locations by enforcement agencies.  I: Ivory and other wildlife specimens seized and confiscated are dealt with in accordance with a well-developed management system for stockpiles.	M2: September 2020 – Develop procedures for establishing, registering, inventorying, and managing seized ivory (including storage place, as applicable)  M3: December 2020 – Establish a national database for all ivory management, including information of seizures by all relevant agencies	DCNEC LCD	secured: X Not applicable: <input type="checkbox"/>
	5.3 Implement CITES MA/DOF Agreement with Lao Customs Department on controlling and reporting of legal and illegal trade by recording and monitoring import and export of wildlife.	B: CITES MA and Customs Agreement to control and monitor CITES legal and illegal trade  I: Information is made available between Customs and CITES MA on CITES legal and illegal trade for reporting.	M1: July 2020 – Meeting between CITES MA/DOF and LCD on the Agreement to develop implementation plan  M2: September 2020 – Implementation plan adopted and implemented	DOF LCD	Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: X
	5.4 Ensure monitoring of elephants, wild or domestic, preventing individuals, parts and products entering the illegal trade, and to improve reporting.	B: Registration for domesticated elephants under the Department of Livestock and Fisheries (DLF) registration system  I: Robust database to monitor elephants in Laos	M1: July 2020 – Meeting of stakeholders to review current registration system and develop robust system  M2: March 2021 – Registration database system developed/improved and implemented	DOF DOFI	Costs: USD 40,000 Funding to be secured: X Not applicable: <input type="checkbox"/>
AMLIO - Anti-Money Laundering Agency Intelligence Office CITES SA – CITES Scientific Authority DCNEC – Department of Combating Natural Resource and Environmental Crime DLF – Department of Livestock and Fisheries DOF – Department of Forestry DOFI – Department of Forest Inspection INTERPOL NCB – INTERPOL National Central Bureau Lao-WEN – Lao Wildlife Enforcement Network LCD – Lao Customs Department MAF – Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry MOPS – Ministry of Public Security					



Pillar	Action	Baselines (B) and indicators (I)	Milestones (Indicate milestones (M) in month and year)	Responsible national agency	Cost, funding availability and needs
OPP – Office of Public Prosecution SIA – State Inspection Authority WAL – Wildlife and Aquatic Law					

Note: some actions in the 2015 NIAP assessed to be: achieved/substantially achieved have been removed from the updated NIAP above.<sup>xiv</sup>

### Consultations with relevant actors

Lao PDR is identified as a Category C Party or Parties affected by the illegal trade in ivory. Under the ETIS report to CITES COP18, Lao PDR is an important transit and destination country that shares a border with China. The ETIS report also suggests that in Lao PDR: (a) corruption is an important challenge; and (b) there is a growing ivory market. Lao PDR's National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) has been revised and updated to respond to and address this issue in Lao PDR.

In revising and updating the NIAP, the Department of Forestry, as the CITES Management Authority, facilitated several consultations in 2019 and 2020, to discuss this issue in consideration of the 2015 NIAP and developments in Lao PDR that necessitated the updating and revision of the NIAP. Consultations were conducted with several relevant government agencies tasked to implement the NIAP such as the DOFI, DCNEC, LCD, OPP, CITES SA through the Ministry of Science and Technology, and Interpol NCB. These consultations also included the participation of members of the Working Group 15.7 such as the US Embassy, the UK Embassy, WCS, USAID Wildlife Asia, and WWF.

### NIAP approval

This NIAP is approved in accordance with the provisions of Step 2, paragraph a) 3. iii) of the *Guidelines to the National Ivory Action Plans Process*, contained in Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on *Trade in elephant specimens*, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

**Minister of Agriculture and Forestry**



**Liane THYKEO, Ph.D**

<sup>i</sup> This action will be undertaken as a more expedient way to implement CITES than through the revision of the Wildlife and Aquatic Law (WAL) 2007, which is ongoing as well. It replaces Action 1.1 of 2015 NIAP on revising 0360/MAF.2003 on Regulation on National Biodiversity Conservation, Wildlife and Aquatic

Management, in accordance with the Wildlife and Aquatic Law (WAL) – where the CITES Decree regulations will address this action n point. In light of the amendments to 1.1 to 1.3 of the present NIAP, this action in the 2015 NIAP is now redundant and replaced.

<sup>ii</sup> Replaces Action 1.2 of 2015 NIAP on reviewing current regulation of MAF and institutional mandates regarding enforcement of ivory trade through Lao PDR. In light of the amendments to 1.1 to 1.3 of the present NIAP, this action in the 2015 NIAP is now redundant and replaced.

<sup>iii</sup> Replaces Action 2.1 of 2015 NIAP on multi-agency trainings on detection and CITES permits, Action 2.3 of 2015 NIAP on multi-agency trainings on investigation and Action 4.2 of 2015 NIAP on increasing capacity in wildlife crime investigations into 1 Action on capacity building. In light of the amendment to 2.1 of the present NIAP, these actions in the 2015 NIAP are now redundant and replaced.

<sup>iv</sup> Replaces Action 2.2 of 2015 NIAP on ensuring that officers are in possession of necessary tools and guides. In light of the amendments to 2.2 of the present NIAP, this action in the 2015 NIAP is now redundant and replaced.

<sup>v</sup> WildScan is a mobile phone application to facilitate species identification, designed to help law enforcement officials respond to wildlife trafficking. The Lao application of WildScan is currently in development, and intended to be made available to the Department of Forest Inspection and relevant Lao-WEN agencies. More information can be found here: <https://www.usaid.gov/results-data/success-stories/mobile-app-helps-officers-protect-wildlife>

<sup>vi</sup> Replaces Action 2.5 of 2015 NIAP on improving control of illegal trade in ivory in local markets and Action 2.6 of 2015 NIAP on enforcement at ports and border checkpoints. In light of the amendments to 2.3 of the present NIAP, Actions 2.5 and 2.6 of the 2015 NIAP are now redundant and have been replaced.

<sup>vii</sup> Replaces Action 4.1 of 2015 NIAP. In light of the amendments to 2.4 of the present NIAP, this action in the 2015 NIAP is now redundant and replaced.

<sup>viii</sup> Replaces Action 2.4 of 2015 NIAP on Participate in international and regional law enforcement activities. In light of the amendments to 3.1 of the present NIAP, this action in the 2015 NIAP is now redundant and replaced.

<sup>ix</sup> Replaces Action 3.1 of 2015 NIAP on Enhance cooperation with other Asian and African countries on combating wildlife crime. In light of the amendments to 3.2 of the present NIAP, this action in the 2015 NIAP is now redundant and replaced.

<sup>x</sup> Replaces Action 3.2 of 2015 NIAP on Increase use of international tools to exchange information and intelligence. In light of the amendments to 3.3 of the present NIAP, this action in the 2015 NIAP is now redundant and replaced.

<sup>xi</sup> Replaces Action 5.1 of 2015 NIAP on Conduct awareness and trafficking prevention trafficking at key border ports: Wattai domestic and international airports, Luangprabang airport, Pakse airport, Laos-Thailand friendship bridge 1, market areas. In light of the amendments to 4.1 of the present NIAP, this action in the 2015 NIAP is now redundant and replaced.

<sup>xii</sup> Replaces Action 3.3 of the 2015 NIAP on ensure reporting of information to MIKE and ETIS. In light of the amendments to 5.1 of the present NIAP, this action in the 2015 NIAP is now redundant and replaced.

<sup>xiii</sup> Replaces Action 6.1 of the 2015 NIAP on stockpile management. In light of the amendments to 5.2 of the present NIAP, this action in the 2015 NIAP is redundant and replaced.

<sup>xiv</sup> Removed actions from 2015 NIAP:

NIAP reference	NIAP Action	Justification for removal
2015 NIAP	1.4 Review penalties under the Penal Code to ensure that wildlife crime is adequately addressed as a form of serious crimes 1.4.1 Conduct exploratory meetings between relevant agency heads and international organisation 1.4.2 Draft proposal on amendments 1.4.3 Seek Ministerial approval for changes 1.4.4 Prepare final amendments and implement	Achieved through Penal Law revision in 2017/2018 that included aggravating circumstances that increase penalties for wildlife-related offenses

2015 NIAP	<p>1.3 Develop a ministerial circular on the management of hunting trophies</p> <p>1.3.1 Develop concept note on proposal</p> <p>1.3.2 Prepare draft of notification on management of hunting trophies of elephant in Lao</p> <p>1.3.3 Approved by Minister of submitted to provincial level and implemented</p>	Prime Minister Order No. 05 (2018) addresses this through the prohibition regarding CITES and Lao prohibited species.
2015 NIAP	<p>7.1 Explore implementation of the ICCWC wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic toolkit and Lao PDR</p> <p>7.1.1 Communicate with UNODC to express an interest and request more information on the implementation of the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit</p>	Achieved/Substantially Achieved – ICCWC toolkit process implemented in Lao PDR and currently in discussion on the recommendations between UNODC and GoL