

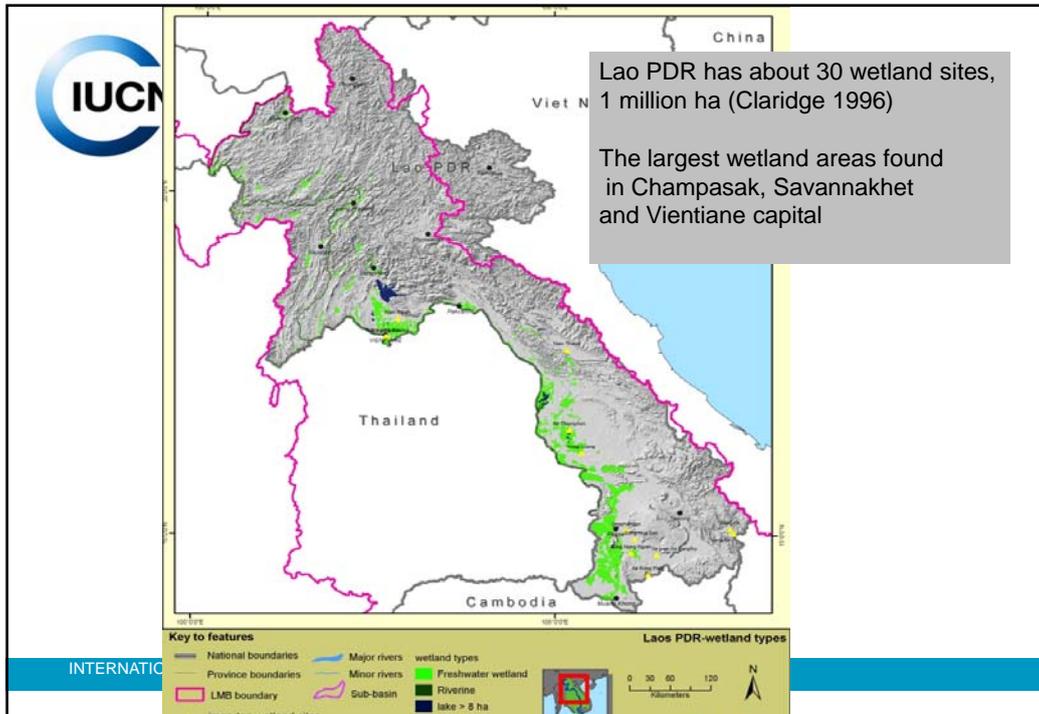


Wetland Priority Sites in Lao PDR - the top five priority sites

Prepared for:
 Climate Change Impact and Vulnerability Assessment for the Wetlands
 of the Lower Mekong Basin for Adaptation Planning

Lao team:
 Dr. Phaivanh Phiapalath, IUCN Lao
 Dr. Saykham Voladet, NERI
 Ms. Charlotte Hicks, IUCN Lao

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE



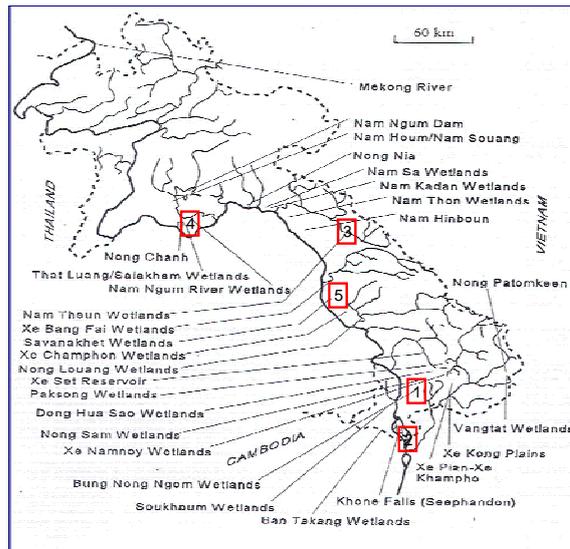
REGIONAL EXPERT ADVISORY WORKSHOP REPORT - 01 MAR 2011
 VIENTIANE, LAO PDR
 LAO_WETLAND SHORTLIST



A short list of the top five priority sites of the wetlands for study sites for CCIVA in Lao PDR

Wetland sites	Score	Status
• Beung Kiat Ngong wetlands in Champassak	15	Ramsar Site, NPA
• Siphandone Wetlands in Champassak	14	Bio hotspot, IBA
• Nam Theun wetlands in Khammouane	14	IBA, NPA, Upland wetlands
• That Luang swamp in Vientiane capital	14	Urban wetlands
• Xe Champhone wetlands in Savannakhet	12	Ramsar Site, Crocodile site

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

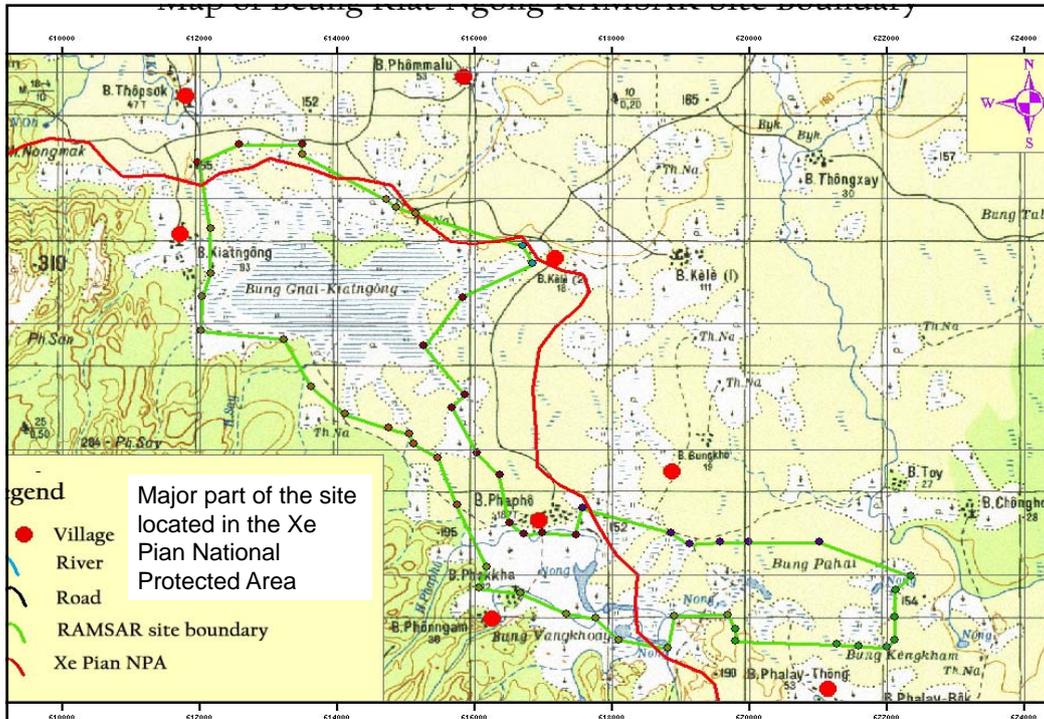


1. Beung Kiat Ngong
2. Siphandone
3. Nam Theun
4. That Luang
5. Xe Champhone

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE



1. Beug Kiat Ngong Wetlands





Brief profile of Beug Kiat Ngong Wetlands

Area: 23.6 KM², 8 ha by MRC **Population:** 11,000/8 villages

Wetland type: fresh water marshes, lakes, ponds, rice paddy fields, seasonally flooded grassland, floating delayed grasses, shrubland and forest, esp. peatland.

Fauna: Snail-eating turtle, Leopard cat, fishing cat, sambar, number of fish species (43 sps), and birds species e.g lesser tree duck, painted snipe, herons, egrets.

Flora: lowland dry evergreen, most important NTFPs found in the area are malva nut trees, berberine, some 350 medicinal plants.

Bio values: wildlife habitat, nesting sites for some bird species, fish breeding/feeding, sources of fish and groundwater supply function for humans, NTFPs.

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

Provides feeding and nesting sites of some number of water and forest birds





Brief profile of Beug Kiat Ngong Wetlands (continued)

Importance of the wetlands: met with four Ramsar criteria as (i) unique habitat “peatland” with various wetland types; (ii) home to some vulnerable species; (iv) number of fish species and, (viii) fish breeding ground.

Conservation status: Local community regulations in place

Land use: agriculture, some small inland fish trap ponds which own by the government but local people have right to use, fisheries and forest are generally managed as a common resource.

Current/potential threats: peatland extraction, wetland conversion to agricultural land, some chemical fertilizer and pesticides used.

Existing projects: Mekong Water Dialogues, ADB/BCI, WWF/ strengthening PA mgt, GAPE – Global Assoc. for People and Env.

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE





2. Siphandone Wetlands

Mekong River, with 4,000 islands...

Area: 60 km² (68 ha by MRC)

Population: 30 villages

Wetland type: *braided river channel, islands, rapids, waterfalls, including deep pools, ponds, paddy fields, bank, rocky, flooded shrubs and forest, riparian/river systems as a whole*



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE



Brief profile of Siphandone Wetlands

Fauna: Diversity of aquatic (400 fish sps) and mammals (?) and birds (187 sps) with number of endangered fish species e.g Mekong Dolphins, Giant Catfish, Giant rays, Asian Giant Soft-Shell Turtle, Asiatic Soft-Shell Turtle, Vulture, Ibis, Adjutant, Mekong Wagtail, Small Pratincole, River Lapwing, Terns etc.

Flora: 731 plant sps. in 134 families (Dacanto 2001), mixed evergreen, deciduous hardwood forest, flooded shrub/forest,

Bio values: highly significance as very important feeding and breeding habitat of fish of the Mekong River, fish migration paths, wildlife habitat, nesting sites for some bird species as well as nutrient cycling.

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE



REGIONAL EXPERT ADVISORY WORKSHOP REPORT - 01 MAR 2011
VIENTIANE, LAO PDR
LAO_WETLAND SHORTLIST





Brief profile of Siphandone Wetlands (continues)

Importance of the wetlands: met with all nine Ramsar criteria as (i) unique habitat "river system"; (ii) endangered species; (iii) key regional habitat; (iv) variety of fish/fish refuge area; (v) harbor at least 20,000 water bird pop; (vi) holds $\geq 1\%$ of the regional pop of River Lapwing; (vi) indigenous fish; (viii) fish breeding ground' and (ix) $\geq 1\%$ of Mekong Dolphin pop.

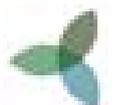
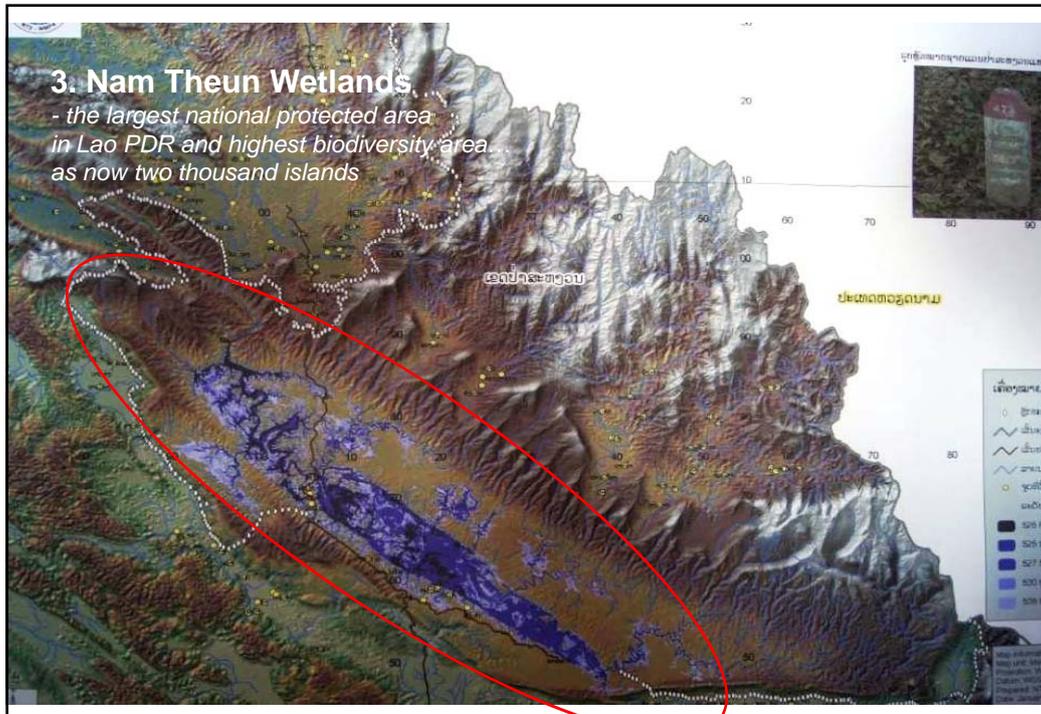
Conservation status: Community fisheries regulations and transboundary Lao–Cambodia wetland management was discussed.

Land use: common property land e.g deep pools, forest areas, river channels, and private property land e.g settlement, farms, fishing sites.

Current/potential threats: infrastructure e.g hydro-power dam, mining in tributaries, hotels/guesthouses, tourism business, firewood collection, wetland conversion, some chemical fertilizer and pesticides used.

Existing projects: WWF working on Dolphin conservation, MRCs' site for ME, Thakkho & Don Sahone hydro[power projects

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE



REGIONAL EXPERT ADVISORY WORKSHOP REPORT - 01 MAR 2011
VIENTIANE, LAO PDR
LAO_WETLAND SHORTLIST



Brief profile of Nam Theun Wetlands

Area: 450 KM² (WMPA website)
50 ha by MRC
100 KM² (Claridge 1996)

Population: 40 villages

Wetland type: lakes, consists of two thousand islands, river systems.

Fauna: electric eels, Lao salamanders, White-winged ducks, number of fish species.

Flora: evergreen forest

Bio values: wildlife habitat esp water birds, nesting sites for some bird species, fish breeding/feeding, sources of fish.

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE





Brief profile of Nam Theun wetlands (continues)

Importance of the wetlands: fish feeding and fish sources

Conservation status: management system and secured financing in place (USD 1 million per annual for managing the whole NPA).

Land use: all land own by the government but local people have right to use, land allocation has been completed. Forest and fisheries are generally managed as a common resource.

Current/potential threats: illegal logging, mining in the north-west of Nakai Nam Theun NPA.

Existing projects: NT2 - Watershed Management and Project Authority (WMPA - NT2), NT2 hydropower project.

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

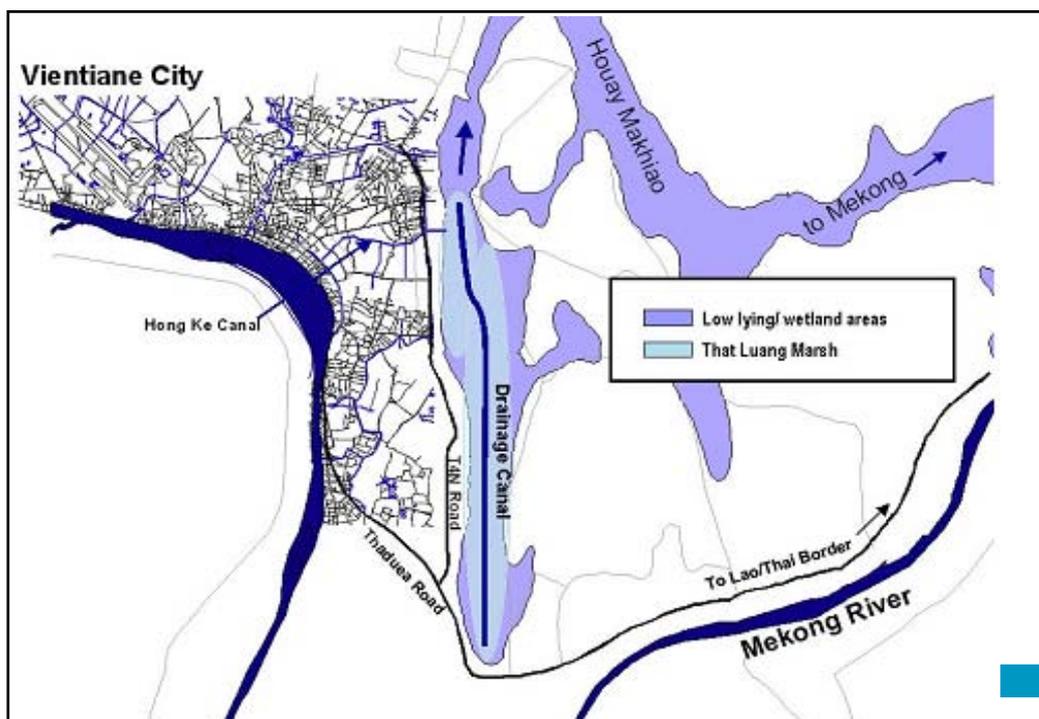


4. That Luang Wetlands



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE





Brief profile of That Luang Wetlands

Area: 20 KM², 20 ha *by MRC* **Population:** 14,000

Wetland type: swamp, ponds, rice paddy fields, seasonally flooded grassland and shrubland.

Fauna: some wildlife (## sp) and fish species (21 sps),

Flora: some native and invasive plant species

Bio values: groundwater supply function for humans, flood protection



REGIONAL EXPERT ADVISORY WORKSHOP REPORT - 01 MAR 2011
VIENTIANE, LAO PDR
LAO_WETLAND SHORTLIST



Brief profile of That Luang Wetlands (continues)

Importance of the wetlands: natural treatment of Vientiane capital, water sources for agriculture and maintaining ground water, and flood protection. (Direct & indirect benefits valued at \$4.8 million/year).

Conservation status: urban planning design to include the wetlands be protected from further urban encroachment.

Land use: agriculture around the wetlands belong to individuals but the main wetland own by the government. Local people have right to use for fishing and others.

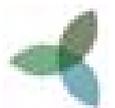
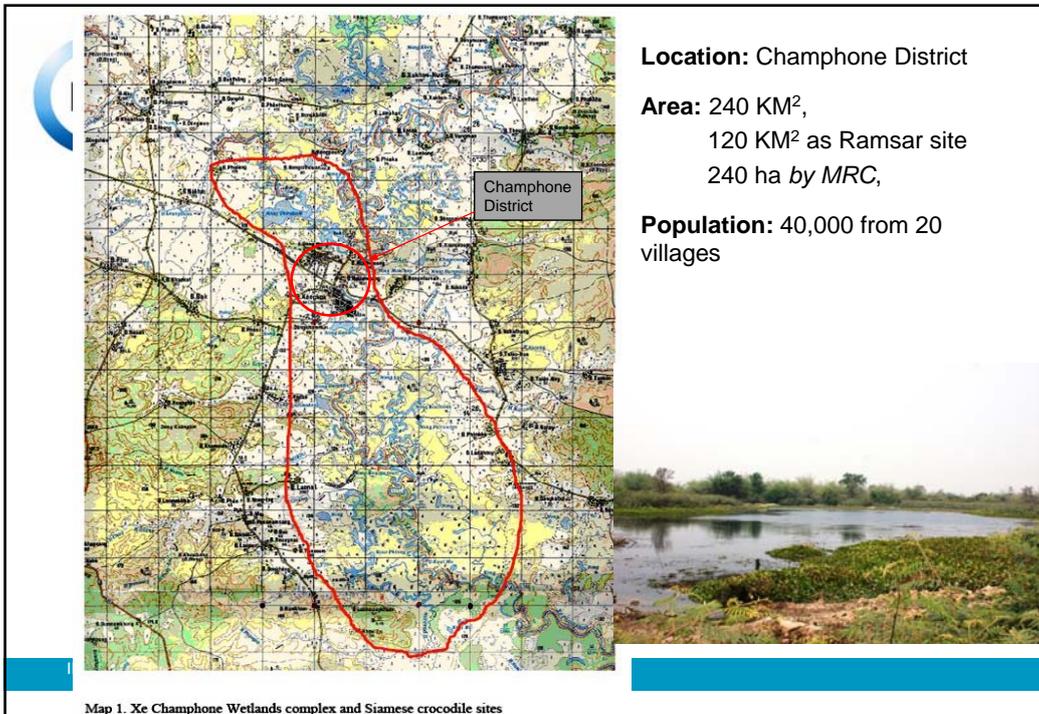
Current/potential threats: urban expansion; conversion for housing, business and industry; pollution, incl. direct flows to the wetlands without treatment. Leaking of toxic/chemical/ pesticides from business and gardening.

Existing projects: FAO, WWF wastewater project (to 2010)

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE



5. Xe Champhone Wetlands





Brief profile of Xe Champhone Wetlands

Wetland type: perennial and seasonal river channels, permanent and seasonal freshwater marshes, freshwater swamp forest, lakes, pond, reservoirs, seasonal flooded woodland/grassland, rain-fed rice paddy, and irrigated rice paddy.

Fauna: some wildlife species e.g Siamese crocodile, and number of water birds, soft-shell turtle, turtle, fish species (## sps).

Flora: dipterocarp forest, mixed semi-evergreen forest and open woodland, *Lagerstroemia* sp., and others in scattered bamboo and an understory of shrubs and grasses.

Bio values: support the largest population of critically endangered species “Siamese crocodile” in Laos, flood mitigation, regulations and purify groundwater.

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE





Brief profile of Xe Champhone Wetlands
(continues)

Importance of the wetlands: met with four Ramar's criteria as (i) unique habitat (many meanders and oxbows with deep pools); (ii) endangered species; (iv) some deep pool functions during critical life cycle of fish in dry season and (viii) fish spawning.

Conservation status: Siamese crocodile as a flagship species for conservation where community regulations made. Local taboo partly helps protect some part of wetlands from encroachment.

Land use: common and individual property land, agriculture and livestock production.

Current/potential threats: conversion wetlands for agriculture, using chemical fertilizers, pesticides in rice production, increase pop of cattle, some invasive species is found e.g *Mimosa pigra*

Existing projects: WCS working on crocodile conservation; IUCN RBA project.

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

