



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

Report on International Year of Biodiversity 2010

As we are all aware, the year 2010 is significant because the United Nations announced 2010 as International Year for Biodiversity. Laos PDR has been a member of the Convention on Biological Diversity since 19th, December 1996. Lao PDR held many activities to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity and these activities were held throughout the country and were undertaken through cooperation between government and non-government organizations. The most important activities included launching of International Year of Biological Diversity, National Day of Tree-Planting, and celebrating Wildlife and Fish Release Day. In addition, awareness raising workshops, campaigns and dissemination meeting on forestry and wildlife laws and regulations were organized throughout the year.

Many of the events organized throughout the International Year of Biodiversity 2010, were organized under the umbrella of the recommendation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry especially the National CBD Focal Point. Overall, these events aimed to raise awareness of biodiversity and promote protection of all life.

Key events and accomplishments in 2010 in Lao PDR included:

- 3rd June, 2010 launching of International Year of Biological Diversity.
- 13th July, 2010 Wildlife and Fishes Release Day.
- 1st June, 2010 Celebration the National Tree-Planting Day.
- 2nd February 2010 Celebration the World Wetland Day.
- January, 2010 launching the National Tiger Action Plan to 2020; publication of the National Action Plan (300 copies) and contributed these publication to all majorities concern sectors.
- Proposed a Provincial Protected Area (Sabot – Pongchong Mountain) to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forest and it approved to be a National Biological Diversity Area (National Protection Area) , it covered 149,030 hectares in Xiengkhoung Province.
- Implemented some key activities for the Crocodile Conservation Project in Savannakhet Province. This project is carried out through a community partnership. Three villages located in the Crocodile habitat (and in the project area) were assigned to build a boat for crocodile monitoring and closely coordinate with the technical experts in future work.
- Attended regional and international meetings, such as the COP 10 meeting in Nagoya, Japan.
- Organized workshops and activities on public awareness raising on forest and biological diversity conservation in 6 districts and 41 villages. In total, 1574 participants attended the workshops.

More detail on these International Year of Biological Diversity events is provided below:

1) The launching of International Year for Biological Diversity.

The launching of International Year for Biological Diversity took place in Vientiane, Laos, at Lao ITCT, on 3rd June, 2010 under the logo and slogan: “**Biodiversity is life, Biodiversity is our life**”. The event was chaired by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR. There were more than 200 Representatives from government agencies, INGOs, and embassies in attendance. Many media outlets such as on radio, newspapers, and television stations reported on the event. As we all know that the United Nations announce year 2010 as International Year for Biodiversity (IYB). Lao PDR, as member of party aware on this important opportunity and did necessary arrangement for realize the event. A series of stakeholder meetings were organized to share idea and mobilize resources.



Due to financial constraint, the event organized only in Vientiane Capital of Lao PDR. The main sponsors to event were: Swiss Development Agency (SDC) through Agro-biodiversity Initiative project (TABI), The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), World Wide Fund (WWF), World Conservation Society (WCS) and Rights-Link Project.

The event stressed on media works such as: hanging of IYB banners on main roads printed out and distributed IYB posters, released event news through local media.

After long time arranging for event, finally on 3rd June, 2010, the event launching was officially organized in Vientiane Capital of Lao PDR. The IYB launching organized together with Biodiversity day's celebration at the same time.



The event was attended and chaired by H.E Sitaheng Radsapoln the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. There were around 200 people represented from government, private sectors, mass organizations, diplomatic organizations, international development organizations.

In opening remark, H.E Sitaheng shortly mentioned on the history of Biodiversity Convention and Lao PDR acceded to it. He also mentioned about Lao PDR is rich on biodiversity at regional and global level, and now it seems that the resource is under high pressure in loss or reduce due to many reasons. He also said that biodiversity is connected with Lao people livelihood for long time mainly those who live in rural areas. By keeping healthy of biodiversity will contribute to poverty reduction and environmental protection. At the end, H.E Sitaheng requested all parties from government, private sectors/investors to all Lao citizens should contribute to biodiversity conservation and to ensure that national biodiversity resources utilization can heritage from generation to generations.

In event launching, there were some technical papers and short documentary films relevant to biodiversity issues introduced. To make event more meaningful, TABI project took the opportunity to launch TABI website. The academic institution namely Faculty of Environmental Science was very active involved in the event such as the performance of short drama and the exhibition.

Before closing of the event, all guests were invited to visit the boot-exhibition. Each boot tried to communicate to audience seeing the importance of biodiversity in socio-economic development.



Even the launching already officially organized, but till December, we have some things to follow up to make event alive, e.g. regularly press release, interview officials and people, promoting conservation activities and events.

2. (Wildlife and Fish Release Day (13th July, 2010).

Ministry of Agriculture and Forest of Lao PDR, in cooperation with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and local government, hosted many workshops to celebrate Wildlife Day on 13th July 2010. These workshops also contributed to mission of the International Day of Biodiversity examples of those ceremonies.

- ☞ On 13th July 2010, there were many ceremonies of fish releasing hold by the government of Lao took place at Houay Xone Reservoir in Naxaythong District, Vientiane Capital.



- ☞ On 9th July, 2010 another workshop on celebration the Wildlife and Fish Release Day was take place in Borlikhamxay Province was hosted by the provincial government and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. To celebrate this significant day, they arranged a ceremony to release the fish into fish pond In total, the representatives released 20,000 baby fish into the Hueng fish pond. Statistics show that there were total of 24, 294,000 million baby fish released in to the rivers and natural fish ponds throughout the country.



In order to contribute the International Year of Biodiversity, on the same day, 13th July 2011 another workshop hosted by National University of Laos, especially the Faculty of Forest Sciences holds a workshop in its Faculty. This work shop is also aim to disseminate the important of biodiversity on the Wildlife Day, and on the event there were some babies fishes released in to the Faculty of Forest's fish pond.

*ຊົມເຊີຍ ວັນປ່ອຍປາ ແລະ ອະນຸລັກສັດນ້ຳ ແລະ ສັດປ່າແຫ່ງຊາດ
ວັນທີ 13 ກໍລະກົດ 2010
ທີ່ ຄະນະປ່າໄມ້, ມະຫາວິທະຍາໄລແຫ່ງຊາດ*



3. World Wetland Day Celebration.



The event was organized on 2nd February 2010 at Nong Tha wetland, Chanthaboury District, Vientiane Capital. There were a wide range people from government organizations, INGOs, mass media, and others in attendance. Highlights of the day included, the activities were taken to the media and launched to the public for students, teachers and people through the country on the importance of World Wetland day and the impotence of wetland landscape and its ecosystem.

4. Seminar and Celebration of Lao PDR's accession to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.



The events were organized in Vientiane Capital on 20th July 2010 and in Champasak province (a southern province) on 22 July 2010. At both locations, main activities included a technical seminar on Ramsar, press release, and site visits. Vientiane Capital and Champasak Province. These important events were attended by Mr. Lew Young-Senior Regional Adviser for Asia/Oceania, Ramsar Secretariat.

5. Awareness raising, public dissemination on biodiversity related to Laws, decrees and regulations.

As the National CBD focal Point, the Department of Forestry, organized many workshops on the Biological Diversity Conservation that targeted many different groups such as: students at primary



schools, secondary schools, Universities, Colleges and, private companies (e.g. Phu Bia Mining Company, Lanxang Mineral Company).

During the workshops at primary schools, the students were offered books and posters on biological diversity and encouraged to read them and discuss the importance of biodiversity. In addition, the students were encouraged to draw different kinds of wildlife and domestic animals and were given awards and prizes for their drawings. These activities motivate younger generations to understand the importance of biodiversity and learn to preserve the variety life.

6. National Tree- Planting Day

The 1st of June every year is The National Tree Planting Day. In 2010, there were many activities that contributed to the International Year of Biological Diversity. Trees were planted in many places throughout the country. This will contribute to achieving Lao PDR's vision of having forests cover 70 percent of the country's total land mass by 2020.

Vientiane, Laos 24th June 2011

National CBD Focal Point
Ministry of Agriculture and Forest
Department of Forest



Khamphanh NANTHAVONG