



FACTSHEET

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR
SYSTEMATIC WILDLIFE
MONITORING IN THE DOI PHU KHA
TRANSBOUNDARY LANDSCAPE



CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SYSTEMATIC WILDLIFE MONITORING IN THE DOI PHU KHA TRANSBOUNDARY LANDSCAPE

PROJECT OVERVIEW

WWF Thailand, with support from WWF-US, is working with the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), including **Doi Phu Kha National Park, Mae Charim National Park, and Phu Fah Non-Hunting Area**, to strengthen systematic wildlife monitoring, adaptive law enforcement, and ranger technological capacity across the Doi Phu Kha landscape. Part of the Nan-Luang Prabang mountain range, this critical ecological corridor connects Thailand and Lao PDR

and supports important species such as Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) and hornbills, while facing growing threats from habitat loss and fragmentation. Through transboundary collaboration with **Nam Poui National**

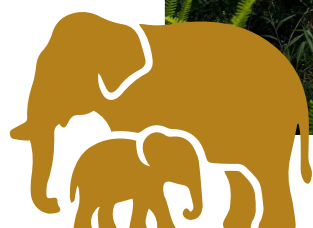
Protected Area in Lao PDR, the project aims to enhance ecological connectivity and sustainable management across more than 170,000 hectares of forest landscape, supporting long-term biodiversity conservation, particularly for Asian elephants and other key wildlife species.

WWF KEY INTERVENTIONS

- Camera Trap & Data Collection Training to strengthen ranger skills in species identification, camera placement, and data management.
- SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) Patrol Training to improve patrol planning, reporting, and adaptive management.
- Provision of essential equipment, including 50 camera trap sets, GPS units, smartphones, digital cameras, and compasses.



- GIS & Distance Sampling Training to support wildlife mapping and threat analysis.
- Data System Integration to enhance adaptive patrol planning and cross-site data sharing.





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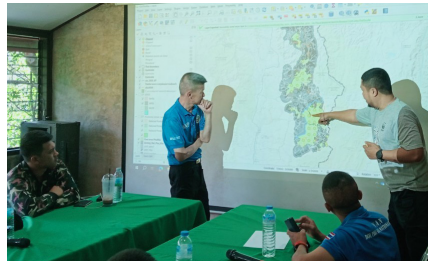
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Capacity Building

- A total of **80 frontline rangers** trained across three protected areas.
- **30 rangers** completed camera trap deployment training, and **50 rangers** participated in SMART Patrol system training.
- **Two technical training modules** combined classroom and field-based learning to strengthen data reliability and ranger capacity.

Technology and Equipment

- **50 complete camera trap sets** distributed across three protected areas.
- Deployed equipment to cover high-biodiversity zones approximately **48,000 hectares (300,000 rai)**.
- Introduced digital monitoring tools, including GPS units and mobile devices, to improve patrol recording and spatial accuracy.



Data and Monitoring Systems

- Identified **10 priority zones** for elephant monitoring through GIS mapping and field surveys.
- Institutionalised **SMART Patrol systems** across all three protected areas.
- Rangers now use SMART data to analyse threat patterns, enabling data-informed patrol planning and threat hotspot management.
- Utilised SMART data by rangers to analyse threat patterns, enabling data-informed patrol planning and threat hotspot management.

Coordination and Collaboration

- Strengthened collaboration among the three protected areas through standardised monitoring protocols and shared data systems.
- Established the **foundation for future transboundary wildlife monitoring** with WWF Laos, Nam Poui National Protected Area.

CHALLENGES AND NEXT STEPS



Key Challenges:

- Gaps in cross-border cooperation with Lao PDR partners.
- Technical capacity variation among rangers
- Ongoing threats from **forest fires** and limited integrated response systems.
- Underdeveloped data management systems for efficient information sharing.
- Limited staffing capacity for on-the-ground coordination and monitoring.

Way Forward

- Conduct **refresher and advanced training** on SMART Patrol Mobile application, species identification, AI-assisted image classification, and GIS mapping.
- Expand the **camera trap network** for broader biodiversity assessment.
- Establish **formal transboundary collaboration frameworks** with Nam Poui National Protected Area for joint patrols and shared monitoring.



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