



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



## Gender Report

Xe Champhone Ramsar Site, Lao PDR

15th - 20th January 2017

CAWA Project



Xe Champhone Ramsar site ©Anushae Parakh

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

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## Acronyms

ARO	Asia Regional Office
BKN	Beung Kiat Ngong
CAWA	Climate Adaptation in Wetland Areas
CC	Climate Change
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CEDAW	Convention on Eliminating All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DEQP	Department of Environmental Quality Promotion
DONRE	District Office of Natural Resources and Environment
EBA	Ecosystem-Based Adaptation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FCZ	Fish Conservation Zones
FSP	Full Sized Project
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IRAS	Improving the Resilience of the Agriculture Sector in Lao PDR to Climate Change Impacts
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LArrec	Living Aquatic resources research center
LWU	Lao Women's Union
MoNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MRC	Mekong River Commission
NCAW	National Commission for the Advancement of Women
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Product
PDR	People's Democratic Republic
PoNRE	Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment
PPG	Project Preparation Grant (GEF)
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
UK	United Kingdom
USA	United States of America
USD	United States Dollar
VA	Vulnerability Assessment
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
XCP	Xe Champhone

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background CAWA Project

Under the Least Development Country Fund, the GEF-CEO has approved the project on “Climate Adaptation in Wetland Areas of Lao PDR” (CAWA), with FAO as the Executing Agency and the Executing Partners being the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MONRE) of Lao PDR and the International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN). IUCN will contribute to this project by providing national experts or consultants who will be responsible for completing the tasks under the Letter of Agreement.

The CAWA project focuses on the Beung Kiat Ngong (BKN) and Xe Champhone (XCP) wetlands, protected under the Ramsar Convention. The main project components include: i) Improvement of knowledge and understanding of Climate Change (CC) impacts and risks, ii) Implementation of appropriate CC adaptation and risk reduction measures, and iii) Integration of tested and cost-effective CC adaptation and disaster management measures into critical planning processes at local and national levels.

The project aims to help local communities in two important wetland areas of Lao PDR adapt to the impacts of climate change, and contribute to the sustainability of their livelihoods, by supporting the restoration and sustainable management of the globally important Ramsar-designated wetlands on which they depend. The project will use an ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA) approach, whereby the ability of the wetlands to buffer local peoples’ livelihoods against CC impacts will be safeguarded through a combination of improved planning and governance conditions, direct investments in climate change adaptation (CCA) measures and livelihoods strengthening, and support to CC resilient forms of sustainable use, with a strong focus on creating lasting capacities among national stakeholders at all levels to sustain and replicate these benefits.

These activities will be supported and oriented through investments in knowledge generation regarding the vulnerability of local communities to disasters and CC, the importance of wetlands for CCA, and options for their sustainable and resilient management. Lessons learned in these two wetlands with respect to community-based vulnerability risk assessment and strategies for CCA, based on principles of EBA and sustainable use, will be replicable elsewhere in Lao PDR, the greater Mekong region and beyond.

A rapid gender survey was designed to gain the knowledge and understanding of the gender context of the area in order to help ensure gender inclusive implementation of the project and support the design of specific gender responsive initiatives in the planning phase. The gender survey was conducted in representative villages (selected from the Core and Buffer Zones of the Ramsar Site) in Champhone district in January 2017. The survey was designed to gain knowledge from key informants representing local government, Village Leaders, Laos Women’s Union, NGOs, CSO leaders, as well as from local community members through focus group discussions. The research focused on completing a broad

scale gender analysis with a focus on wetland resource dependency and management, climate change adaptation and livelihoods development.

The purpose of the research is also to cross-check/validate the Annex 8 of the CAWA Project Document 'Gender Analysis and Strategies' which was developed by the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) team. The 'Results Matrix' in Annex 1 of the CAWA project document will also be reviewed and recommendations made as necessary to improve gender mainstreaming in the CAWA programme. Much of the information from the research is also directly relevant to the Vulnerability Assessment (VA) of Xe Champhone. Likewise, the gender analysis results will also be further enhanced by the information generated from the Vulnerability Assessment, as this provides a more comprehensive analysis of the vulnerability or resilience of the Social Ecological Systems of the Ramsar site as a whole. Feedback and validation of the results of the research will be included in the workshop in the first half of 2017.

## 1.2 Background on Xe Champhone Ramsar site

The Xe Champhone Ramsar Site is a large wetland area covering about 45,000 ha, located on a level flood plain in the centre of the country. A central portion covering 12,400ha was designated in 2010 as one of the country's first Ramsar Sites (WREA, 2011), consisting of two core zones, one in the centre of the wetlands and one in the south (see Map 1 below).

The wetlands consist of a mosaic of different wetland types, comprising perennial and seasonal rivers, freshwater lakes, ponds, meanders, oxbows, marshes, rice paddy fields (Claridge, 1996) and a small area of peat land in the east. Perennial and seasonal streams and ponds are major components of the important southern section of the wetland, which, although lying outside the designated Ramsar Site, includes a series of marshes and ponds, some of which are considered sacred wetlands and are traditionally protected by local communities. The many marshes, as well as evergreen and bamboo forests associated with the wetland, provide habitat for a number of globally threatened species, including Siamese crocodiles. Some patches of mixed evergreen forest remain in good condition in the eastern part of the wetland.

The wetlands are fed by the Xe Champhone River, draining from the Annamite Mountain Range to the east. There is only around 10m elevation change between the north and south of the wetland, so the Xe Champhone is a gentle, slow-flowing river, even when full. The river then drains out of the wetlands into the Xe Banghieng River and thence into the Mekong River.

River flow, wetland ecology and socioeconomic impacts in the area are determined by a combination of climate, the size of the upstream drainage basin, and artificial flow modifications (the rivers' tributaries have to pass through the artificial reservoirs<sup>1</sup> before entering the wetlands). The climate is monsoonal and highly seasonal: average annual rainfall is 1,478mm, with strong variation between the November-May dry season and the May-October wet season (mirrored by a difference between a minimum low temperature of 13°C in January and a maximum high of around 39°C in April).

The combination of strongly seasonal rainfall and a large upstream watershed mean that river levels vary widely, from around 10-15m in the wet season to as low as 1.5m in the dry season, when the river even

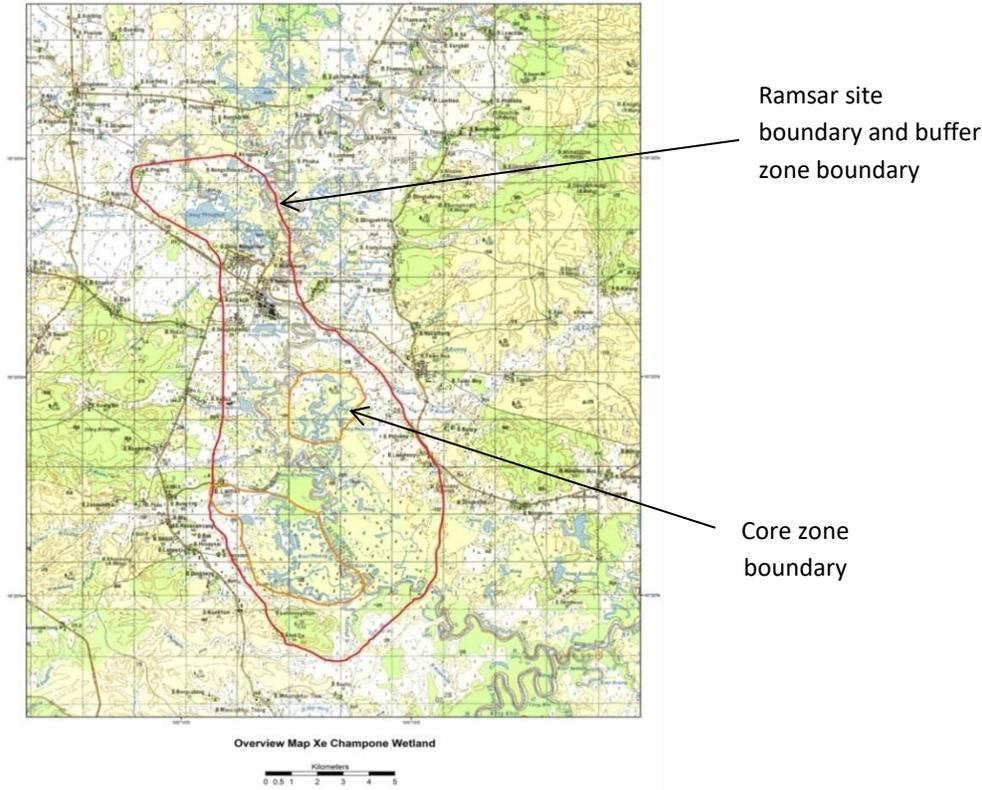
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<sup>1</sup> The biggest and most important man-made reservoirs are Ang Soui, Buk and Phai Cheo lakes, together covering an area of about 3,000 ha; these were built in 1980s to support agriculture and fisheries as part of an irrigation programme.

becomes blocked in places. During the early wet season, the river flow is strong and there is a high rate of soil runoff, but it slows later when backwater from the Mekong River arrives and flows against the river. High wet season flows lead to the different wetland types becoming interconnected, providing important breeding and feeding habitats and migration pathways for fish; these floods also lead to negative social and economic impacts, and in addition damaging flash floods sometimes also occur because of the wide, flat nature of the floodplain and the shallowness of the river, which allows it to overflow its banks. During the dry season, by contrast, falling water levels mean that many lakes and ponds in the wetland become isolated, and drought becomes a serious problem for local communities. Groundwater is found about 4-5 meters below the surface in the wet season but 8 meters down in the dry season.

The recharge and discharge functions of the wetlands are important for maintaining the wetland habitats and water resources for wildlife populations and local residents. In the southern section, the existing oxbows function well in this respect, as shown by the relatively shallow ground water level in the dry season, at about 3-4m. In the north, Ang Soui and Buk Lakes provide this function to some degree. Water stored in these lakes ensures that a sufficient level is maintained in the dry season and can be drained into the Xe Champhone River when more water is needed.

Figure 1. Boundary Map of Xe Champhone Wetlands Ramsar Site



The wetlands also provide important natural resources for the people living in and around them. More than 95% of the labour force in Champhone District is engaged in occupations related to wetland ecosystem services and more than 80% of gross income in the district comes from sources related to the wetland. They are the main source of food, income and drinking water for local residents. In addition, their cultural and natural features, such as the Monkey Forest, Turtle Pond and temples such as Hotay Pidok, attract around 9,000-10,000 tourists a year. The key ecosystem services of the wetlands include

the provision of natural resources, including fish and other aquatic wildlife, regulation of water quality and quantity, support for biodiversity, including globally threatened species, and cultural services, such as spiritual significance and tourism. Importantly these services can vary depending on season.

## 2. GENDER SURVEY OBJECTIVES, METHODOLOGY AND STUDY AREA

### 2.1 The Gender Survey

The gender survey for Xe Champhone wetland site was conducted in order to provide an understanding of the gender context of the CAWA project site, and is considered an important initial step in the process of integrating gender into the overall design, implementation and evaluation process of the CAWA project. The CAWA project itself aims to help local communities in two important wetland areas in Lao PDR to adapt to the impacts of climate change, and to contribute to the sustainability of community livelihoods, by supporting the restoration and sustainable management of the globally important Ramsar-designated wetlands on which they depend.

The gender analysis for the CAWA project site focuses on examining the differences in the roles and norms<sup>2</sup> for women and men; their differing needs, constraints, and opportunities; and the impact of these differences in their lives. The ultimate aim of conducting the assessment is to ensure that the gender norms are recognized and that gender based inequalities are compensated for where possible through the programme. A full description of the methodology can be found in the section below.

In addition to providing information on the gender context in Xe Champhone (XCP) wetland for consideration for the CAWA project team, the information generated from the rapid gender analysis will also be used to validate Appendix 8 of the CAWA Project Document 'Gender Analysis and Strategies' developed by the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) team, as well as to review Annex 1 the 'Results Matrix' of the CAWA project, and to provide a set of generic recommendations for consideration for gender integration into the CAWA project. The results of the gender survey will also influence the design and implementation of the Vulnerability Assessment (VA), as well as be enhanced by the results of the VA which is a more comprehensive analysis of the vulnerability/ resilience of the wider Social-Ecological System of Xe Champhone wetland, of which gender aspects are just one element.

#### Objective of the Gender Survey:

To provide a general overview of the gender perspective at the broad site level of the Xe Champhone Ramsar site and to develop a contextual understanding of the gender patterns of use and management of wetland resources in Xe Champhone for consideration in the design and implementation of the CAWA project.

#### Selected Survey Area:

There are 24 villages located in Xe Champhone Ramsar site. A total of 6 representative villages were selected for the survey mission, based on consultations with local authorities (See Table 1). It was agreed that the extent and limit of the operational management boundary for the CAWA project should not exceed the boundary of the Buffer Zone therefore the representative villages for the survey were selected within this boundary.

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<sup>2</sup> Gender norms are societal **norms** that dictate the types of behaviours which are generally considered acceptable, appropriate, or desirable for people based on their actual or perceived sex or sexuality

**Table 1: Select Villages for the Gender Survey**

No	Name of Village	Note: (buffer zone/closer core zone)
1	Houamouang	Core zone
2	Donyeng	Buffer zone /Closer core zone
3	Taleo (Phouthai village)	Core zone
4	Nakathang (Makong)	Buffer zone /Closer core zone
5	Sakhoun – Nue	Core zone
6	Tansoum	Core zone

## Gender Survey Design and Methodology

This section describes the survey design and field research process:

### ***Desk Review***

A review of the CAWA project documents and background information was conducted to understand the Xe Champhone site and objectives of the project, and how to approach the design of the gender survey.

### ***CAWA team planning meeting***

On the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016, a team including DEQP under MoNRE, FAO and IUCN met for the first time, with the aim of initiating the process of gender mainstreaming in CAWA. The main agenda was to develop awareness and to increase the capacity of the team on gender, in relation to development; developing and finalising a standardised gender survey tool which aims to give a broad overview of the trends and patterns of gender and wetland resources use and management in the XCP Ramsar site; as well as understand the operational boundary and criteria for selecting key informants.

### ***Pre-testing the survey tool and village selection***

Designing a ‘fit for purpose’ research methodology to understand the overall gender context in relation to climate change adaptation and livelihoods development (two key focus areas of CAWA) started with defining the areas of information needed through a process of developing and refining a set of pre-prepared questions around the main themes.

DEQP together with IUCN Lao PDR country office and FAO coordinated with the local government to select key informants and village communities to be included in the survey, with the aim of including villages from all clusters and representative villages of all ethnic and socio-economic groups.

The survey tool/ questions were translated into local language and the pre-tested with a selected group in a single village in the first week of January 2017. Based on the pilot testing the survey tool was further modified and it was decided that there would be a separate survey for local government/ NGOs and villages/ clusters. The full survey tools / questionnaires can be found in Annexes 4 and 5.

### ***Gender Field Survey Mission***

The gender field survey mission to select villages in Xe Champhone Ramsar site took place from 15<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and consisted of key informant interviews and focus group discussions, with men and women in separate groups, using various PRA tools to facilitate discussions with target respondents. The PRA methodologies used included; resource mapping, 24-hour activity clock, seasonality calendars, species inventory as well as others. The survey was conducted with the rationale of integrating gender

analysis into the wider situational analysis of the environmental, socio-economic and governance aspects of the sites. In order to achieve this; dialogues were facilitated around understanding the gender perspective with regards to wetland resource use, livelihoods, climate change and governance. Details of the full programme are included in Annex 2.

The field survey team included one staff member from FAO, two staff members from IUCN Lao PDR, two members from IUCN ARO, one staff member from Savannakhet - PoNRE (water resources division), and three staff members from Champhone District - DoNRE (one deputy head of DONRE and two technical staff from water resources division) joined this mission (See annex 3). At the end of each day a team debriefing was held to document the process and main points of the discussion that had taken place that day. Individual field notes were also retained for later translation and analysis.

During the five day field mission the team conducted interviews and focus group discussions with key informants and representative community members from the select villages and village clusters in the core and buffer zone of the Xe Champhone Ramsar site. The names of all that took part in the survey can be found in Annex 4, 5 and 6.

### 3. GENDER SURVEY RESULTS – OBSERVATIONS and KEY FINDINGS

The findings of the gender field research touch on five key domains that relate to different aspects of social life. The following are the definition of terms and concepts of the 5 main domains:

- **The Policy Environment:** Institutions, Laws, and Policies – Information about men and women’s different formal and informal rights, and how they are dissimilarly affected by policies and rules governing institutions. This section includes information relating to due process, education, employment opportunities, infrastructure, ownership and inheritance rights.
- **Cultural norms, Beliefs and Perceptions** - Cultural belief system, norms, perceptions that affect men and women’s behavior, participation and decision-making capacity, which can also influence (facilitate or limit) men and women’s access to opportunities such as education, services, economic opportunities, mobility and influence on decisions, as well as expectations about appropriate behavior.
- **Practices and Participation** – Gender roles, responsibilities and use of time - Information on the norms that influence men and women’s behavior, and structure the type of activities they engage in and their roles and responsibilities. Information on men and women’s different roles, the timing and place where their activities occur, their capacity to participate in different types of economic, political, and social activities, and decision-making.
- **Access to and Control over Assets** - Information on gender relations that affect access to the resources necessary for a person to be productive, such as; natural resources, productive assets, income, information, knowledge, social networks; Tangible assets such as land, capital, and equipment/ tools, and intangible assets such as knowledge, education, and information.
- **Power** – Information on power relations which relates to all four of the domains described above and helps explain who has, can acquire and can expend power assets, determines if an individual can take advantage of opportunities, exercise rights, move about and associate with others,

enter into legal contracts, run for or hold office. Power also determines the way men and women are treated by different types of institutions, policies and laws. The way people are treated forms an important part of what it means to be socially marginalized and disempowered.

The key gender domains that help structure the analysis and findings of the report more specifically are drawn out and presented under the following three sections:

- Gender, Livelihoods and the Division of Labour
- Access and Control over Assets
- Gender, Participation and the Policy Environment

### **3.1 Gender, Livelihoods and the Division of Labour**

The XCP wetlands natural resources are central to the livelihoods and well being of local communities; and the wetlands provide ideal conditions for rice production, fisheries, and livestock production as well as tourism opportunities.

More than 95% of the labour force in Champhone District is engaged in occupations that depend on the wetland ecosystem services and more than 80% of gross income in the district comes from sources related to the wetland<sup>3</sup>. The wetlands provide the main source of food, income and drinking water for local residents. In addition, there are natural and cultural heritage features, such as the Monkey Forest, Turtle Pond and temples such as Hotay Pidok, which attract around 9,000-10,000 tourists a year. Sixty-five percent of these are domestic tourists, including Thai and Vietnamese people, and 35% are international tourists visiting from the UK, USA, France and Germany. It is the natural, cultural and historic sites of the area that are top-rated tourist attraction.

Rural communities living in and around the wetland depend heavily on wetland resources on a daily basis for their livelihoods, nutrition/ food security and general wellbeing. In the XCP and Beung Kiat Ngong Ramsar sites, approximately 20 'first tier' villages (with a population of around 21,000 inhabitants) depend primarily on the wetland resources and are most directly involved in their management. A further 40 'second tier' villages (with a population of around 42,000 inhabitants) are also dependent on wetland resources and ecosystem services but to a lesser extent and are less directly involved in their management.<sup>4</sup>

Food and water security across the villages located in the wetland is adequate, but there are few opportunities to build capital, to diversity livelihood through other income generating opportunities. Communities and the wetlands they depend on are considered highly vulnerable to climate change associated impacts such as; increasing temperatures, changing precipitation patterns and increasing incidence and intensity of storms, episodes of drought and flooding.

#### **3.1.1 Productive Roles**

The main livelihoods of communities living in the XCP wetland are rice farming, fishing and livestock production. Other livelihood activities include handicraft production such as mat weaving, paid labour, rice wine production, vegetable growing and collecting Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) such as

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<sup>3</sup> CAWA PPG period document.

<sup>4</sup> CAWA PPG period document.

bamboo, mushrooms, snails etc. The roles that men and women play in different productive activities are clearly defined, attributed to the traditional gender norms and values of the villages in the area.

**Rice farming**

The rice farming production process is complex, with various tasks typically undertaken by either men or women. A simplified overview of the typical pattern of gender and division of labour in the rice production process based on the focus group consultations held in Ban Taleo is provided in Table 2. The women’s role and responsibility in the process includes; soaking and scatter rice seeds to create the seedling banks, transplanting seedlings to the rice paddy and helping with the harvesting. Men’s role and responsibility in the process is to purchase the seeds and fertilizer, prepare the rice paddies for planting, operate the tractor or other machinery (e.g. rice planting machine), maintain the water levels, fertilize the soil, transport rice grain from the paddy to the storage barn, harvest and sell the rice.

Women are ultimately responsible for managing the money earned from rice farming, as they are the main financial managers. One kilo of un-husked rice on average costs 1,800-2,000 kip and 1 kilo of seed on average costs 6,000 kip. Women decide on all routine household expenses e.g. food items, children’s education requirements e.g. books, uniforms, transportation money, items required for house renovation, community collections for social welfare (e.g. building roads, funerals etc.). A small proportion of money is given as an ‘allowance’ to men (upon request) personal needs such as alcohol, coffee, cigarettes, motorbike fuel etc.

**Table 2: Ban Taleo - Gender division of labour in the rice production process.**

Women	Men
Soaking the seeds	Land preparation
Scattering seeds	Transplantation
Transplantation	Maintenance of water levels
Weeding and fertilizing	Harvesting
Harvesting	Selling the rice
Selling the rice	
Managing the finances	

Detailed discussions in some villages revealed further gender differences in roles in relation to the various different techniques and methods for rice farming. For example, in recent years, villages such as Ban Donyeng have piloted a new technology, a handheld machine for planting seed directly into the rice paddy (i.e. no seedling development stage). The use of the machine is predominantly done by men as the machinery is heavy and there is a common perception that men are more adept and faster in familiarising themselves with using new, innovative technologies. In these cases women’s time availability to engage in other productive and reproductive roles (discretionary time) is increased. The introduction of the rice planting machines was lead by the District Agriculture and Forest Office (DAFO), as a pilot to demonstrate if this model works. For the villagers, this system is economically sound as they don’t have to pay for labour, they save time and many have invested in a machine for themselves.

In villages such as Ban Xakhuen Nue, in the lower lying area of the wetland, there are two rice crops per year; one is the rain fed crop variety, undertaken by 40% of households, and the other is the irrigated crop variety produced in the dry season, undertaken by all households. There are three main types of rice farming techniques, namely; Nawan, Nayot and Nadam.

Nawan is mostly carried out by men, as the activities performed mainly consist of preparing land, soaking the seed, and managing water levels (in the dry season). Women only take part to scatter seeds in the rice paddy. Both men and women take responsibility for fertilizing, harvesting and selling/ marketing the rice. The money is kept and managed by women, as there is a general lack of trust that men can manage finances responsibly. The Nawan method is practiced by 15-20 households in a total of 4ha.

The Nayot method is also predominantly carried out by men as it requires machine operation. This method is used by one household in over 1ha. This new technical has been adopted in the last few years and saves time and labour costs.

Nadam is a more traditional technique. The land preparation is done by men, and women are responsible for transplanting the seedlings, fertilizing, and harvesting. Marketing the crop is done by both men and women. Two hundred and ninety-six households are involved in this method.

An example of the typical gender division of labour in the Nawan farming technique is presented in Table 3 based on the focus group discussion held in Ban Tansoum.

**Table 3: Ban Tansoum - Gender division of labour in the Nawan rice production process:**

Women	Men
Scatter the seed	Prepare the land
Fertilize the rice paddy	Fertilize the rice paddy
Harvest rice	Manage water levels in the rice paddy
Sell the rice grain to a 'middle man' / buyer	Harvest rice
Manage expenses for farming inputs e.g. petrol for tractor, fertilizer etc.	Sell the rice to a middle man / buyer

### **Fishing**

There is a clear distinction in the use of wetland fisheries resource between men and women. Men fish for larger sized economically valuable fish such as; Snakehead, cat fish, *Chitala ornate* and *Hemibagrus filamentus*, found in the deeper parts of the wetland lakes using gill nets, cast nets, set pole and hook and traps. Women collect and fish using scoop nets, barrage nets, and lift nets, closer to shore in the shallower parts of the wetland.

The main season for fishing is June to September. During this time women carry out fish processing, fermenting and drying fish, and making 'Padaek' (a mix of small fishes) for home consumption or commercial purposes. Women are responsible for separating the fish brought to shore by their husbands and decide what to sell and what to keep for household consumption. Women are also responsible for

selling fisheries products either in nearby local markets or to ‘middlemen’ or buyers within the village or at the wetland site itself.

Men may also sell the fish directly at landing site to middle-man or buyer, especially when the catch is good (fresh and/or alive large size commercially valuable fish). On these occasions men may keep up to 20% of the income for themselves giving the remainder to their wives. Household income and expenses are primarily managed by women but for larger procurements such as repairing/ renovating the house, buying a machine or a buffalo, man and women (husbands and wives) will make a joint decision. Table 4 provides an overview of the typical gender division of labour in fisheries based on the results of a focus group discussion in Ban Nakhatang village.

**Table 4: Ban Nakhathang - Gender division of labour in the rice production process:**

Women	Men
Catch shrimp, snails, crab, small fish	Prepare fishing gear i.e. nets and hooks
Shell fish	Catch fish (big and high value variety)
Manage the family income	Give fish to their wives for separation for household consumption or selling
	Money given to wives to manage

#### ***Fishing technical aspects***

Fishing activities are regarded as an important part of livelihoods of local communities. Such activities rely on migratory fish species and use of seasonally-specific types of traditional fishing gear. The use of the 11 different types of fishing gears in Xe Champhone is dependent upon the season and habitats. The fishing gear used during the wet season included primarily lift Net (kadoung) and bloking net (tong). while the gear used during the dry season was dominant by Horizontal cyclinder trap (lob), Upright Basket Trap (toum), Fish-attractant basket (khar), Woven Wedge Trap (sone) and other fishing gear used in both season primarily gill net (*mong*), cast nets (hae), line and hook (bet), scoop net (sa wing).

**Table 5: Fishing Gears in Xe Champhone Ramsar Site:**

No	Gear Lao Name	Gear English Name
<b>Used in both season</b>		
1	ມອງ	Gill Net, drifting gill nets
2	ແຫ	Cast Net
3	ເບັດ	Line and hook
4	ສະຫວິງ	Scoop Net
<b>Used in wet season</b>		
5	ຈະດຸ້ງ	Lift Net
6	ໂຕ່ງ	Bloking Net
<b>Used in dry season</b>		
7	ລອບ	Horizontal cyclinder trap
8	ຈັນ	Chan trap

9	ຕຸ້ມ	Upright Basket Trap
10	ຂາ	Fish-attractant basket
11	ສ້ອນ	Woven Wedge Trap

### **Livestock Production**

All village households own a variety of livestock and animals, including buffaloes, cattle, goats, ducks, pigs and chickens. Livestock are considered important commodities and livelihood assets with smaller sized livestock (e.g. chickens, ducks, goats) traded in for quick access to disposable cash when need arises such as a death of a family member, illness etc. It can typically be either men or women who take responsibility to feed their livestock, however there is a trend for women to feed smaller livestock such as ducks and chickens and for men to be responsible for the larger livestock e.g. water buffalo, cattle, including the responsibility for vaccinating and transporting the livestock. Women manage the income and expenses associated with the maintenance and sale of livestock.

In Ban Xakhuen Nue Village, for example, all households have at least one or two animals. People with money may choose to invest in a bull and a cow to keep for breeding purposes and sell the calves (or wait until they mature). A bull costs 50,000 THB (USD 1,430) and a cow costs 40,000 THB (USD 1,140) and generally imported from Thailand. The native cow species available in the villages are cheaper, costing roughly 10-15,000 THB (USD 280 – USD 430) per cow. A middle-man or buyer from Vientiane, Savannakhet or Vietnam buys the livestock directly from the home of the villagers.

### **Supplementary livelihoods: Collection of Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and home gardening**

Women have an important role to play in the provision of the day to day food requirements at the household level. Much of the domestic nutrition requirements and other family needs are derived from the income from supplementary livelihood activities, including gardening, gleaning (collecting wetland snails, shrimp, crab, frogs), collecting Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), mat weaving, weaving cotton, making scoop nets etc. This section will focus on gardening activities, NTFP collection and mat weaving because these were the most common supplementary income generating activities across villages surveyed.

Women generally engage in gardening and small vegetable cultivation (e.g. production of garlic, spring onion, corn, sweet potato, beans, cucumber, and watermelon) and most products are for domestic consumption (roughly 60% for consumption and 40% for income generation). Only excess products are sold commercially. An overview of the gender division of labour pattern in the home gardening/ agriculture production process based on focus group discussions in Ban Nakatang Village is presented in Table 6.

**Table 6: Ban Nakatang - Gender division of labour in home gardening and agriculture production:**

Women	Men
Preparation of the land	Preparation of land
Fencing	Fencing

Cleaning/ weeding	Bringing bamboo.
Fertilizing	Carrying wood.
Watering	
Harvesting	
Selling	

NTFPs are predominantly collected by women, and include small aquatic animals such as crabs, snails, and small fish, red ant eggs, and frogs, wild vegetables as well as plant materials such as bamboo and mushrooms/ fungi etc. NTFPs are collected from common pool sources such as wetlands and forests. Women are also responsible for selling the NTFPs, either in local markets or to a middle-men or buyers that come into the village or at the wetland collection site itself. For example, in Ban Nakatang Village, women collect NTFP products at around 4-5 am in the morning and then sell them at 7-8 am in the local market along the roadside. After they have sold their early morning collections, they will return to the forest to collect further products depending on what is available (seasonally dependant) and what the demand is. Women are ultimately responsible for managing the income generated from collection of NTFP products, and all other financial management matters at the household level as they are traditionally responsible for overseeing their children’s education related expenses, payment for household food items, and paying social welfare contributions (building roads, villages, community activities or funerals etc.).

Mat weaving is an activity done exclusively by women. The equipment needed is a boat, a sickle and a tractor to carry the tall grass back home. Transporting the reed from the source to the household is done by men. The matt production process is long and involves collecting grass, drying it in the sun, dying it, and making the structure to weave the mat. Making the mat requires two people and is labour intensive. The price of mats varies from 15-30,000 kip, equivalent to USD 1.80 – 3.70 depending on the size and quality of the mat.

***Employment Opportunities: Local employment and External employment opportunities***

There are limited local employment opportunities. These are limited to paid labour mainly for men to work in the rice paddies (seasonal) or local construction, or employment in the three local factories (a drinking water factory, a rice production factory and a salt factory).

Due to the limited employment opportunities and lack of opportunity to access higher education there is a trend for young men and women to go abroad to access labour markets overseas in Thailand and other parts of Lao and to build their lives abroad or outside the community. In Ban Taleo Village 60-70% of young people have moved to Thailand or Savannakhet to secure paid work, normally in the labour market. Young people seeking work outside the community is a prevailing trend for both men and women and relies on established networks of family and friends overseas. Women’s access to the labour market does not appear to be hampered by their relative restrictions in mobility to larger urban centres in their local area, but it is likely that the risks and opportunities faced by men and women seeking employment in the labour market overseas will be different. Families are benefiting to varying degrees from international remittances from the young people living and working abroad, there is a pattern emerging that many that emigrate are not returning to their home villages. This in turn means that the skills and knowledge of the wetlands, fishing and farming practices is reduced to that of the older

generation and may eventually disappear, as young people continue to emigrate seeking opportunities outside the traditional way of life.

The emigration from the villages may in time lead to a change in the demographics of society. This has implications on people’s ability to cope in the next two decades when there will be less people to inherit and manage the farm lands. It may also have implications on the social fabric of society since the traditional knowledge and skills of farming and fishing may not be transferable. Moreover with an increasingly ageing society, people’s ability to adapt to changing environments may be threatened.

### 3.1.2 Reproductive roles

With respect to productive roles of community members there are a number of areas of overlap and shared responsibilities between men and women. However in exploring the gender roles and division of labour in relation to the reproductive sphere it is clear that reproductive roles are almost exclusively the responsibility of women. The reproductive roles of women include; childcare, maintenance of the house, cooking, household financial management etc.

An overview of how men and women spend their time over the course of typical a 24 hour day is presented in Table 7. The information is based on the results of a PRA exercise (the 24-hour clock) conducted in Ban Taleo Village through two separate focus group discussions, one an exclusively men’s group and the other an exclusively women’s group. The table shows the gender divisions of labour showing that women are involved in both productive and reproductive roles, whereas men are involved exclusively in productive roles. The table also shows that typically a woman’s working day is two hours longer than that of a man’s (two hours less discretionary time than men).

**Table 7: Daily time use calendar of women and men in Ban Taleo Village:**

Time	Women	Men
4-5 am	Wake up, make a fire, steam rice	Sleep
5-6 am	Wash dishes, clean the house	Wake up at 5 and go to fish
6-7 am	Water the garden, prepare breakfast, collect water from the stream for drinking	Return home
7-8 am	Have breakfast, prepare children for school, feed livestock, go to the temple to give breakfast to the monks	Give the fish to the women for separation and consumption
8-10 am	Go to the rice field or the forest to collect vegetables such as wild potatoes, frogs, fish and crabs from the wetland	Take the tractor to the rice field, go to wetland to collect food
11-1 pm	Return home to cook lunch for the family, everyone eats together and rests	Out in rice fields and wetland
1-4 pm	Soak rice for dinner, wash clothes, clean the house, maintain the garden, social activities, steam the rice	Out in rice fields and wetland
4-5 pm	Feed ducks, chicken and water the garden	Out in rice fields and wetland
5-6	Cook for the family	Leave fish traps in the wetland and return

pm		home
6-7 pm	Dinner with the family	Dinner with the family
7-8 pm	Prepare their children for bed, bathe their children	Relax
8-9 pm	Watch TV, relax, catch up with the family	Watch TV, relax, social activities such as community meetings or visiting friends' houses

Also in Ban Taleo Village, further discussions within the women's focus group interestingly revealed that even though there is a shift in productive roles from men to women, there is no equivalent shift in the reproductive roles from women to men (see Table 8).

**Table 8: Daily calendar of women's productive work (farm and non-farm activities) in Ban Taleo Village:**

Time	Women [farming season]	Women [non-farming season]
4-7 am	Wake up at 4 am, heat up food from the night before, clean the house, water and weed the vegetable garden	Wake up (for people who are traders they wake up at 1-2 am), breakfast at 6 am
7-11 am	Go to the rice field, have breakfast there, work until 11 am	Look for firewood, bamboo, mushrooms, or whatever is available that season.
11-1 pm	Cook lunch at the rice field, eat lunch there and rest	Eat lunch and rest till about 3 pm.
1-7 pm	Take rest, go home to prepare food for the children, bathe the children, cook dinner	3 pm onwards go out again to collect seasonal NTFPs e.g. animals and plants, 4 pm onwards they start cooking, bathe the children
7-9 pm	Watch TV, attend village meetings, prepare food for the next day	Watch TV, attend village meetings, prepare food for the next day
9 pm onwards	Rest	Rest

## 3.2 Access and Control over Assets

### 3.2.1 Access to Basic Services – Water, Health and Sanitation

In all communities, men and women have secure access to water (drinking water), sanitation and healthcare. In all communities surveyed women had access to maternal healthcare services in hospitals, but midwives are commonly used for routine maternal health matters at the community level and home births is usual.

### 3.2.2 Access to Education and Information

It was clear that in the communities surveyed all have achieved parity between male and female literacy rates and gender parity in access primary and secondary schools. Access to primary and secondary education is equal between boys and girls. Access to higher education and university education is rare for both men and women as the financial costs involved are high and generally unattainable. If and when there are resources for young adults to go to vocational college or university there appears to be a slight bias towards men being able to take up these opportunities as they are deemed better able to take care

of themselves, where as there is a perceived degree of relative risk for women such as the risk of becoming pregnant or not being able to fend for themselves in big cities.

As a result of the minimal opportunities to access higher education for both men and women and few local employment opportunities there is a trend for young men and women (in their late teens/ early twenties) to go abroad to access labour markets in Thailand and other parts of Lao and to build their lives abroad or outside the community.

With respect to accessing public information both men and women access most of their information from the village head (over the loud speaker), or by radio and TV. The younger generation prefer access information through social media e.g. LINE and Facebook. Men and women have equal access to local training opportunities but men mostly attend because women are engaged with household duties. At the village level the response was that men and women's attendance was dependent on the type of training offered – a more 'technical' training would be attended by men, where as a training associated with women's affairs, e.g. community health, would be attended by women.

### **3.2.3 Credit and loans and Financial Decision Making**

Women are the financial managers of income generated from rice farming, fishing, collecting NTFPs, labour etc. at the household level, across all communities surveyed. Men are provided with 'allowances' or given money to meet their specific requests and personal expenses e.g. fuel for their tractor or motorbikes, coffee, cigarettes etc. There is unanimous agreement across all communities surveyed that women are better at managing household finances, as they take into consideration wider household and family needs such as food items, school supplies, children's clothes, household maintenance, social / community fund contributions etc. Buying and selling of large assets however, such as land or machinery, or large livestock such as buffalo or cattle, involves joint decision making between men and women at the household level.

Discussions with representatives from Ban Donyeng Village and Village Clusters 1 and 9 for example described egalitarian processes of decision making between men and women, low incidence of poverty, and it appeared there was a high level of homogeneity within these communities. The community in Ban Donyeng Village has one of the lowest levels of poverty incidence across households at only 2%. By contrast other villages, such as Ban Houamouang and the two ethnic minority villages Ban Taleo and Ban Nakhatang, revealed less tendency for shared decision making and shared assets. Men in these communities tend to own land titles because they are the 'heads of household and family breadwinners', thus by default the title is under their ownership. This is in contradiction to the national law and rights of women to have their names jointly on land titles that are conjugal property. Furthermore it was reported by these communities that although the husbands and wives engage in joint discussions regarding selling and buying assets, men usually have the final say and are generally more involved in the legal processes since women shy away from such matters due to lack of confidence and knowledge. Social empowerment in general and social empowerment of women in particular, was relatively low in Ban Houamouang, Ban Taleo, and Ban Nakhatang, compared to that of Ban Donyeng and Village Clusters 1 and 9.

Most of the villages surveyed had well established Village Fund mechanisms providing access to credit and loans to members. Both men and women have equal access to community funds, but a relatively large proportion of the Village Fund membership belongs to women. This reflects the well established role of women as financial managers at the household level.

Bank services are rarely used to avail of loans by community members because they are either far away or the bureaucratic procedures (paper work) are quite cumbersome. Access to bank services is restricted to men due to their mobility. Other reasons for the limited access to banks is that community members often only have temporary land titles, and banks require permanent land titles for proof of collateral to officially prove their ownership.

Loans to community members are generally invested in agriculture and farming inputs e.g. purchasing a tractor or fertilizer, or as direct financial support for household improvements or reconstruction following disasters. In most cases it is a requirement for members wanting to borrow a large sum of money to deposit collateral of equivalent or greater value such as a land title.

In Ban Donyeng Village for instance, the village has no fund per se but they have an agricultural promotion bank where farmers can procure fertilizer credit. Farmers declare the size of their farm land, an estimated the fertilizer requirement and the bank pays the fertilizer supplier directly. The bank does not give cash or money to the farmer. This is predominantly a service accessed by men as it is a man's role to make decisions on fertilizer use and they are able to calculate the amount of fertilizer is required.

### **3.2.4 Access to Livelihood Assets – land, agriculture, livestock, natural resources**

#### ***Land***

In general both men and women have equal access to and ownership of land titles. When land is conjugal property both the names of the husband and wife are required by law to be on the land title. In the case of inherited land, either the husband's or wife's name will appear on the land title. Both sons and daughters have an equal right to receive assets inherited from their parents. Both men and women have equal rights and can enter into legal agreements and contracts related to property/assets. For most villages surveyed this was the reality. However for Houamouang, Ban Taleo, and Ban Nakhatang joint signatures of men and women on land titles was not the common case.

DONRE is responsible for the land titling process which is a government lead priority. However land titling is not always done effectively due to lack of budget, which differs from district to district. There is a trend to only title private land rather than other types of land use and it is thought that in this way the government is keeping its options open for future developments. Many communities have been using their lands for generations so they feel they own this land but this is actually not the case in formal legal terms.

#### ***Natural Resources & Natural Resource Dependency***

Both men and women are equally dependent on wetland resources for their livelihoods and well being. Because men are considered the 'main breadwinners' of the household there was a perception that men may be more likely to be affected by resource degradation than women as they would need to adapt and

find alternative livelihood and income. Table 9 illustrates the key wetland resources, important sites for fishing, agriculture and rice cultivation, that the communities depend on and the relative dependency of men and women on those resources. The table also shows the number of villages sharing each of the important sites. This information is critical for understanding resource use conflicts and for informing the co-management requirements for long term sustainable management of the wetland resources within the Ramsar Site.

**Table 9: Gender differences in dependency on wetland resources per village:**

Village/ cluster	Key resources	Villages sharing	Resource dependency		Effects of resource degradation
			M	W	
Focus group discussions					
Ban Donyeng	Soui and Bak reservoir with a Fish Conservation Zone.	Soui reservoir shared with over 10 villages and Bak with other 8 villages	Equally dependent	Equally dependent	Not able to cultivate rice, vegetables and so on
Ban Houamouang	Bak Reservoir one Fish Conservation Zone Area and Nong khan Nong yang	Bak Reservoir share with other 8 villages.	Fully dependent	Partially dependent	Men would be more affected as they fish in the reservoir, while women only sell the fish harvested by men.
Ban Taleo	Kutkhan (rice fields),with one Crocodile Conservation zone) Nonglat and Puwai	Kutkhan shared with Phonkhor and Kadan, Dongkhammoune Villages.	Fully dependent	Partially dependent	Men are the bread winners of family; they would have to search for other forms of employment
Ban Nakatang	Nonglat (rice fields), two fish conservation zones; Nongpendeng and Nonglum, Boyip canal and Khamkhan pond.	Nonglat shared with Ban Taleo and Ban Kenkok. Boyip canal and Khamkhan pond shared with 50 households.	Equally dependent	Equally dependent	Normally men will be affected more because they are the breadwinners so they need to adapt fast in finding other jobs
Ban Xakhuen Nue	Soui reservoir (rice fields with 1 fish Conservation Zone)	Soui reservoir is shared with 10 other villages.	Equally dependent	Equally dependent	Normally men will be affected more because they are the breadwinners so they need to adapt fast in

					finding other jobs
Ban Tansoum	Soui Jiew reservoir with two Fish Conservation Zones (rice field) and Nongdeun, Nongpaen, Kudmakphaeo, with Crocodile Conservation Zone Kudphinoi Crocodile Conservation Zone Area (for tall grass mat weaving)	Jiew reservoir shared with other four villages such as: Laohoakham, Ban Kheng, Hoasay, Khoklor and Bok villages.	Equally dependent	Equally dependent	??
Interviews					
Village cluster 1	The information is not applicable in these cases as these were key respondents from local government who gave an overview of their existing knowledge about local communities and natural resource use and management patterns		??	??	??
Village cluster 9			Equally dependent	Equally dependent	No fish, Less income for family, Limited food for family, Lack of water for livestock.
Women's Union of Champhone District			85%	95%	??
Justice Office, Champhone District			Partially dependent	Fully dependent	??
District Administration Office, Champhone District			Fully dependent	Partially dependent	??
District Education Office, Champhone District			Equally dependent	Equally dependent	??
DAFO			Equally dependent	Equally dependent	??
Cultural and Tourism Office, Champhone District			85%	95%	??

## **Poverty**

In all communities there are a select number of households (less than 10%) identified by the community, suffering from poverty with little opportunity to change their circumstances. There were several reasons given for the incidence of poverty including; low local labour wages, women widowed with little or no livelihood assets e.g. livestock or equipment, and limited access to labour (with no male member of the household there is no one to do 'heavy tasks'), family members suffering mental illness, and lack of agricultural land or degraded poor quality agricultural land with little productive potential. In general households that cannot maintain food security in rice year round are considered to be poor households. Community members had concrete and constructive ideas for supporting this subsector of the population through livelihoods development programmes such as small livestock production e.g. goats, cows, ducks, chickens, and handicraft production such as mat weaving.

## **3.3 Gender, Participation and the Policy Environment**

### **3.3.1 Policy Environment**

#### ***National and local policies that support gender equality and gender mainstreaming.***

The 7<sup>th</sup> Five-Year National Strategic Plan on the Advancement of Women (2011–2015) has been completed and the strategy has been integrated into sector and local strategies. Various campaigns and awareness-raising activities have been implemented to advocate and raise awareness of government officials and people in general on understanding of gender, promoting advancement of women, the Convention on Eliminating All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), acting against all forms of violence against women in order to free oneself as well as the Lao society as a whole from violence against women and children, and realizing gender equality, enabling the country to graduate from least-developed country status gradually. In addition, the website of the National Commission for the Advancement of Women (NCAW) ([www.laoncaw.gov.la](http://www.laoncaw.gov.la)) has been developed; advocacy materials were also developed and printed, such as the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> National Periodic Report on the implementation of the CEDAW in Lao, the Doha Declaration, newsletters, notebooks, pens, bags and NCAW pins. Seminars and trainings on gender mainstreaming at sectoral and local levels have been conducted. The structure of the NCAW at the national, ministerial, organizational, provincial, municipality, district and village levels has been reorganized in conjunction with the establishment of an assistance mechanism to NCAW at each level in accordance with actual implementation. The sector has also been collaborating with the Central Party's Personnel Committee on translating resolutions on developing female officials and female ethnic officials, and integrating gender and anti-domestic-violence criteria, especially regarding violence against women and children, into poverty criteria and development criteria, as well as carrying out dissemination campaigns and implementing the resolutions in government-focused areas (MPI, 2016).

#### ***The Lao Women's Union (LWU)***

The Lao Women's Union (LWU) was originally established in 1955 to mobilize women for the Lao People's Revolutionary Party. In 1991 the LWU was recognized under the Constitution of the Lao PDR as having responsibility for: responding to women's development needs; promoting the status and role of

women; and promoting unity amongst women of different ethnic groups and social strata throughout the country. The organizational system of LWU operates throughout the country at four levels, namely: central; provincial/ministerial, district/municipal and village ones with a total membership of over a million women. As the original institution in Laos formally to be recognized as having responsibility for advocating for women's rights and gender concerns, the LWU has a unique opportunity to influence policies, plans and practices of both government and non-government organizations with respect to the needs and status of women in Lao PDR.

Functions and mandates of the LWU:

- Mobilize and unite Lao women to be actively involved in the national protection and development process. Protect the rights and interests of the Lao multi-ethnic women and children.
- Promote the implementation of the policy on gender equality and the advancement of women in the implementation of national socio-economic development.
- Educate women of all ethnic groups and social strata to have a proper understanding of the government's policies, constitution, laws and various international instruments concerning the legitimate rights and interests of women adhered to by the Lao PDR.
- Make considerable contributions toward the protection and the support of the rich customs, fine traditions of the people and of the Lao women of all ethnic groups in particular.

### ***National Environmental Policies***

The natural resources and environment sector has seen improvements in national laws and policies including: The Law on Land, Law on Forest (submitted for National Assembly approval in June 2013), Law on Water and Water Resources and Law on Environment Protection, and improvement of the Decree on Social-Environmental Impact Assessment and Decree on Compensation and Relocation of Population. A number of decrees have also been drafted, including the draft decree on upgrading provincial conservation forests to national conservation forests (Hi Phi and La Ving La Vern mountain), draft decree on determining 12 natural resources conservation areas, draft decree on pollution control, and upgrading the Minister's approval notice on environment standards to the Law on National Environment Standards. In addition, the Environment Plan for 2011–2015 was endorsed, as were the draft Strategy on Early Warning and regulations on natural disaster warning, which is one of the priorities in the 7th Five-Year Plan (MPI, 2016).

### **3.3.2 Gender Participation in Decision Making**

There are policies that support gender equality and gender mainstreaming at the national and local level. However gender disparities are still prevalent despite progress made at the national policy level. This is mainly due to the disconnect between national laws and customary laws, cultural norms, beliefs and perceptions. Whereas Lao has made great progress in establishment of the Lao Women's Union some challenges remain for achieving gender equality at the local level in Xe Champhone province.

The Lao Women's Union Committees operate at all levels and allocate leadership positions for both men and women with the intention of achieving gender parity. However, there have been limited arrangements to build women's confidence and skills for women's leadership capacity. Leadership roles are seen as requiring bold, confident and knowledgeable people, which is in contradiction with social

norms and perceptions of what it means to be a 'good woman' which are expressed as 'feminine' characteristics; soft spoken, nurturing etc. There is also an expectation that women focus on household and community care. There is no 'push' from men nor is there any desire from women themselves to break these societal norms.

Many attribute the lack of women leaders to a lack of women's education, lack of opportunities to build self-confidence outside the household level, combined with the time pressures of the traditional reproductive roles and household responsibilities. Among the village communities interviewed there were some exceptions in this trend. In Donyeng Village for example there is strong evidence of shifting societal norms and opportunities for women to take up greater leadership roles. This is evidenced by the fact that three out of six of the Village Head positions are occupied by women and to develop and engage confidently in community decision making processes. By contrast the opposite is true of the villages of Houamouang, Ban Taleo, and Ban Nakhatang where leadership positions were dominated almost exclusively by men.

Increasing opportunities for women in politics and decision making processes in the policy and institutional arrangements is an important factor but does not necessarily translate into true representation of women's interests and there remains room for improvement. Women still lack power to meaningfully participate or influence decisions beyond the house hold at the community level.

Even the role of the Lao Women's Unions leaders at the village level are largely associated with taking care of social and domestic affairs e.g. preparations for community ceremonies, festivals, collecting money for social welfare and health insurance etc. Many of these activities require approval from the Village Head before information can be disseminated. Many people expressed that female representation on the village committee would make it easier for the women to engage and take a more active role and would speed up the process for coordination.

With respect to village meetings themselves the survey recorded frequent reports that; women tend not to voice their opinions during community/village meetings because they are afraid that what they have to say will be wrong or not accepted by the community; women's opinions have low influence in the community; men and women tend to share information among one another (i.e. men can express women's opinions and be relied on to relay important information to women – it does not necessarily require the direct participation of women).

### ***Institutional capacity***

Within district government offices and village authorities, few women hold senior level positions. Prevailing cultural values, the traditional belief that women's primary role and responsibility is for house and family-care tends to disadvantage women in terms of holding senior positions in government and participation in policy and decision-making processes.

Most local government staff interviewed expressed that they are not yet familiar with the basic concepts of gender mainstreaming in government processes and have not received specific training on gender. Those that have received training are generally senior management staff and the outputs from the

trainings (general information, meeting reports etc) is not shared or disseminated with support and technical staff.

With respect to gender disaggregated information, the government collects gender disaggregated demographic data. The only sex-disaggregated information collected outside this is information such as the number of men and women who visit the Turtle Lake.

Women have important knowledge and experience on both environmental and social topics and this is often forgotten when there is a male dominated leadership structure in the villages. Linked to the differences in resource use patterns of men and women, women who are often sidelined at community meetings should be part of the discussion on food security and livelihoods.

## **4. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS**

During the course of the field research the teams made a number of observations that are not directly gender related but are however relevant to the Social Ecological Vulnerability Assessment and long term management planning of the Ramsar Wetlands and community development support. For this reason the observations have been included in the report.

### **Public Awareness and Social Empowerment**

There is a general low level of public awareness in the village communities as well as in government about the Ramsar site and significance of the designation means. Those villages such as Donyeng with higher awareness can be attributed to interaction with NGOs and past projects that have an integrated component of awareness campaigns or dissemination of information through the village head man passed down from the district government.

Past NGOs that have facilitated projects in the area include; Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Mekong River Commission (MRC), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Living Aquatic resources research center(LARRec), Improving the Resilience of the Agriculture Sector in Lao PDR to Climate Change Impacts (Iras) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) project supporting conservation awareness and training in tourism.

By contrast Taleo and Nakathang, the two villages that belong to the ethnic communities Phouthai and Makong respectively exhibit particularly low level of awareness about Ramsar and have never received external support for capacity development. These villages also have larger average family sizes (from 5-10 family members) compared with other villages. These communities also lack a village fund mechanisms but do have access to funds for agricultural promotion. The communities identified the need for assistance for capacity building in particular to increase rice production.

### **Migration patterns**

There is a trend for young people to immigrate abroad to Thailand or move to other parts of Lao e.g. Savannakhet town, to find employment opportunities other than farming and fishing. The emigration from the villages may lead to a change in the demographics of society. This has implications on people's ability to cope in the next two decades when there will be less people to inherit and manage the farm

lands. It may also have implications on the social fabric of society since the traditional knowledge and skills of farming and fishing may not be transferable. Moreover with an increasingly ageing society, people's ability to adapt to changing environments may be threatened.

In terms of intervention, tourism education for the future may be one option of solving the out migration from villages. The district government has made allocations for awareness campaigns as well as building the capacity of select villages for attracting more tourism. For example Tansoum village has set up a Siamese crocodile sanctuary, Ban Dongmoung has a monkey forest, Hortay has an ancient. There should also be more engagement with youth so as to empower them and encourage them to explore work options locally.

### **Conservation**

Water abstraction from the wetland for rice irrigation prevalent in the dry season, is a widespread and serious issue threatening long term sustainability of the wetland ecosystem(s). Conversion of land for agriculture has also resulted in burning bamboo and forests, leading to habitat destruction and species loss. It is important that the intrinsic values as well as the need for conservation of this wetland are recognized by all living within and around the wetland. International events such as 'World Wetlands Day' or 'World Environment Day' are important platforms to build awareness amongst villagers, government, and students about Ramsar importantly and wetland values.

The key habitats important for fisheries have been identified. Most of these sites are accessed by resource users from many villages, and long term management requires the development of a common vision and compliance with a shared set of management objectives and regulations. All villages that depend on fishing for livelihood reported a dramatic reduction in the abundance and average size of fish species and major changes species diversity and the composition of the fisheries with a dramatic reduction in native species such as *Wallago attu* (Pakhao), *Mystus sp* (Pa Khayeng) and *Hemibagrus filamentuc* (Pa Kod Lueang). All fishers increased fishing effort in order to catch the basic needs for their families and the complete unpredictability of catch. Some villages have Fish Conservation Zones (FCZ) as tools for fisheries management and conservation. FCZ coupled with locally managed areas, and compared to the past there are more strict regulations and enforcements in place. However the issue of unclear licensing arrangements and trans-boundary nature of the wetland mean that many villages are increasingly exploiting the wetlands. The concept of co-management agreements pertaining to local wetlands like ponds and collection management of larger reservoirs can be explored to mediate this issue.

### **Customary Law**

The majority of the customary law protected areas in the villages surveyed are spiritually protected areas. Religious beliefs have created customary laws that work directly and indirectly in favour of natural resource conservation in the villages in and around the Xe Champhone Ramsar site. Villagers conscientiously guard sacred forests, sacred ponds and cemeteries as places of prayer and homes to spirits or nagas (sacred serpents). It is believed that water and forest spirits will punish those who encroach on protected lands, hunt forbidden animals, or live an immoral life. Many of these protected lakes, ponds and forests in the wetlands have become breeding places for aquatic and terrestrial

animals. Some examples are dong mahesak (sacred forests) in Dongmuang and Kengkok-Dong villages, sacred lakes in Kengkok-Dong and Dondeng villages and cemeteries in some of the surveyed villages. Villagers use stories to illustrate and elaborate on customary laws to make their purpose clear and easy to understand. Hunting is forbidden in sacred forests in the villages surveyed because the villagers believe that animals protect the guardian spirits. Examples include the monkeys in the Monkey Forest/Dong Ling in Dongmuang village and the turtles in the sacred lake/Nong Pou Ta of Kengkok-Dong village and Turtle Lake/Nong Tao/Nong Pa Fa of Dondeng village.

### **Poverty and Wetland Resource Dependency**

Regarding poverty reduction and livelihoods development, in all communities there are a select number of households that are suffering from poverty and have little opportunity to change their circumstances. This is due to several reasons including; poor local employment opportunities; widows left with little or no household or livelihood assets such as livestock, machinery and no male to support heavy labor, lack of agricultural land or poor quality agricultural land with little production value and no capital to invest in agricultural inputs. Lack of year round rice (staple food) sufficiency is the main basis on which local communities determine poor households from stable households. This subsector of the population can be helped through a livelihoods development programmes i.e. such as small livestock production e.g. goats, ducks, chicken; or handicraft production like mat weaving. These suggestions came from discussions with community members themselves.

### **Climate Change, Flooding and Risk Reduction**

There have been dramatic changes observed in the precipitation patterns over the last 10-15 years with increased incidents of flooding and drought, with a higher risk in the wet season. This is more pronounced for communities close to the river or low lying areas. One of the adaptive behaviors to reduce risk has been for community members to reduce investment in labor costs for planting rice during periods of high flood risk to minimize loss. Instead communities now scatter seed by hand rather than plant seedlings resulting in lower yield as opposed to planting seedlings which would ordinarily result in a higher yield. The implication is that the yield may be lower but the return on investment is potentially higher as the chance of flooding is higher. New technology, rice seed planting machinery has been introduced in some areas to support this adaptation. Introduction and training on flood tolerant rice varieties can also be explored to address the need to adapt and reduce risk. The villages of ethnic communities report a rice strain that is tolerant for extended period of inundation (rice is reported to survive up to and over a week of submergence).

## **5. SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS**

### **5.1 Summary – Gender Analysis**

The prevailing socio-economic environment in Xe Champhone presents some challenges in relation to living conditions of women and men and the community as a whole. While most communities are food sufficient there is a small subsection, generally less than <10% of the population in each of the village communities where women in particular (as well as men) still face poverty despite working hard. Lack of social capital, lack of livelihoods assets, and poor access to knowledge and skills to develop new opportunities, are considered contributing factors.

Women play an important role in the local economic sector, yet are not recognized or valued as such. Women fulfill both productive and reproductive roles within their local communities however women's work is largely unpaid and undervalued in economic terms. The greatest constraints on women's participation is lack of 'free' or discretionary time resulting from a combination of their reproductive roles in running the household and looking after family, and their productive roles in the farming and fishing sector. Added to this are other factors including; lack of confidence and support to engage, and in some cases restricted mobility to be able to engage. In this respect it is not only gendered roles that limit women's ability to participate in decision making in the wider community but gender relations. Shifting gender relations would necessarily require interest and willingness of men to share reproductive responsibilities as well as active encouragement and support to women to engage in decision making processes at the community level. Women's involvement in particular wetlands and fisheries management related decision making is also constrained by social and cultural norms and the perception that only men deal with 'technical matters' and women with 'domestic matters'.

Many women in Xe Champhone have limited levels of education, labor skills and access to credit and business information, although the village fund system is established in many of the villages, providing a form of social security to members, and limited loan facilities. Domestic job opportunities for women and men in Xe Champhone are limited and because of poor development, economic hardship, and limited opportunity to access higher education opportunities, there is a significant and growing trend for both women and men (particularly young women and men) to migrate to neighboring countries in order to seek employment. Although not explored in this survey, this trend in migration presents differential risks and opportunities to women and men.

## **5.2 Recommendations**

There are two key challenges for addressing gender equality at the local level in XCP. Firstly the importance of gender power relations, whereas power relations appear equal at the household level, this is not the case outside the household, within the wider community, local market and local government structures. The second major challenge is access to information which can strengthen the capacity of women.

There is a need to strengthen gender focused policies on the ground; strengthen linkages vertically from local government to provincial and national government, as well as horizontally by building the capacity of women's groups locally, improving access to information, in particular with regards to wetlands based livelihoods (fisheries, rice, agriculture, forest productivity) and management and better understanding the influence of local institutions and socio-cultural norms and customs in shaping women's capacity to engage.

In particular opportunities should be sought to strengthen the effectiveness of the Lao Women's Union structure at the village and provincial level through, capacity building of leaders and members of LWU and if possible the provision of capital assets for investments in community development programmes that support the overall objectives of wetlands conservation and social empowerment of women and ethnic minority groups. The overall strategy for promoting gender equality through development programmes should be on promoting the advancement of women and the implementation of policy on gender equality and raise the role of women in both government and social positions. The Lao Women's Union do have working plans but cannot always implement some of the activities due to budget

constraints. In general it is considered important to coordinate with all organizations concerned to raise awareness for implementing the government policies, constitution, laws and the various international instruments concerning the rights and interests of women by organizing seminars, workshops, trainings, disseminating and advocating through various kinds of media.

With respect to Ramsar Management it is important to take heed of the current overall situation. There is currently a poor level of understanding, engagement and participation in decision making and management of wetlands resources across the Ramsar Site by both men and women, although some villages are active in protecting small patches of habitat there is no inter-village collaboration over the management of common resources. Added to this, the prevailing social norm and perception that ‘technical matters’ such as wetland resources management is a male domain/ interest and concern, and not the domain/ interest of women. It should be noted that based on the survey it is apparent that women hold significant knowledge of wetlands resources that should be taken into account in planning long term management and livelihood development opportunities.

The national law and land tenure policy is considered a significant milestone for protecting women’s rights on Lao. Conjugal land property requires both the names of the husband and wife by law, providing significant social security to women and men. It is important that wetland management initiatives engage DONRE and local land management bodies in designating and regulating land and water use for conservation/ protection as well as for livelihood purposes. In doing so it is equally important to continue to support the land titling process to protect the rights of wetland resource dependent communities, both men and women.

With respect to livelihoods development it is considered important to work with the agriculture and fisheries sectors to promote and create conditions for women to improve their production knowledge, develop their labor skills, encourage the processing of agriculture, fisheries and handicrafts products as commodities, aiming to reduce the burden of work of women through good production practices, helping to create more job opportunities for women and contributing to family income. To support this, opportunities should be created for women to access to financial resources, improve knowledge on operating Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and access to markets for handicrafts and other products of which women make up the majority of the labour force.

These recommendations are presented for general consideration by the CAWA project team in designing and the implementation phase of the CAWA project.

### **5.3 Next Steps**

There are some initial activities to be considered that support the process of strengthening gender integration in the CAWA project design and implementation phase.

1. Support the team involved in the design and conduct of the Vulnerability Assessment (VA) to integrate gender into the design and implementation process for the VA. Share the gender report with the VA team for consideration and background information for the Assessment.
2. Develop a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Action Plan for the CAWA project articulating a clear gender theory of change, and identifying activities and budget for implementing the

strategy and action plan. The Gender Strategy and Action plan should be developed in consultation with the CAWA implementing partners. Contributing to the development of the strategy is the validation of the Gender Analysis and Strategies for the CAWA project (Annex 8 of the CAWA Project Document).

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## ANNEXES

### Annex 1: Mission gallery



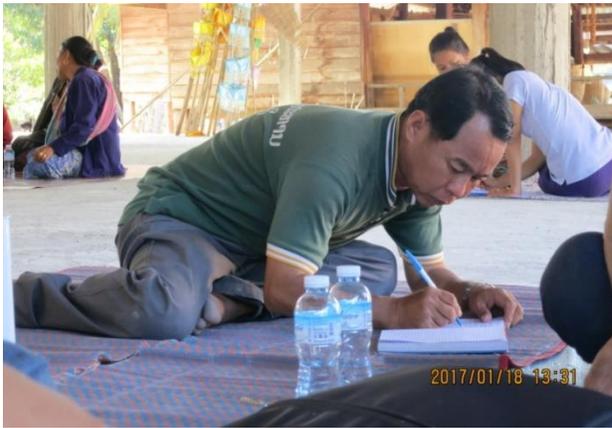
**Top left (clockwise):** Interview with female informant from village cluster one; Interview with male informant from village cluster one; Female focus group discussion in Donyeng Village; Male focus group discussion in Donyeng Village (all pictures © Anushae Parakh).



**Top left to right:** Snails caught from the Soui Lake ready to be cooked; Small fish caught from the Soui Lake (all pictures © Anushae Parakh).

**Middle:** A panoramic view of the Soui Lake © Anushae Parakh.

**Bottom left to right:** Snakehead caught from the Soui Lake- a high value fish commonly caught by men; An invasive species of snail – the golden apple snail (all pictures © Anushae Parakh).



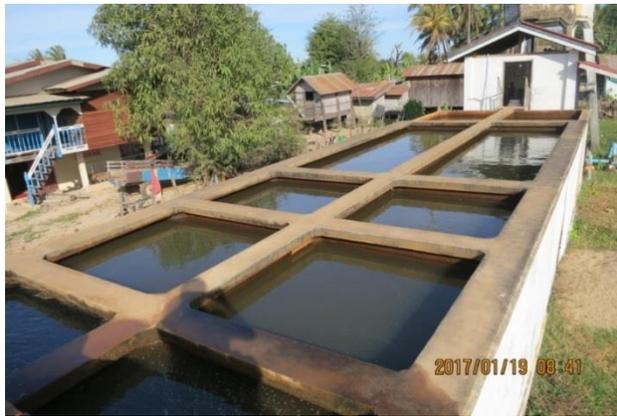
**Top left (clockwise):** Deputy Village Headman of Nakatang Village participating in focus group discussions; Interview with Village Lao Women’s Union of Nakatang Vilage; Female focus group discussions in Nakatang Village; Nakatang village – an ethnic minority community (all pictures © Anushae Parakh).



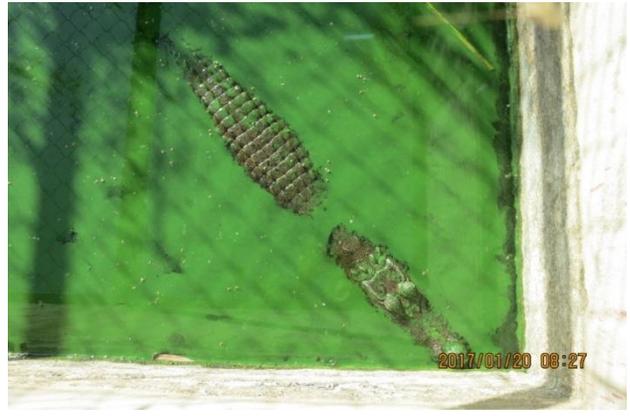
**Left to right:** A man casting a lift net into the wetland in Houamouang Village; Women participating in a resource mapping exercise during the focus group discussion in Houamouang Village (all pictures © Anushae Parakh).



**Top left (clockwise):** Female focus group discussions in Taleo Village; Food prepared by the community for lunch; A community member doing resource mapping exercise during male focus group discussions; A fish trap prepared with bamboo (all pictures © Anushae Parakh).



**Top left (clockwise):** Sign board explaining Ramsar in Xakhuen Nue Village; Focus group discussions and interviews in Xakhuen Nue Village; A community member with her daughter in Xakhuen Nue Village; A participants from the female focus group discussion in Xakhuen Nue Village; Communal water reservoir in Xakhuen Nue Village (all pictures © Anushae Parakh).



**Top left (clockwise):** Temple grounds in Tansoum Village; Siamese Crocodile kept in captivity in Tansoum Village; Sign board explaining that Tansoum village is a protected area for the Siamese Crocodiles since 2005 in collaborating with the Lao government and JICA; Male focus group discussion in Tansoum Village (all pictures © Anushae Parakh).

## Annex 2: Full Gender Survey Programme

DAY/DATE	PEOPLE/ACTIVITY/LOCATION
DAY ONE - 16/01/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anhsany and Anushae- interview [CLUSTER ONE] (one man one woman)</li> <li>• Oudomxay and Maeve- interview [CLUSTER NINE]</li> </ul>
DAY TWO - 17/01/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oudomxay and Maeve- focus group discussion [DONYENG VILLAGE] (women's group)</li> <li>• Anhsany and Anushae- focus group discussion [DONYENG VILLAGE] (men's group)</li> <li>• Phasouk- interview with female village deputy of Lao Women's Union of Donyeng village</li> <li>• Anhsany- interview with male village deputy of Donyeng village</li> <li>• Anhsany and Anushae- focus group discussion [HOUAMOUANG VILLAGE] (women's group)</li> <li>• Oudomxay and Maeve- focus group discussion [HOUAMOUANG VILLAGE] (men's group)</li> <li>• Phasouk- interview with village deputy head man of Houamouang village</li> <li>• Phasouk- interview with village deputy head woman of Houamouang village / deputy of village Lao Women's Union</li> </ul>
DAY THREE - 18/01/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oudomxay and Anushae- focus group discussion [TALEO VILLAGE] (men's group)</li> <li>• Anhsany and Phoutsakhon- focus group discussion [TALEO VILLAGE] (women's group)</li> <li>• Phasouk- interview with deputy of Loa Women's Union of Taleo village</li> <li>• Phasouk- interview with village head man of Taleo village/ cluster committee member of cluster 2</li> <li>• Oudomxay and Anushae- focus group discussion [NAKHATANG VILLAGE] (men's group)</li> <li>• Anhsany and Phoutsakhon- focus group discussion [NAKHATANG VILLAGE] (women's group)</li> <li>• Phasouk- interview with head of village Loa Women's Union Nakathang village</li> <li>• Phasouk- interview with the deputy village head man of Nakathang village</li> </ul>
DAY FOUR - 19/01/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oudomxay and Anushae- focus group discussion [XAKHUEN NUE VILLAGE] (women's group)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anhsany- focus group discussion [XAKHUEN NUE VILLAGE] (men’s group)</li> <li>• Anhsany- interview with village head man Xakhuen village</li> <li>• Phasouk- interview with deputy of village Lao Women’s Union</li> <li>• Phasouk- interview with male cluster committee member</li> <li>• Phoutsakhone- interview with District Office of Agriculture and Forestry</li> <li>• Phoutsakhone- interview with District Lao Women’s Union</li> <li>• Phoutsakhone- interview with District Justice Office (Anhsany joined)</li> <li>• Phoutsakhone- interview with District Administration Office</li> <li>• Phoutsakhone- interview with District Office of Education and Sport.</li> <li>• Oudomxay and Anushae- interview with District Office of Information, Culture and Tourism (one man one woman)</li> <li>• Anhsany- interview with District Justice Office (with Phoutsakhone) and District Office of Public Works and Transport (one man).</li> <li>• Phasouk- interview with District Justice Office of Public Works and Transport (one woman).</li> </ul>
<p>DAY FIVE – 20/01/2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oudomxay and Anushae- focus group discussion [TANSOUM VILLAGE] (men’s group)</li> <li>• Anhsany- focus group discussion [TANSOUM VILLAGE] (women’s group)</li> <li>• Phasouk- interview with head man of Tansoum village</li> <li>• Phasouk- interview with male cluster committee member</li> <li>• Phasouk- interview with head of village Lao Women’s union</li> <li>• Phoutsakhone- interview with head of DONRE</li> </ul>

### Annex 3: List of Participants

No	Name and surname	Title	Contact detail
<b>Provincial Level:</b>			
1	Ms. Phasouk Loungvixay	Provincial coordinator-SVK PONRE	E: <a href="mailto:phasouk.donre@hotmail.com">phasouk.donre@hotmail.com</a> Phone no: 020 9964 9879
<b>District level</b>			
2	Ms. Keoudon Choulamontry	Deputy head of Champhone DoNRE	E: <a href="mailto:keoudon78@gmail.com">keoudon78@gmail.com</a> Phone no: 020 590 15578
3	Ms. Phouphet Vorlabout	Technical staff from DoNRE	TBD
4	Mr. Saikham Boutkongbai	Technical staff from DoNRE	Phone no: 020 99307868
<b>FAO team</b>			
5	Ms. Anhsany Sypasong	Knowledge Management Specialist	E: <a href="mailto:Anhsany.Sypasong@fao.org">Anhsany.Sypasong@fao.org</a>
<b>IUCN team</b>			
6	Ms. Phousakhone Ounchith	Head of IUCN Lao PDR Office	E: <a href="mailto:phoutsakhone.ouchith@iucn.org">phoutsakhone.ouchith@iucn.org</a>
7	Mr. Oudomxay Thongsavath	Deputy coordinator, Water and Wetlands, IUCN	E: <a href="mailto:Oudomxay.THONGSAVATH@iucn.com">Oudomxay.THONGSAVATH@iucn.com</a>
8	Ms. Maeve Nightingale	Capacity Development Manager, MFF	E: <a href="mailto:maeve.nightingale@iucn.org">maeve.nightingale@iucn.org</a>
9	Ms. Anushae Parakh	Programme Assistant, MFF	E: <a href="mailto:anushae.parakh@iucn.org">anushae.parakh@iucn.org</a>

#### Annex 4: Participants of Village Key Informant Interviews

Item	Name	Village name	Position
<b>Day one</b>			
1	Mr. Bounsou Xaynalán	Kengkokthong	Head of Cluster 01
2	Ms. Khanthalay Daravong	Kengkokthong	Deputy Head of Village
3	Mr. Bounlerd Samonty	B. Bukthong	Head of Cluster 9
4	Ms. Bounled Phommanivong	B. Bukthong	Deputy Head of Village
<b>Day two</b>			
5	Mrs. Bounhieng	Donyeng Village	Head of Village Lao Women's Union
6	Mr. Keooudon Sonvilay	Donyeng Village	Deputy Village Chief
7	Mr. Khamsay Khamsavath	Houmouang Village	Deputy Village Chief
8	Mrs. Nga Inthisone	Houmouang Village	Deputy Head of Village / Deputy of Village Lao Women's Union
<b>Day three</b>			
9	Mrs. Khankeo Keosaksit	Taleo village	Deputy of Village Loa Women's Union
10	Mr. Sitthideth Phetsalath	Taleo village	Head of Village / cluster committee member of cluster 2
11	Mrs. Manivanh Thaikongkeo	Nakathang Village	Head of Village Loa Women's Union
12	Mr. Korvised Keopanya	Nakathang village	Village Deputy Head
<b>Day four</b>			
13	Mr. Silieau Sivongsa	Cluster 10	Cluster 10 committee member
14	Mrs. Bounxou	Xakhuen Village	Head of Village Lao Women's Union
15	Mr. Phoxai Chanthachak	Xakhuen Village	Village Head
<b>Day five</b>			
16	Mr. Khamphor Khai-inman	Tansoum Village	Cluster 9 committee member, and Village Head

17	Mr. Nouan Ngaomixai	Tansoum Village	Village deputy head
18	Mrs. Khampheng Latsamy	Tansoum Village	Head of Village Lao Women's Union

### Annex 5: Participants from Local Government Key Informant Interviews

Item	Name	Department name	Position
<b>Day four</b>			
1	Ms. Chittaphone Chonsy	District Office of Agriculture and Forestry	Technical Staff, Planning Unit
2	Mr. Souksawath Vongphachanh	District Office of Agriculture and Forestry	Technical Staff
3	Ms. Phonpany Sisamouth	District Lao Women's Union	Vice Head of Gender Unit
4	Ms. Keomany Kettavong	District Lao Women's Union	Head of Gender Unit
5	Ms. Miewkham Keovilai	District Justice Office	Technical Officer
6	Mr. Lattana Xayabunsa	District Administration Office	Vice Head
7	Ms. Phetchamphone Somphonphukdee	District Administration Office	Technical staff
8	Ms. Thongsa Dedvongsa	District Office of Education and Sport	School Technical Staff Assistant
9	Mr. Keovongphanh Chounlamountree	District Office of Education and Sport	Head of Gender Unit
10	Ms. Malina	District Office of Information, Culture and Tourism	Technical Staff
11	Mr. Sounthone Silad	District Office of Information, Culture and Tourism	Head of Administration
12	Mr. Viengvilay Vienthenxay	District Office of Public Works and Transport	Deputy Head of DoPWT
13	Mrs. Somphid Phetvilayson	District Office of Public Works and Transport	Head of Administration Unit (DoPWT)
14	Mr. Thongsa Insthisarn	DONRE	Head of DONRE

## Annex 6: Participants of Focus Group Discussions in Villages

Item	Name	Village name	Position
<b>Day 1 : 17 January 2017 Ban: Donyeng (Morning part)</b>			
1	Mr. Ngen Ladsoulin	B. Donyeng	Head of villager elder.
2	Mr.Thad Phetbounghoung	B. Donyeng	Village Guard.
3	Mr. Syvan Vannaseng	B. Donyeng	Village Guard
4	Mr.Koukeo Sithided	B. Donyeng	Head of village Guard
5	Mr. Khamsai Senboutalad	B. Donyeng	Villager.
6	Mr. Keo vanhkhham	B. Donyeng	Head of Unit
7	Mr. Deth Phavongsa	B. Donyeng	Villager
9	Mr. Hom Syhalath	B. Donyeng	Deputy head of village elder
10	Mr. Aesor	B. Donyeng	Deputy Village Chief
11	Mr.Tia	B. Donyeng	Deputy Village Chief
12	Mr.Khamhou	B. Donyeng	Villager
13	Mrs. Bounhieng Sounalad	B. Donyeng	Head of Village Lao Women's Union
14	Mrs. Ketmany Khodsouvanh	B. Donyeng	Villager
15	Mrs. Nong Sihalad	B. Donyeng	Villager
16	Mrs. Bangon	B. Donyeng	Deputy dead of Village Lao Women's Union
17	Mrs. Soukaserm	B. Donyeng	Villager
19	Mrs. Sythavone	B. Donyeng	Villager
<b>Day 1 : Ban Hoamoung 17 January 2017 (Afternoon part)</b>			
1	Mr. Choun	B. Hoamoung	Head of Unit 01
2	Mr. Phoudong	B. Hoamoung	Head of Unit 02
3	Mr. Khamxay	B. Hoamoung	Deputy village Chief

4	Mr. Khampoun	B. Hoamoung	Head of Unit 03
5	Mr. Joy	B. Hoamoung	Head of Unit 04
6	Mr. Ae	B. Hoamoung	Head of Unit 05
7	Mr. Boa	B. Hoamoung	Head of Village Guard
8	Ms. Lae	B. Hoamoung	Deputy head of Village Lao Women's Union
9	Ms. Lai Thammavong	B. Hoamoung	Villager
10	Ms. Phim	B. Hoamoung	Villager
11	Ms. Thong	B. Hoamoung	Villager
12	Ms. Mon	B. Hoamoung	Villager
13	Ms. Paneephone	B. Hoamoung	Villager
14	Ms. Phon	B. Hoamoung	Villager
15	Ms. Bounthavee	B. Hoamoung	Villager
16	Ms. Yo	B. Hoamoung	Villager
17	Ms. Song	B. Hoamoung	Villager
18	Ms. Sanga	B. Hoamoung	Deputy Village Chief
<b>Day 2: 18 January 2017 B. Taleo (Morning Part)</b>			
1	Mr. Khambai	B. Taleo	Deputy Village Chief
2	Mr. Phoulom	B. Taleo	Village Guard
3	Mr. Phouvieng	B. Taleo	Village Guard
4	Mr. Perm	B. Taleo	Head of village elder
5	M. Sithideth Phetsalath	B. Taleo	Head of Village / cluster committee member of cluster 02
6	Mr. Phetsomphone	B. Taleo	Deputy Village Chief
7	Mr. Han	B. Taleo	Head of Unit
8	Mr. Phoungong	B. Taleo	Villager

9	Mr. Khek	B. Taleo	Villager
10	Mr. Kibounyong	B. Taleo	Villager
11	Mr. Xayalath	B. Taleo	Deputy Village Chief
12	Ms. Khankeo	B. Taleo	Villager
13	Ms. Tick	B. Taleo	Villager
14	Ms. Boabai	B. Taleo	Deputy head of Village Lao Women's Union
15	Ms. Keo	B. Taleo	Villager
16	Ms. Nou	B. Taleo	Villager
17	Ms. Lae	B. Taleo	Villager
<b>Day 2 : B.Nakathang 18 January 2017 (Afternoon Part)</b>			
1	Mr. Korvised	B. Nakathang	Deputy Village Chief
2	Mr. Koug	B. Nakathang	
3	Mr. Sinor		Village Elder Chief
4	Mr. Art	B. Nakathang	Village Elder Group
5	Mr. Niem	B. Nakathang	Villager Elder Group
6	Mr. Poug	B. Nakathang	Deputy Village Chief
7	Mr. Bounmee	B. Nakathang	Head Village Guard
8	Mr. Lone	B. Nakathang	Village Guard member
9	Mr. Kiling	B. Nakathang	Village Guard member
10	Ms. Manivanh	B. Nakathang	Head of Village Lao Women's Union
11	Ms. Thongma	B. Nakathang	Deputy Head of Village Lao Women's Union
12	Ms. Chansamon	B. Nakathang	Villager
13	Ms. Kone	B. Nakathang	Deputy head of Unit
14	Ms. Somnuk	B. Nakathang	Villager

15	Ms. Som	B. Nakathang	Villager
16	Ms. Doungchanh	B. Nakathang	Deputy Head of Village Chief
<b>Day 3: B. Sakhounue 19 January 2017</b>			
1	Mr. Silue Sivongsa	B. Sakhounue	Head of Village / cluster committee member of cluster 10
2	Mr. Te	B. Sakhounue	Head of Unit 01
3	Mr. Daovong Doungpanya	B. Sakhounue	Head of Unit 02
4	Mr. Khamsai	B. Sakhounue	Head of Unit 03
5	Mr. Toun	B. Sakhounue	Villager
6	Mr. Lerm	B. Sakhounue	Head of Unit 04
7	Mr. Khiew	B. Sakhounue	Village Guard
8	Mr. Poun	B. Sakhounue	Village Guard
9	Mr. Pha	B. Sakhounue	Villager
10	Mr. Ek	B. Sakhounue	Villager
11	Mr. Noukan	B. Sakhounue	Villager
12	Mr. Phoxay Chanthajak	B. Sakhounue	Deputy Village Chief
13	Ms. La	B. Sakhounue	Villager
14	Ms. Phet	B. Sakhounue	Villager
15	Ms. Bounsou	B. Sakhounue	Deputy Head of Village Lao Women's Union
16	Ms. Noy	B. Sakhounue	Villager
17	Ms. Than	B. Sakhounue	Villager
<b>Day 4: B. Tansoum 20 January 2017</b>			
1	Mr. Khamphor	B. Tansoum	Head of Village / cluster committee member of cluster 05
2	Mr. Nounxay	B. Tansoum	Deputy Village Chief

3	Mr. Kou	B. Tansoum	Village Guard
4	Mr. Khamphou	B. Tansoum	Village Guard
5	Mr. Sengphet	B. Tanoum	Village Guard
6	Mr. Tue	B. Tansoum	Village Guard
8	Mr. Souk	B. Tansoum	Village Guard
9	Mr. Kayon	B. Tansoum	Head of Village Elder
10	Mr.Bounlong	B. Tanoum	Village
11	Mr. Poug	B. Tansoum	Head of Unit 01
12	Mr. Vannasith	B. Tansoum	Head of Unit 02
13	Mr. Sinh	B. Tansoum	Head of Unit 03
14	Ms. Khampheng	B. Tanoum	Head of Unit 04
15	Ms. Khaophone	B. Tansoum	Villager
16	Ms.Thongdam	B. Tansoum	Villager
17	Ms. Thongle	B. Tansoum	Villager
18	Ms. Maokhamsy	B. Tanoum	Teacher
19	Ms. Phetlamphanh	B. Tansoum	Villager
20	Ms. Boalien	B. Tansoum	Villager
21	Ms. Sano	B. Tansoum	Villager
22	Ms. Toun	B. Tanoum	Villager
23	Ms.Dam	B. Tansoum	Villager
24	Ms. Nang	B. Tansoum	Villager.

**Annex 7: Survey Form and Guide for Focus Group Discussions and PRA Exercises**

Questionnaire ID XCP/BKN: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gender Assessment Guide Questionnaire for Focus Group Discussion.  
Climate Change adaptation in Wetlands Areas (CAWA) Project, Lao PDR**

Interview date (DD/MM/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer's name  _____  ____	Organization  _____  ____	Phone number  _____  ____
Verification (Check the form) Check on date (DD/MM/YYYY): _____ / _____ / _____		Checked by Name:  _____

**Community Information (check for village)**

[1] Village name  _____  ____	[2] Sub-district/ Commune  _____  ____	[3] District  _____  ____
[4] Province  _____  ____	[5] Country  _____  ____	

**SECTION A: RESPONDENT PROFILE**

QUESTION	ANSWER
<b>A1. Name of respondent (First name, Last name)</b>	_____
<b>Position:</b>	
<b>Organization:</b>	
<b>A2. Respondent phone number (optional)</b>	_____
<b>A3. Sex of respondent</b>	1. Male 2. Female
<b>A4. How old are you?</b>	_____  years old
<b>A5. What religion/ethnic group do you belong to?</b>	1. Laoloum 2. Makong

	3. Katang 4. Phutai 5. Other _____
<b>A8. What is your education level?</b>	1. No school 2. Primary school 3. Secondary school 4. High school 5. Technical or vocational 6. College/university or above 7. Other, specify _____
<b>A9. Area/ location where you work:</b>	
<b>A10. Wetland XCP or BKN (Village(s))</b>	
<b>A11. What are your family's <u>primary</u> source of income /means of living?</b>	1. Crop production 2. Culture fisheries (farmed fish, prawns, crabs, or shellfish) 3. Capture fisheries (caught fish, prawns, crabs, or shellfish) 4. Animal husbandry/livestock production 5. Business (SME, shop, trading) 6. Forest user (e.g. gathering non-timber forest products) 7. Regular employment (including government) 8. Casual labor 9. No job/means of living 10. Remittance from relatives 11. Other, specify _____

#### A. Roles of men and women

1. What work/ occupations do men and women do at the household level? In the community? **(Note: For Group discussion / Men & Women and used flip Chart. Big paper write down)**
  - a. Reproductive roles: child care, cooking, cleaning, water collection, fuel wood collection, food collection, care for the sick, other – please define. See Annex 1a.
  - b. Productive roles (livelihood activities). See Annex 1b.
2. Describe the detailed roles of men and women in fishing to market process e.g. gear preparation, fishing activities, post harvest activities: catch sorting/ cleaning/ processing/ preparation for market, marketing (selling fisheries products) etc.

Note – this will vary with each fishery (species), each gear type/ method of fishing.

**(Note: For Group discussion / Men & Women. and used flip Chart. Big paper write down)**

3. Describe the roles of men and women in each of the activities involved in agricultural crop production e.g. land preparation, seed banking, planting, maintaining, harvesting, post-harvest activities etc. Note - this will vary for each agricultural product/ cash crop
  - Land preparation
  - Land maintaining
  - Harvesting

***(Note: For Group discussion / Men and Women. And used flip Chart. Big paper write down, women & men tasks in to percentage).***

4. Who has more free time (after all productive and reproductive work is finished) .Sketch a 24 hour Activity Clock identifying activities that take place each hour for an average 24 hour period – do this for men and for women. If there are differences in men’s and women’s free time please describe it and explain why?

**(Note: For Group discussion / Men & Women. and used flip Chart. Big paper write down)**

**END OF SURVEY**

**Annex 8: Survey Form for Local Government Official Interviews**

Questionnaire ID XCP/BKN: _____
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**Gender Assessment Guide Questionnaire for Local Government/NGO  
Climate Change adaptation in Wetlands Areas (CAWA) Project, Lao PDR**

Interview date (DD/MM/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer's name  _____   _____	Organization  _____   _____	Phone number  _____   _____
Verification (Check the form) Check on date (DD/MM/YYYY): _____ / _____ / _____		Checked by Name:  _____

**SECTION A: RESPONDENT PROFILE**

QUESTION	ANSWER
<b>A1. Name of respondent (First name, Last name)</b>	_____
<b>Position:</b>	
<b>Organization:</b>	
<b>A2. Respondent phone number (optional)</b>	_____
<b>A3. Sex of respondent</b>	3. Male 4. Female
<b>A4. How old are you?</b>	_____  years old
<b>A5. What religion/ethnic group do you belong to?</b>	6. Laoloum 7. Makong 8. Katang 9. Phutai 10. Other _____
<b>A8. What is your education level?</b>	8. No school 9. Primary school 10. Secondary school 11. High school

	12. Technical or vocational 13. College/university or above 14. Other, specify_____
<b>A9. Area/ location where you work:</b>	
<b>A10. Wetland XCP or BKN (Village(s))</b>	
<b>A11. What are your family's primary source of income /means of living?</b>  <b>(This question is not for local Gov/NGO staffs)</b>	12. Crop production 13. Culture fisheries (farmed fish, prawns, crabs, or shellfish) 14. Capture fisheries (caught fish, prawns, crabs, or shellfish) 15. Animal husbandry/livestock production 16. Business (SME, shop, trading) 17. Forest user (e.g. gathering non-timber forest products) 18. Regular employment (including government) 19. Casual labor 20. No job/means of living 21. Remittance from relatives 22. Other, specify_____

## B. Overview

1. What do you understand by 'gender' in sustainable development? Have you ever participated in gender training(s)? (Gov.)
2. Does your organization/department have a gender unit/ gender focal person/ gender capacity? (Government & NGO)
3. Do you collect gender specific data or data aggregated by gender? If yes, please describe. (Government & NGO)
4. Do you have specific programmes/ activities/ initiatives targeting women or with a gender focus? If yes, please describe how you currently involve women in your programme/ work.
5. Please describe briefly the local level of awareness and understanding of the following:

a) wetlands management / conservation in the area

Low

Medium

High

b) climate change adaptation

Low

Medium

High

c) Livelihoods development / diversification

Low

Medium

High

d) What programmes support these areas of work (a,b,c)?

6. Describe any opportunities or activities where you could engage women in wetlands management / conservation.
  
7. Opportunity to engage women in activities of climate change adaptation in livelihood development.
  
8. Is there any opportunity for women join the activities of wetland conservation adapt to climate change. Please describe.( Recheck the question to Lao )

**C. Roles of men and women**

5. How dependent are men and women on wetland resources (e.g. for food, housing, water, medicinal purposes etc.)?

Dependent	Men	Women	Both
100% dependent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Partially dependent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not dependent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What are the goods (e.g. fisheries, fertile land, clean water, timber, NTFPs, rice, other) that you believe a local community member would consider as basic necessities?

What are the basic goods for living such as fishing, land suitable for farming, clean water, non-timber products, and so on? For example, 3 samples

**D. Access to information and community decision making processes**

1. Do men and women have equal access to training and education/ skills development opportunities?
2. Is it normal/common for women to hold local government positions? Are these generally higher officer level positions or administrative positions?

**E. Legal rights & customs**

1. What are men's and women's legal / constitutional rights in Laos?

**END OF SURVEY**

**Annex 9: Survey Form for Villagers/Clusters**

Questionnaire ID XCP/BKN: _____
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**Gender Assessment Guide Questionnaire for VILLAGERS/CLUSTERS**

**Climate Change adaptation in Wetlands Areas (CAWA) Project, Lao PDR**

Interview date (DD/MM/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer's name  _____   _____	Organization  _____   _____	Phone number  _____   _____
Verification (Check the form) Check on date (DD/MM/YYYY): _____ / _____ / _____		Checked by Name:  _____

**Community Information (check for village)**

[1] Village name  _____   _____	[2] Sub-district/ Commune  _____   _____	[3] District  _____   _____
[4] Province  _____   _____	[5] Country  _____   _____	

**SECTION A: RESPONDENT PROFILE**

QUESTION	ANSWER
<b>A1. Name of respondent (First name, Last name)</b>	_____
<b>Position:</b>	
<b>Organization:</b>	
<b>A2. Respondent phone number (optional)</b>	_____
<b>A3. Sex of respondent</b>	5. Male 6. Female
<b>A4. How old are you?</b>	_____  years old
<b>A5. What religion/ethnic</b>	11. Laoloum 12. Makong

<b>group do you belong to?</b>	13. Katang 14. Phutai 15. Other _____
<b>A8. What is your education level?</b>	15. No school 16. Primary school 17. Secondary school 18. High school 19. Technical or vocational 20. College/university or above 21. Other, specify _____
<b>A9. Area/ location where you work:</b>	
<b>A10. Wetland XCP or BKN (Village(s))</b>	
<b>A11. What are your family's <u>primary</u> source of income /means of living?</b>	23. Crop production 24. Culture fisheries (farmed fish, prawns, crabs, or shellfish) 25. Capture fisheries (caught fish, prawns, crabs, or shellfish) 26. Animal husbandry/livestock production 27. Business (SME, shop, trading) 28. Forest user (e.g. gathering non-timber forest products) 29. Regular employment (including government) 30. Casual labor 31. No job/means of living 32. Remittance from relatives 33. Other, specify _____
<b>A12. Compared to other households in the village, in what group do you think your family belongs to?</b>	1. Well-off group 2. Average group 3. Poor group 4. Don't know

## F. Overview

1. Do you have specific programmes/ activities/ initiatives targeting women or with a gender Please describe briefly the local level of awareness and understanding of the following:

a) wetlands management / conservation in the area

Low                       Medium                       High

b) climate change adaptation

Low                       Medium                       High

c) Livelihoods development / diversification

Low                       Medium                       High

d) What programmes support these areas of work (a,b,c)?

2. Describe any opportunities or activities where you could engage women in wetlands management / conservation.
3. Opportunity to engage women in activities of climate change adaptation in livelihood development.
4. Is there any opportunity for women join the activities of wetland conservation adapt to climate change. Please describe.

**G. Roles of men and women**

6. How dependent are men and women on wetland resources (e.g. for food, housing, water, medicinal purposes etc.)?

Dependent	Men	Women	Both
100% dependent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Partially dependent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not dependent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What are the goods (e.g. fisheries, fertile land, clean water, timber, NTFPs, rice, other) that you believe a local community member would consider as basic necessities?

What are the basic goods for living such as fishing, land suitable for farming, clean water, non-timber products, and so on? For example, 3 samples

7. Describe the roles of men and women in each of the activities related to Non Timber Forest Product (NTFP) collection and timber collection/ sustainable forest management activities (e.g. renewable forestry).

Activities	Men	Women
<b>NTFP</b>	1. Timber for fuel	
	2. Fishing	
	3. Bee honey	
	4. Vegetable	

8. Identify and describe the roles of men and women in other important local livelihood activities e.g. retail businesses, livestock rearing, transportation services, local paid employment opportunities etc.

9. How does wetland degradation affect the income and livelihood of men and women?

#### H. Access and control of assets for livelihood and income generation

1. Do men and women have equal access to, ownership of, and control over local resources.

What kinds of resources do people depend on for their livelihoods and household needs? (List)

Resources	Access (can use)			Ownership			Control (can independently make decisions over)			Notes /comments
	Men	Women	Equal	Men	Women	Equal	Men	Women	Equal	
Land										
<b>Water (for HH use)</b>										
- <i>Water supply</i>										
- <i>Water rights</i>										
- <i>Water Points</i>										
- <i>Water for irrigation</i>										
Forest products NTFP, TP										
<b>Wetland Resources</b>										
- <i>Fisheries,</i>										

- <i>Amphibians,</i>										
- <i>Invertebrates,</i>										
- <i>Plants</i>										
<b>Borrowing Capital</b>										
- <i>Credit &amp; loans (e.g. microcredit, community fund)</i>										
- <i>Banking services</i>										
- <i>Cash borrowing</i>										
Social welfare (health & life insurance)										
Labor (e.g. family relations), informal labor, hired labor)										
<b>Fisheries inputs:</b>										
- <i>Fishing gear</i>										
<b>Boats:</b>										
- <i>Boat engines</i>										
- <i>Storage facilities</i>										
<b>Agricultural production materials:</b>										
- <i>Seed</i>										
- <i>Machinery</i>										
- <i>Poultry</i>										
- <i>Water buffalo</i>										
- <i>Storage</i>										
Livestock production requirements										
Raw materials for artisan and craft production										

<b>Transportation:</b>										
- <i>boats</i>										
- <i>trucks</i>										
- <i>other vehicles</i>										
Education/training										
Skill development, etc.										

**Annex 10: List of Villages Located in Xe Champhone Ramsar site (Core zone/ Buffer zone/Closer Core Zone)**

<b>No</b>	<b>Name of Village</b>	<b>( Core zone/ Buffer zone/Closer Core Zone)</b>
1	Kengkokdong	Core zone
2	Phonkhor	Core zone
3	Dongdeng	Core zone
4	Laonard	Core zone
5	Laohoakham	Core zone
6	Sakhoun - Tai	Core zone
7	Dongmoung	Core zone
8	Phonthong	Closer buffer zone
9	Ban Nonvilayvanh	buffer zone
10	Ban Kengpoun	buffer zone
11	Ban Kadan	buffer zone
12	Ban DonKheng	buffer zone
13	Ban Dongkhammoune	buffer zone
14	Ban Kengkokkang	buffer zone
15	Ban Kengkoknue	buffer zone
16	Ban Kengkokthong	buffer zone/ Closer core zone
17	Ban Dongnongkhoun	Buffer zone/Closer core zone
18	Ban Phaleng	Buffer Zone/Closer core zone
19	Ban Nonesithan	Buffer zone/Closer core zone
20	Ban Hoanamsang	Buffer zone
21	Ban Khamsida	Buffer zone
22	Ban Bok	Buffer zone
23	Ban Hoaysai	Buffer zone

24	Ban Khoklor	Buffer zone
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