

Country Logo



Global Tiger Initiative

National Consultations—the Road to the Tiger Summit

National Tiger Recovery Program

Lao PDR



June 30th, 2010

Summary of National Tiger Recovery Program (NTRP)

Country Name:	Lao PDR
Long Term Strategic Goals. <i>To recover and maintain viable breeding populations of tigers in all Class 1 and 2 Tiger Landscapes, and to ensure connectivity between all tiger landscapes in Lao PDR, by 2020.</i>	
Baseline Status. Tigers are sparsely distributed across the country, but at low numbers. Today, a breeding tiger population is confirmed only in the Nam Et-Phou Louey (NEPL) national protected area (NPA), which is a part of larger Tiger Conservation landscape #35 in the north-eastern Lao PDR. For the persistence of tigers in other parts of the country, provisional information exists from reports of animal signs but the certainty of tiger presence remains unknown. Further field survey on the ground is needed to better understand the status of tigers. Threats to tigers in Lao PDR are similar to those in other tiger range countries, such as poaching of tigers for trade in their body parts, depletion of their prey due to overhunting, and also habitat shrinkage. However, hunting of tigers and prey to support international trade is the most key threat. In order to tackle these threats and secure viable tiger populations, the current National Tiger Action Plan (2010) established a focused strategy that lays out specific actions to be taken over the next 10 years. Those primary objectives include; (i) Increase public awareness and support for the recovery and conservation of wild tigers and their habitats (ii) Identify and demarcate totally protected zones (TPZs) in protected areas and corridors for connectivity between TPZs in tiger conservation landscapes. (iii) Increase and make effective the enforcement of national regulations and international conventions to stop killing of tigers and to regulate illegal harvest and trade of tiger prey. (iv) Increase national cross-sectoral cooperation for the recovery and conservation of wild tigers and their habitats (v) Increase international cooperation to reduce the illegal trade of tiger and prey to neighboring countries (vi) Monitor and reduce human-tiger conflict in tiger conservation landscapes (vii) Strengthen Protected Area organization, capacity and sustainable financing to effectively implement management activities to reduce threats to tigers and prey at priority source sites in Class 1 and 2 tiger conservation landscapes	
Priority Actions Programs to achieve Long Term Strategic Goals. 1. Laos will adopt law enforcement and tiger monitoring standards. For example, standardize use of MIST in protected areas; standard methods for tiger monitoring across projects. 2. Establish inviolate core zone at Nam Et Phou Louey NPA (and at any other TCL confirmed to have tigers, see #4). The core zone will be protected by means of: law enforcement (to prevent poaching of tigers and prey); outreach and education in nearby villages and other stakeholders that may impact tigers and prey; moving satellite households (sanams) out of the core zone; land use planning; strengthen capacity, funding and authority of protected area institutions, link with REDD++ pilot at the site. 3. Confirm that tigers are present or absent in all Tiger Conservation Landscapes (TCLs). To date, village interviews have been conducted to estimate whether tigers still remain in some TCLs, and scientific surveys (camera trapping and transect lines) have been undertaken only in three NPAs, namely Nam Et Phou Louey (Class 1 TCL#37), Nam Kading and Nakai-Nam Theun (Class 2 TCL#34). It is aimed to conduct scientific surveys in all TCLs by 2020. If tigers are confirmed in any of the TCLs then undertake action 2 (make inviolate core areas). 4. Strengthen institutions and cooperation to protect tigers, tiger prey and habitat. This requires:	

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strengthening the capacity of DoFI, customs staff, border staff, economic police and CITES MA and SA (training, equipment); establish Lao WEN; NGO cooperation; establish a Prime Minister's Commission on Endangered Species and under the PM Commission (housed in the PM Environment Committee) and under MAF create a Tiger Taskforce. Create lines of communication for better collaboration amongst Ministries so that there is awareness and involvement from central and decentralized sector agencies when development (road, mine, hydro) is planned for a PA/TCL.

5. **Establish and maintain connectivity between Nam Et-Phou Louey source site with other neighboring TCLs** by demarcating the existing forest corridor, and by involving managers of protection and production forest in maintaining connectivity.

Program Indicators (interim) to achieve country's Long Term Strategic Goals. (eg to 2015)

1. **Inviolate core zone in NEPL** has been established demarcated in maps and onground and recognized by district, provincial and central government.
2. **Field surveys** following standards for tiger monitoring conducted in the TCLs where status of tigers is not yet confirmed, thus achieving baseline of tiger population status for Laos.
3. **Publish data** on the status of tiger populations in ALL TCLs Class 1 and 2
4. **Lao WEN** is established and operational, **Tiger Taskforce** is established and operational, such that there is collaboration amongst sectors as well as top level support, and accountability lines, for tiger conservation

Program Indicators (2022) to achieve country's Long Term Strategic Goals.

1. **Tiger density** - increase tiger population at NEPL by 50% by 2020 (from the current 2004 estimated figure of 7- 23 tigers)
2. **Prey abundance index** – *double* prey population from the current prey abundance index of 3.25 ungulates per sq. km (2008 data) to support sufficiently the increased tigers.
3. Formalized protection of movement **corridors** that connect NEPL to other TCLs, and have these demarcated on maps and on ground.

NTRP Priority Actions

1. Mapping of Action against Goals.

- Long-term strategic goal:

The overall goal for the country is to elevate the existing tiger numbers to the level of viable breeding populations in all Class 1 and 2 Tiger Conservation Landscapes (TCLs) and ensure connectivity between all TCLs by 2020.

- To achieve the goal, the priority actions are;

- Adopt law enforcement and tiger monitoring standards.
- Establish inviolate core zone at Nam Et Phou Louey NPA (and at any other TCL confirmed to have tigers).
- Confirm that tigers are present or absent in all Tiger Conservation Landscapes (TCLs).
- Strengthen institutions and cooperation to protect tigers, tiger prey and habitat.
- Establish connectivity between TCLs

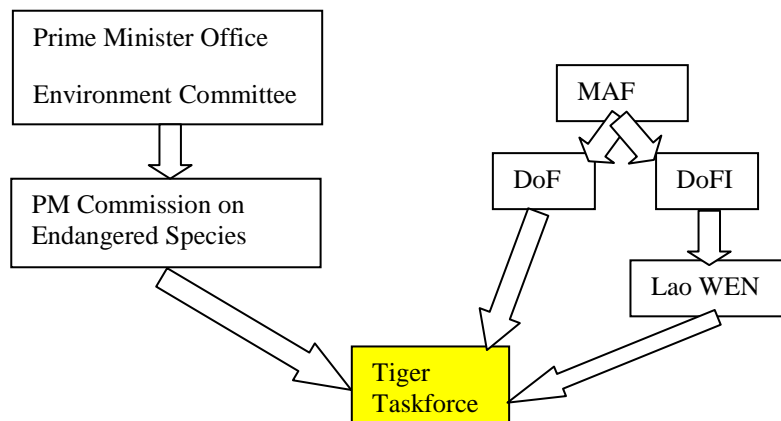
2. Description of Program Components.

- 1. Laos will adopt law enforcement and tiger monitoring standards.** In order to measure our progress or success toward the goal, standard monitoring methods will be used in protected areas across TCLs to monitor tigers and prey (e.g. camera trapping, occupancy survey) and law enforcement (e.g. MIST).
 - 1.1 Key activity will include;** technical training for staff, and installation of 'MIST'
 - 1.2 Expected outcomes;** Standard monitoring system is in place across projects
- 2. Establish inviolate core zone at Nam Et Phou Louey NPA.** Given that confirmed data on a viable population of tigers in NEPL NPA at present, establishing the inviolated core zone to secure our source tiger population is most important.
 - 2.1 Key activity will include;** Land-use planning and zoning demarcation in NPAs, law enforcement, outreach and education, relocation of livestock grazing areas out of the core zone, support alternative livelihood for local communities, strengthen capacity, funding and authority of protected area institutions.
 - 2.2 Expected outcomes;** better protection of tigers and prey, increase in tiger numbers, good engagement of local communities.
- 3. Confirm that tigers are present or absent in all Tiger Conservation Landscapes (TCLs).** To date, scientific surveys (camera trapping, occupancy and transect lines) have been undertaken only in three national protected areas, namely Nam Et Phou Louey, Nam Kading, and Nakai-Nam Theun. This makes it difficult to develop proper management plan to save this species and their prey. It is aimed to conduct scientific surveys in all TCLs by 2020. If tigers are confirmed in any of the TCLs then undertake action 2 (make inviolate core areas) to secure stabilization of both tiger and prey.
 - 3.1 Key activities include;** training national staff, equipment recruitment, and conducting scientific surveys for tigers and prey in all key national protected areas.
 - 3.2 Expected outcomes:** Published baseline data on tigers and prey
- 4. Strengthen institutions and cooperation to protect tigers, tiger prey and habitat.** Building national capacity and strengthening national and international cooperation and coordination are most important to achieve our goal. This requires: strengthening the capacity of DoFI, customs staff, border staff, economic police and CITES MA and SA (training, equipment); establish Lao WEN; NGO cooperation; create lines of communication for better collaboration amongst Ministries so that there is awareness and involvement from central and decentralized sector agencies when development (road, mine, hydro) is planned for a PA/TCL (towards a more green infrastructure approach); establish a Prime Minister's Commission on Endangered Species and under the PM Commission (housed in the PM Environment Committee) and under MAF create a Tiger Taskforce. At present, the government of Laos strongly supports an integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. However, in order to increase/secure effectiveness of implementation on the ground that

supports the tiger conservation, a special conservation unit will be established (see diagram).

4.1 Key activities include; training, workshops (local and national level) recruitment of equipment and vehicles, media

4.2 Expected outcomes; Lao WEN; PM Commission on Endangered Species, and Tiger Taskforce.



5. Establish connectivity between TCLs

5.1 Key activities include; Identify and demarcate protected corridors of habitat connectivity to facilitate dispersal of tigers between source sites within TCLs and between TCLs; Manage land concessions and infrastructure development in TCLs to comply with PA management plans and zoning; Approve PA management plans to ensure cross-sectoral compliance with PA TPZs and corridors; Identify and demarcate protected corridors of habitat connectivity to facilitate dispersal of tigers between source sites within TCLs and between TCLs; Conduct village land-use planning and allocation outside of PA boundaries to ensure compliance with PA zoning and corridors within TCLs.

5.2 Expected outcomes: Secured corridors of habitat linking NEPL NPA source sites and other TCLs

3. Policy Framework needed to achieve objectives.

Existing policy framework to assist tiger conservation in Laos includes:-

- National Wildlife Law, 2007 (which includes tigers listed as protected species under Lao law)
- National Forestry Law, 2007
- National Forestry Strategy to the Year 2020.
- National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and Action Plan to 2010
- National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy 2004

Additional needs include:

- Government endorsement on the completed Tiger National Action Plan
- Revision of the national protected areas regulation into a Prime Ministers Decree, to give higher status to the protected area system
- Use of the provisions under the policy and legislation to facilitate sustainable funding (e.g. though payments for watershed protection, given the high number of hydropower proposed developments in Laos)

4.Capacity constraints:

- Inadequate well-trained technical staff in each TCL, and inadequate numbers of staff generally
- Lack of technical skills and experience in law enforcement, and monitoring of wildlife and threats
- Enforcement agencies (Department of Forest Inspection, CITES) are newly established, and still poorly equipped with tools and human resources
- Provincial Protected Area Management Unit in each province is newly established, and still poorly equipped

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with tools and staff

- Lack of funding, with approximately USD 0.07/ha of national protected area; while estimates by WCS suggest around \$3/ha would be required for effective PA management in Laos
- A high number of proposed hydropower and mining developments (for example, there are ready six hydropower developments in national PAs and a further 12 feasibility studies for hydropower in NPAs; plus mineral concessions in a number of NPAs) and road network plans, particularly in southern Laos

5. Stakeholders.

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Forestry, Department of Forest Inspection, all other government agencies, INGOs, development partners, Financial Institutions, local communities.

6. Performance Indicators.

1. Tiger and prey populations increase
2. Inviolate core zone for NEPL and any other TCLs found to have a breeding population
3. Tiger taskforce and Lao WEN established and operating
4. Field surveys conducted, and results made available, for TCLs that have not yet had populations confirmed
5. Connectivity created between NEPL PA and other TCLs

7. Indicative Costs in US\$ (order of magnitude only) *:

Activity	Costs 5 Yr program (US\$ million)
MIST training for all TCLs (not yet trained)	0.24
PA management in Class 1 NPAs (excluding NNT NPA)	10
Secure NEPL NPA core zone	2.5
Tiger and prey surveys Class 1 and 2 TCLs (questionnaire + camera trapping + training)	0.7
Institutional	0.5
TOTAL	13.94

* This is projected *deficit* for all activities for the next five years

8. Financing Options.

- GEF 5 for eligible items
- Possibly funds from private industry for Corporate Social Environment Responsibility or Payment for Ecosystem Services
- Donors

Support needed from the GTI in US\$¹

Activity	Costs
Tiger and prey surveys Class 1 (questionnaire + camera trapping + training)	200,000
Secure core zone NEPL core zone	300,000
TOTAL	500,000

¹ The GTI is not a primary financing organization. Any funds directly raised by the GTI will be used by TRCs for catalytic and initial work required to bring best practices to full-scale projects. GTI support, in general, will be less than US\$500,000 in each case. For TRCs that may have already developed detailed plans for large scale projects costing more than \$500,000, the GTI will facilitate access to large funders if needed.