

WORLD WETLANDS DAY ACTIVITIES – IUCN LAO PDR

2 February 2010

The theme for World Wetlands Day 2010 is “**Caring for Wetlands— an answer to Climate Change**”. IUCN Lao PDR used this opportunity to explore the human role in driving the loss of biodiversity and climate change, and what we can do to promote environmental protection in the community at all levels.

On 28 January 2010, IUCN Lao PDR brought together Lao PDR government representatives, teachers and students, and journalists at Bung Nong Tha wetlands site, Nong Tha Tai village, Vientiane Capital, to celebrate World Wetlands Day.



Bung Nong Tha Wetlands.

Photo: IUCN Lao PDR.



Villager at Bung Nong Tha.

Photo: IUCN Lao PDR.



Discussions at WWD, Bung Nong Tha.

Photo: IUCN Lao PDR.

IUCN Lao PDR’s main objective for World Wetlands Day activities this year was to work with the media in order to disseminate a message about the importance of wetlands and their biodiversity to the wider community. Detailed background information was provided to the journalists and other participants in the visit.

At Bung Nong Tha, the media interviewed local community and government representatives and learnt about the value of wetlands and wetland resources in Lao PDR and internationally through speeches and presentations by the Governor of Chanthaboury District, a representative of the national Water Resources and Environment Administration (WREA) and IUCN Lao PDR.



Interviewing the Chanthaboury District Governor. Photo: IUCN Lao PDR.



Media participants conduct interviews at Bung Nongtha. Photo: IUCN Lao PDR.



Interviewing local people about the wetlands. Photo: IUCN Lao PDR.

Local students also joined in activities and games related to the environmental conservation and wetlands.



Local students join the WWD activities. Photo: IUCN Lao PDR.



Nong Tha student drawing the wetlands. Photo: IUCN Lao PDR.



IUCN and media representative talking to students at Nong Tha. Photo: IUCN Lao PDR.

The visit was led by Mr. Bandith Vatthananon (The Representative of Advertising Department, Ministry of Information and Culture) and Mr. Saythong Keodouangdy, Governor of Chanthaboury District, together with other distinguished guests and participants from the:

- Water Resources Department of the Water Resources and Environment Administration (WREA);
- Living Aquatic Resource Research Center (LARReC);
- Department of Forest Resources Conservation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- local authorities; and

- local community and school.

Numerous media reports and features appeared in the Lao press in the following days, including:

- National Lao Radio reports (Lao language)
- A series of three articles in the Vientiane Times newspaper (English language)
- An article in Vientiane Mai newspaper (Lao language)
- News reports on Lao National TV, including in Lao, English and French
- A news report and environmental feature on Lao Star TV (Lao language)
- Press release on the IUCN Lao PDR website
(http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/asia/asia_where_work/lao/resources/_events/?4735/World-Wetlands-Day-Celebrated-in-Vientiane)

(Copies of these reports are provided on CD/DVD separately).

